



Advocacy for change  
Plaidoyer pour le changement  
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April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018

Dear Councillor,

As the umbrella organization for agencies serving immigrants and refugees in the City of Toronto and across the province we are writing to raise concerns about the motion coming before you on the licensing of holistic practitioners.

The Licensing and Standards Committee is recommending that City Hall amend Toronto Municipal Code, Chapter 545, Licensing so that no application for a new holistic practitioner license be accepted from members associated with five professional holistic associations.

I am writing to you to urge you to vote against this recommendation. Here's why:

1. Chapter 545, Licensing, Body Rub Parlours and Holistic Centres is currently being reviewed. Research is meant to take place from May to August this year, and Consultation to take place in September and October. Stopping applications from professional holistic associations before the review is complete circumvents and undercuts the review itself. This motion to bar new licensing is an unreasonable and unnecessary action.
2. As consultations are not taking place until September, none of the Professional Holistic Associations have had a chance to meaningfully and publicly participate in the review. To bar future licensing at this juncture puts individual and small businesses' livelihood to jeopardy without due process.
3. There are many concerns that professional holistic associations have raised about by-law officers, upon whose recommendation this motion is appearing before City Council. In fact, Tracey Cook, executive director of Municipal Licensing and Standards (MLS), told CityNews last week that the City has launched an investigation into allegations of sexual harassment by by-law officers against workers in holistic centers.

Thank you for your support. Can you please let us know which way you will be voting?

We look forward to your response indicating that you will be voting **against this motion** and in support of the primarily racialized women who make a living from working in holistic centres in Toronto.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Debbie Douglas".

Debbie Douglas  
Executive Director  
OCASI – Ontario Council of Agencies Serving Immigrants