



Letter of Concern Regarding Licensing and Treatment of Holistic Practitioners

Dear City of Toronto Councillors,

We are writing from the Chinese Workers Network of the Toronto and York Region Labour Council. Our membership consists of union members, workers and community members from across the City of Toronto and York Region. Today we are writing to you in regards to our deep concern regarding an upcoming motion before City Council tomorrow (April, 26).

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 centres.

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

Sincerely, 

Liyu Guo and Kingsley Kwok

Co-Chairs of the Chinese Workers Network of Toronto and York Region Labour Council