



Memorandum

TO: Krista Power, City Clerk **FILE:**

FROM: Councillor Kristen Oliver, Chair
Inter-Governmental Affairs Committee

DATE: 01/03/2023

SUBJECT: Bill 42 - Gender Affirming Healthcare Act

**MEETING &
DATE:** Committee of the Whole - 01/16/2023

Correspondence dated November 17, 2022 was received by the Inter-Governmental Affairs Committee, relative to the above noted, from President Jason Veltri, Rainbow Collective Thunder Bay.

On November 16, 2022, Kristyn Wong-Tam, Member of Provincial Parliament for Toronto Centre, introduced the Gender Affirming Healthcare Act, in the Ontario Legislature. If passed, the bill will require the Ministry of Health to form an advisory committee to review the state of trans healthcare in Ontario, and make recommendations to the Minister of Health, for improving gender affirming care in Ontario.

The objective of the bill, which is the creation of a provincial advisory committee on gender affirming care, is an essential first step to improving the health and healthcare of transgender, non-binary, 2-Spirit and gender diverse people in Ontario. Trans and gender diverse people in Thunder Bay consistently face barriers to gender-affirming healthcare, which in turn has a negative impact on their mental health and wellbeing. This bill is an important step forward to improve healthcare coverage and access for trans and gender diverse people in Ontario.

Gender affirming healthcare is recognized as medically necessary by the World Professional Association for Transgender Health and many other recognized medical institutions and organizations in Canada and around the world. The current state of gender-affirming healthcare means that medically necessary services are inaccessible to the majority of trans people. As such, improving gender affirming healthcare in Ontario would have an immediate and positive impact on trans and gender diverse communities across the province and in Thunder Bay.

In an effort to assist with advocacy on this issue, the following motion is presented for Council's consideration.

WITH RESPECT to the Memorandum from Councillor Kristen Oliver, Chair – Inter-Governmental Affairs Committee, dated January 3, 2023, we recommend that Council support the passing of Bill 42 – Gender Affirming Health Care Act;

AND THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to Premier Doug Ford, Health Minister Sylvia Jones, MPP Kevin Holland, MPP Lise Vaugeois, Rainbow Collective and MPP Kristen Wong-Tam;

AND THAT any necessary by-laws be presented to Council for ratification.