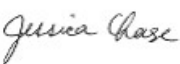




COMMUNICATION UPDATE

TO:	Mayor and Members of Council
DATE:	January 20, 2026
SUBJECT:	2026 Hamilton Youth Town Hall
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
SUBMITTED BY:	Jessica Chase Director, Children's and Community Services Healthy and Safe Communities
SIGNATURE:	

The purpose of this Communication Update is to inform the Mayor and Members of Council of an upcoming city-wide youth engagement initiative.

2026 Hamilton Youth Town Hall

The Hamilton Youth Town Hall is an annual, full-day civic engagement event designed to bring together youth from across all City wards to participate in structured dialogue, learning, and engagement related to municipal governance and City priorities.

The 2026 Hamilton Youth Town Hall is scheduled to take place on **Saturday, May 9, 2026, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Hamilton City Hall**, and will convene youth aged 14–29 representing all City wards.

The event will provide opportunities for participating youth to engage in youth-led workshops and civic learning activities, hear from City leadership and participate in structured interactions with Members of Council, contribute input into ongoing City initiatives where youth perspectives are being sought, and build civic awareness and readiness ahead of the 2026 municipal election.

Background

This initiative aligns with the [2022-2027 Youth Strategy Report \(CES15056\(d\)\)](#), specifically the priority to Enhance Youth Engagement and Leadership, by supporting inclusive and representative youth participation in municipal decision-making.

The event is being delivered by the City of Hamilton's Community Strategies Team in collaboration with Model City Hall Hamilton, a non-partisan civic organization that supports youth civic education and engagement. The partnership approach is intended to ensure the event is youth-informed, inclusive, and reflective of lived experience, while supporting youth leadership in the planning and delivery of the initiative.

In addition, the Community Strategies team is working closely with internal and community partners to support increased youth engagement in the upcoming municipal election. This includes initiatives such as the Hamilton Youth Town Hall, participation in the Association of Municipalities of Ontario's Accelerated Democracy initiative, and partnerships with local school boards and community organizations. Together, these efforts are focused on strengthening civic awareness, increasing youth participation, and ensuring youth voices are meaningfully included in conversations related to voting and local democracy.

Next Steps

Event planning is underway. A formal invitation will be provided to Mayor and Members of Council with additional details, including the program outline and potential roles for Council participation, as they are confirmed.

Should you require further information please contact Rachelle Ihekwoaba, Manager Community Strategies, Children's and Community Services Division via email at Rachelle.Ihekwoaba@hamilton.ca or by phone at 905-978-2680.

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

N/A