



GEORGINA

RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF GEORGINA

Date: APRIL 28, 2021

Subject: Paid sick days for all workers in the Province of Ontario as a public health measure to control the spread of COVID-19 during the current COVID-19 crisis

RESOLUTION NO. C-2021-0134

Moved By Councillor Neeson

Seconded By Councillor Harding

WHEREAS The Province of Ontario, in consultation with the Chief Medical Officer of Health and other health experts declared a third Provincial emergency under section 7.0.1 (1) of the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act (EMPCA) on April 7th, 2021 and;

WHEREAS the aforementioned Provincial state of emergency was declared to create measures in response to the rapid increase in COVID-19 transmission, the threat on the province's hospital system capacity, and the increasing risks posed to the public by COVID-19 variants and;

WHEREAS the Province of Ontario's COVID-19 Science Advisory Table has repeatedly recommended that the Provincial government legislate paid sick days, most recently as of April 20th, 2021 as contained in their document entitled "Fighting COVID-19 in Ontario: The Way Forward" under the heading "What Will Work" and;

WHEREAS Dr. Eileen De Villa, Toronto's Medical Officer of Health has publicly stated that paid sick days need to be legislated by the Province of Ontario for all workers as a public health measure to control the spread of COVID-19 and;

WHEREAS the Board of Health and the Council of the City of Toronto has endorsed and called upon the Province of Ontario to immediately legislate paid sick days for all workers as a public health measure to contain the spread of COVID-19 and;

WHEREAS Dr. Lawrence Loh, Peel Regions Medical Officer of Health has publicly stated that paid sick days need to be legislated by the Province of Ontario for all workers as a public health measure to contain the spread of COVID-19 and;

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WHEREAS the Small Urban GTHA Mayors (which includes The Town of Aurora, The Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury, The Town of Caledon, The Town of East Gwillimbury, The Town of Georgina, The Town of Halton Hills, The Township of King, The Town of Newmarket, The Town of Orangeville, The Township of Scugog, The Township of Uxbridge, and the Town of Whitchurch Stouffville) on February 5th, 2021 issued a statement in support of legislated paid sick days as a public health measure to contain the spread of COVID-19 and;

WHEREAS Stratcom Strategic Communications conducted a widely available public opinion poll from March 17th, 2021 to April 1st, 2021 that concluded that over eighty-three percent (83%) of those polled agreed that paid sick days should be legislated and;

WHEREAS the Council of the Regional Municipality of Peel has created a public facing campaign entitled "Join the Call for Paid Sick Days in Peel" to support their Council/Board of Health's position and call upon the Province of Ontario and its Members of Provincial Parliament (MPP's) to immediately legislate paid sick days for all workers as a public health measure to control the spread of COVID-19 and;

WHEREAS a joint statement was released on April 27th, 2021 co-signed by the Regional Municipality of Halton's four Mayors and its Regional Chair, calling upon the Province of Ontario to legislate paid sick days without delay and as a public health measure to control the spread of COVID-19 and;

WHEREAS the GTHA Mayors and Chairs on January 18th, 2021 once again reiterated their call to the Province of Ontario to legislate paid sick days as a public health measure to control the spread of COVID-19 and;

WHEREAS the effect of the global COVID-19 pandemic has laid bare the inequities in our society, most specifically here in the Province of Ontario where low wage, precarious, essential and racialized workers are disproportionately affected and;

WHEREAS as stated by several local Medical Officers of Health, the current lack of legislated paid sick leave protections is a known barrier to compliance with COVID-19 control measures, including testing and self-isolation and therefore continues to contribute to further COVID-19 transmission

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Town of Georgina, in the Regional Municipality of York calls upon the Premier and the Province of Ontario to:

- a. Immediately legislate a minimum of ten (10) paid sick days for all workers in the Province of Ontario as a public health measure to control the spread of

COVID-19 during the current COVID-19 crisis via the Employment Standards Act (ESA) or some other Provincial Statute and;

b. Ensure that any such legislation provides barrier free and easy access to all workers and;

c. That a copy of this resolution be sent to the Premier of Ontario, all Ontario Members of Provincial Parliament; the Regional Municipality of York; the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and all York Region lower tier Municipalities for their consideration.

Carried.