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*Hamilton's Social Inclusion Consultation Workbook**

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Partners

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Our Hamilton

See yourself in the City of Hamilton we want to build together. Hear your voice in our Hamilton. Participate in our Hamilton.

These three phrases capture the essence of social inclusion. Social inclusion means that citizens, community organizations, business and governments work together to promote civic, social and economic participation.

We work together to ensure access to the resources, relationships and opportunities that make for healthy, happy and productive lives.

We work together to create a caring community that respects difference “ whether rooted in income status, age, disability, gender identification, sexual orientation, Aboriginal status, creed or race.

Building an inclusive city is the right thing to do. But building an inclusive city also makes economic sense. We save money and encourage investment when we pay attention to the factors that promote a sense of belonging and a clean environment.

Voice, economic opportunity and social networks are the core components of a good life. We believe that the 2015 PanAm Games can act as a powerful springboard to help us create these positive conditions.

The City of Hamilton is proud to co-host the 2015 PanAm Games. They present an opportunity to look at ourselves and to deepen our understanding of one another.

We are inviting all residents of Hamilton to join a conversation about who we are as a community “ and what we aspire to be. To start this discussion, we are putting forward an early statement of principles and actions that can give life to our vision of a socially inclusive community.

We have applied lessons from other cities and countries. We have looked at examples from Games events around the world. We have done our homework on the meaning of social inclusion. But the job is not yet complete.

We now need to hear from you.

Principle

Citizen Voice

All residents have an opportunity to help develop the Social Inclusion Vision for the City of Hamilton.

Action

- Safe spaces are created for ongoing community conversations about social inclusion.
- The ideal of social inclusion is expressed through words, pictures, children's drawings, photos, audio/video formats, music, drama, dance and other creative arts.
- A checklist of actions based on principles of social inclusion is drawn up in order to provide a lens for monitoring community action on an ongoing basis.

Principle

Communications

Information and materials related to the PanAm Games are accessible to all citizens, athletes, visitors, employees and volunteers.

Action

- Information and materials pertaining to the PanAm Games are presented in clear language.
- Information and materials pertaining to the Games are made available in alternate formats including cassette, Braille, variable font sizes and electronic formats friendly to print readers.
- Information and materials pertaining to the Games are made available in the major languages spoken in the City of Hamilton and in Commonwealth countries.

Principle

Accessibility

Events, facilities and venues related to the PanAm Games are accessible to all citizens, athletes, visitors, employees and volunteers.

Action

- Sporting facilities and venues related to the PanAm Games and existing recreational structures in the City of Hamilton are built or retrofit to the accessibility standards of the Government of Ontario.
- Cultural facilities and venues related to the Games and the City of Hamilton are built or retrofit to the accessibility standards of the Government of Ontario.
- New building and accessibility modifications adhere to the highest environmental standards, including use of green building materials and renewable fuels.

Principle

Public Transit

Public transit routes serving sporting facilities and cultural venues related to the PanAm Games are affordable and accessible for all residents, athletes, visitors, employees and volunteers.

Action

- Public transit routes serving all sporting facilities and cultural venues related to the PanAm Games operate at no cost or at reduced fare throughout the duration of the event.
- Public transit to and from the Games facilities and venues is accessible to persons with mobility and visual impairments, and to families with young children.
- Accessible and affordable options are made available for residents, athletes, visitors, employees and volunteers unable to use public transit.

Principle

Training and Jobs

The PanAm Games provide an opportunity for training and hiring Hamilton residents, especially those who face employment barriers.

Action

- Local small businesses and social enterprises have access to advice and training on how to engage in the bidding process related to the procurement of PanAm Games-related contracts.
- All businesses receiving contracts for Games-related facilities, venues and services are required to provide training to and/or employ people who face barriers to employment.
- All businesses receiving contracts for Games-related facilities, venues and services are required to engage with a local voluntary organization pursuing a social goal to encourage training and employment opportunities for the people it serves.

Principle

Procurement

Commercial activity related to the PanAm Games promotes social inclusion in business practices related to training, hiring, building and operations.

Action

- Local small businesses and social enterprises have access to advice and training on how to engage in the bidding process related to the procurement of PanAm Games-related contracts.
- Companies and organizations receiving contracts for the Games are required to pay a living wage.
- Companies and organizations receiving contracts for the Games are required to build and/or operate according to the highest accessibility and environmental standards.

Principle

Volunteers

*The PanAm Games provide an opportunity for all citizens of the City of Hamilton to serve in a volunteer capacity.**

* While formal policy regarding volunteers is being set by the Toronto 2015 Pan/ParaPan American Games Organizing Committee, the Hamilton Social Inclusion Advisory Committee is proposing possible options for inclusion in that policy.

Action

- Citizens from all walks of life are included as volunteers for the Games as site guides, seating hosts, drivers, interpreters, providers of temporary housing and other activities.
- Members of marginalized communities are identified and trained as volunteers for all sporting, recreational, cultural, service and communications activities related to the Games.
- An audit of volunteer applications ensures that these are easy to understand and accessible to all communities.
- Companies and organizations receiving Games-related contracts are encouraged to partner with a local non-profit group or organization in order to provide volunteer opportunities for its members.
- Visiting athletes are encouraged on a voluntary basis to speak to groups of school children and youth about setting personal goals and taking concrete steps that help lead to the fulfillment of those goals.

Principle

Recreation

The PanAm Games provide an opportunity to make City-sponsored recreational facilities and programs accessible and affordable to all residents of the City of Hamilton.

Action

- Prices for all Games-related sporting events are reduced for students and lower-income households.
- Students and low-income households have an opportunity – during and after the Games – to join in City-sponsored recreational activities without fee as a barrier to participation.
- Public transit to and from all Games-related sporting facilities and City-sponsored recreational programs is accessible to persons with mobility and visual impairments, and to families with young children.

Principle

Culture

The PanAm Games provide a unique opportunity to celebrate the diversity of the City of Hamilton as well as participating nations from around the world.

Action

- Wide-ranging cultural events are staged on an ongoing basis as part of the PanAm Games.
- Students and persons living on low income are included in the planning, organization and performance of cultural events.
- Cultural events are organized at minimal or no charge to encourage participation by residents of and visitors to the City of Hamilton.
- Food concessions reflect the cultural diversity of the City of Hamilton as well as the countries represented at the Games.

Principle

Tourism

Events, facilities and communications related to the PanAm Games are accessible and affordable for visitors to and citizens of the City of Hamilton.

Action

- Recreational and cultural facilities and venues are built or retrofit to the accessibility standards of the Government of Ontario to ensure that tourists feel welcome and can enjoy full participation in all PanAm Games-related events.
- Information pertaining to the Games is available in alternate formats, including cassette, Braille, variable font sizes, electronic formats friendly to print readers and sign language interpretation, where required.
- Members of groups typically excluded from participation are trained as volunteer hosts to help guide tourists, provide information, act as seating assistants and help in the event of emergency, such as fire-related evacuation or other safety concern.