



# REPORT

*From the office of the...*  
**Vice-President (Education)**

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TO: Members of the Student Representative Assembly  
FROM: Elizabeth Wong, Vice-President (Education) & Corporate Officer  
SUBJECT: SRA 22N Municipal Affairs Report  
DATE: February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023

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Dear Members of the Assembly,

I am pleased to bring forth the Municipal Affairs Report. I do apologize if there is some repetition from the past VP Education report that was brought forward last meeting. The MA portfolio has made a lot of progress during this timeframe, and we are excited to see some movement and upcoming change. It has been challenging to balance this portfolio on top of my responsibilities and management of other portfolios but I've gotten a lot of support from the team.

## **Past Events, Project, & Activities**

### Housing Event with SWHAT

I did bring this event forward in my last report but wanted to highlight the Housing Hinge event with SWHAT again as it was a piece of the MA portfolio. We had great attendance at this event and were able to help many students forge connections. We hope to run this event again next year. It was a great way to get students excited as well as to share information about renter's rights. Thank you again to SWHAT for all their hard work and I look forward to future collaborations,

### Student Renter Awareness

I also did touch upon Student Renter Awareness within my last report but there are some updates since then. We wrapped student renter stories into our municipal pre-budget submission consultations with Councilors. I will touch more on the pre-budget submission later on in the report. We were able to directly converse with Councilors about the issues going on around student housing situations. We continue to work with the City to address these issues.

Sim and I collaborated with Francesca on gathering information around renter rights and lease signing tips. I went through our past files and did some research on renter rights and lease signing to aid in the development of information to be disseminated to students. I was able to get a document prepared that can be used by any SRA member to create graphics or informational posts around what to look for when signing a lease or looking at a house etc.

## Municipal Pre-Budget Submission & Delegation

Historically, the MSU has submitted a pre-budget submission to the General Issues Committee. The pre-budget submission revolved around Affordable Housing, Sustainability & Waste Management, and Public Spaces & Infrastructure. We used our pre-budget submission in individual meetings with Councilors. We not only spoke to these issues but also had conversations around student employment, transit, grad retention, and student connection to the Hamilton community.

We had the opportunity to meet with the offices of Councillors Maureen Wilson, Cameron Kroestch, Nrinder Nann, Tammy Hwang, Tom Jackson, Esther Pauls, John-Paul Danko, Jeff Beattie, Mark Tadeson, and Craig Cassar. We also had the opportunity to meet with Mayor Andrea Horwath where we had great discussions around the hopes of the future of Hamilton. We thank the Mayor, the Councillors and their offices for meeting with the MSU. We look forward to continuing to work with the city for the betterment of student life.

On Monday February 6<sup>th</sup>, Sim and I had the opportunity to delegate to City Council through the General Issues Committee. We delegated to City Council using the pre-budget submission document as a supplement. We overall had a good response from Councillors and some even reaching out to collaborate on certain aspects of our delegation.

## Living Wage Motion – Letter of Support

During our week of consultations with Councillors, we were approached by Councillor A. Wilson's office to support the motion to implement a living wage for the City's full-time contract and full-time seasonal employees. We sent a letter in support of the motion. Unfortunately, the motion was not passed but we look forward to working with the Councillor's office to achieve this goal in the future.

## **Current and Upcoming Events and Projects**

### Waste Management & Sustainability

Through our meetings, we were able to connect with Councillor Maureen Wilson's office to chat about waste management and waste diversion. As this was one of our points in our pre-budget submission, the Councillor's office later reached out to collaborate on how we could work together towards our recommendation to City Council. We will be meeting with the Councillor's office as well as waste management in Hamilton to chat about how we can increase waste diversion and spread awareness around waste management strategies for students.

### Rental Licensing Pilot Program

Through our meeting with Councillor Tammy Hwang, we had a great discussion around student housing and the challenges surrounding safety and liveable conditions. One of the Councillor's suggestions was to gather data on our side so that we could compare it against data from the City to measure the effectiveness and compliance of landlords in

maintaining safe homes. We will be strategizing with our Communications team to flush out this idea.

### **Current Challenges**

As I mentioned in my earlier blurb, it has been challenging to balance the entirety of the portfolio along with the other aspects of my portfolio and other managing responsibilities. My team has been fantastic in taking on delegated tasks and supporting this portfolio. We also have a need to collect more data on our side to support things like our pre-budget submission. I am excited to have an overall look at the role and to see how we can change certain aspects of the role for next year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Elizabeth Wong". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end of the last name.

Elizabeth Wong  
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