



Member Motion

City Council

Notice of Motion

MM37.23	ACTION			Ward: All
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It's Time for A Change - Adding Infant Changing Stations in all City-Owned Public Buildings - by Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam, seconded by Councillor Mike Layton

** Notice of this Motion has been given.*

** This Motion is subject to referral to the Executive Committee. A two-thirds vote is required to waive referral.*

Recommendations

Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam, seconded by Councillor Mike Layton, recommends that:

1. City Council direct the Executive Director, Corporate Real Estate Management in consultation with City divisions to report back by February 2022 on the feasibility of establishing a City-wide guideline for adding infant changing stations in all City-owned public buildings including those undergoing substantial renovations, and to report all proposed guidelines through the Executive Committee.
2. City Council request the Province of Ontario to review the current Ontario Building Code requirements for washrooms to better accommodate gender identity and expression and that the Code require accessible infant changing stations in all public washrooms and washrooms added in any new public buildings or during a substantial renovation.

Summary

From libraries to recreation centres and community hubs, caregivers of young children often struggle to find safe and sanitary places to change their child's diaper. When changing stations are available, they are disproportionately found in women's restrooms. Given that many couples share the responsibility of parenting, and the role of primary caregiver to their children, the lack of access to safe and sanitary places to change their child's diaper forces an inequitable distribution of the parental role. Moreover, it is prohibitive to many same sex couples and single parents.

In 2019, New York State adopted new laws which require that any public building shall provide diaper changing accommodations regardless of the gender for which the restroom is designed, and establishes that this provision applies to restrooms constructed or substantially renovated on or after the effective date of the law. It also requires compliance with laws regarding access for persons with disabilities and with existing fire, health, and safety standards. To see this change mandated across the Province, there would need to be a change to

the Ontario Building Codes, but there is nothing preventing the City of Toronto from requiring this progressive design element as a guideline in all new city-owned buildings.

Furthermore, an increasing number of cities are looking at pursuing more inclusive services for people of all genders and sexes, including transgender, transsexual, intersex and gender-variant populations. If the City of Toronto wants to pride itself on being at the forefront of inclusivity, we need to ensure that our buildings include inclusive facilities.

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM37.23