

City Council**Notice of Motion**

MM44.32	ACTION			Ward:All
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Saltwater Pools: Eliminating Chemical Chlorine for Toronto Swimmers - by Councillor Josh Matlow, seconded by Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam

** Notice of this Motion has been given.*

** This Motion is subject to referral to the Community Development and Recreation Committee. A two-thirds vote is required to waive referral.*

Recommendations

Councillor Josh Matlow, seconded by Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam, recommends that:

1. City Council recommend the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation to report to Community Development and Recreation Committee in the first quarter of 2019 on the feasibility of requiring all new City of Toronto pools to have saltwater treatment systems, and converting existing pools to the same.

Summary

Many swimmers, especially children, find chlorinated pools to be irritating to their skin, eyes, and lungs. It is a common misconception that this irritation occurs when there is too much chlorine in the water. However, these negative effects typically occur when chlorine levels fall, allowing for the by-product of chlorine reactions, called "chloramines", with bacteria from urine or other contaminants to form.

Salt-water pools avoid the buildup of chloramines because the naturally occurring chlorine levels replenish themselves constantly and do not depend on pool workers to add more chlorine to the water as needed. The Centers for Disease Control in the United States reported that some people find the effects of the direct chlorine introduction less harsh than the added chlorine compounds, such as calcium hypochlorite, commonly available in granular power or pellets.

Salt water pools have the added benefit of not emitting the familiar odour of chlorine and eliminates the need to have hazardous chemicals delivered to recreation centres across the City.

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM44.32