

LIEN Presentation October 26th ACORN Hamilton and Hamilton Community Legal Clinic

Municipal advocacy and maximum heat bylaws



Launch of our local campaign - Beat the Heat Rally September 2022



Hamilton Legal Clinic-Community Collaboration

- Legal Clinic primary work in in poverty law-housing, income supports, employment, and immigration
- Housing Human Right & Public Health
- Climate Change- Intact Centre on Climate Adaptation at the University of Waterloo- Second highest in Hamilton to experience increase impact of global warming
- Intersection between older housing, low income housing and health conditions
- COPD and lung cancer 3rd highest Health care issue in Hamilton
- Cooling Centres inadequate both in community and in housing building- issues of safety and dignity
- Need a comprehensive approach both passive and active to address housing needs and climate change
- Can't wait while folks health is impacted-need cooling in home
- Hamilton was also one of the many Canadian communities to adopt an official Declaration of Climate Emergency.[1]
So this allowed them to be open to the discuss. One of their actions listed in their action 3.3 aims to coordinate local efforts to address excessive indoor temperatures in rental housing.
- Support the efforts of tenants and ACORN
- Collaboration of efforts build upon community relationships- meeting with councillors, city council presentation
- Need speciality clinics-CELA- not enough resources to do it alone



Campaign Demands

- 1. The City of Hamilton to develop and implement a maximum heat bylaw for rental housing.**
- 2. The City of Hamilton to develop a municipal program to support retrofits of market rental housing.**
- 3. The City of Hamilton to expand measures in community and public spaces for Hamilton residents to keep cool when outside the home.**
- 4. The City of Hamilton to track heat-related deaths and illness**

Meeting with Hamilton City Councillors



The Bearded "I Got A Rock" Giant
@StewFromHamOnt

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Huge thank you Clrs @ward1wilson, @Ward2Hamilton, @NrinderWard3, & @alexwilson96 for meeting with @AcornHamilton, @CanEnvLawAssn, @HamiltonJustice, & @TenantAdvocacy to discuss a maximum heat bylaw.



12:14 PM · Mar 30, 2023 · 1,424 Views



The Bearded "I Got A Rock" Giant
@StewFromHamOnt

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Big thanks to Cllr @jeffbeattie2014 for meeting with @AcornHamilton, @CanEnvLawAssn, @HamiltonJustice, & @TenantAdvocacy to discuss the need for a max heat bylaw in #HamOnt.



1:26 PM · Apr 25, 2023 · 764 Views

Delegations to the City of Hamilton Public Health Committee - May 15 2023

Six ACORN members and six allied environmental & community groups delegated to the Public Health Committee meeting on May 15th to call on the City of Hamilton to pass policies to protect tenants from extreme heat.

During the meeting Ward 2 Councillor Kroetsch brought forward a motion, seconded by Ward 4 Councillor Hwang, that passed unanimously 10-0.



Motion:

CITY OF HAMILTON MOTION

Public Health Committee: May 15, 2023

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR C. KROETSCH

SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR T. HWANG

Implementation of an Adequate Temperature By-law

WHEREAS the City has a Adequate Heat By-law in place to ensure that adequate heating is provided to all Hamiltonians during colder months;

WHEREAS the City recognized, in 2016, that it needed to modify the Adequate Heat By-law by shifting the start of the colder season from August 31 to September 15;

WHEREAS the City of Mississauga introduced an Adequate Temperature By-law on June 6, 2018 that defined "adequate and suitable cooling" to be a temperature in a "unit that does not exceed 26 degrees Celsius (26°C)";

WHEREAS the City of Mississauga's bylaw only applies to spaces where a landlord already provides air conditioning and does not address the gaps where a landlord does not;

WHEREAS in 2020 Montgomery County Council (Washington) voted unanimously to require that property owners "supply and maintain" air conditioning service at 80°F or less during the summer months following on similar measures taken in Dallas and Phoenix;

WHEREAS extreme heat continues to have increasingly harmful impacts on the physical and mental health of Hamiltonians;

WHEREAS residents in other municipalities, notably in Chicago (1995), Quebec (2018), British Columbia (2021), and Paris (2003, 2022), have died from the impacts of extreme heat indoors because they didn't have access to cooling;

WHEREAS many renters in parts of the City with the highest urban heat impacts do not have access to air conditioned spaces;

WHEREAS an Adequate Temperature By-law would be one of a number of significant new by-law initiatives designed to better protect tenants as well as respond to the Climate Emergency; and

WHEREAS Council wants to ensure that there are sufficient resources within the Licensing and By-law Services Division to develop, implement and enforce new and

existing City by-laws in order to protect tenants and respond to the Climate Emergency.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- (a) That staff in the Licensing and By-law Services Division be directed to prepare an Information Report for Q4 2023 identifying the 2024 priorities and timelines for the development of new by-laws, including an Adequate Temperature By-law and report back to the Planning Committee;
- (b) That the following staffing resources, and related costs, to expand the Licensing and By-law Services Division's capacity to develop, update and enforce City by-laws to protect tenants and respond to the Climate Emergency, including the development of a new Adequate Temperature By-law, be referred to the 2024 Tax Supported Operating Budget process:
 - (i) one new Manager FTE and one new Senior Project Manager FTE within the Licensing and By-law Services Division;
 - (ii) one new Municipal Law Enforcement Supervisor FTE and one new Municipal Law Enforcement Officer FTE within the Licensing and By-law Services Division;
 - (iii) 0.5 FTE for Legal Services, to support the Licensing and By-law Services Division; and
- (c) That staff be directed to include in the 2024 Tax Supported Capital Budget a Municipal By-law Review and Development project, with a purpose to undertake research, community engagement and leverage external expertise for the development of new City by-laws, with a budget of \$100,000.
- (d) That staff in Healthy and Safe Communities be directed to report back to the Emergency and Community Services Committee on the feasibility of the development of a municipal program to support low income tenants with the cost to run an air conditioning unit and to support retrofits of private purpose built rental housing in Q4 2023.
- (e) That staff in Healthy and Safe Communities and Public Health be directed to report back to the Public Health Committee on the feasibility of tracking heat-related deaths and illnesses in Hamilton in Q4 2023.

Press from victory!

It's time for landlords to provide air conditioning, advocates say

Ontario is getting hotter. What can cities do to keep residents safe as temperatures rise?

Written by [Justin Chandler](#)

Jul 5, 2023



Researchers with the Climate Atlas of Canada estimate that, if current trends continue, Hamilton will see 63.3 days above 30 C annually between 2051 and 2080. (blamb/iStock)

Hamilton bylaw could be 1st in Canada requiring landlords to provide air conditioning, lawyer says



Council will likely vote on bylaw next year to set a maximum heat standard for indoor spaces



Samantha Beattie - CBC News

Posted: May 15, 2023

Last Updated: May 15, 2023



Hamilton housing advocates propose max heat bylaw for rental units

May 15, 2023



Hamilton councillors support maximum heat bylaw to better protect vulnerable

May 15, 2023



Next steps / Closing



Get in touch:
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