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- Practicing artist with demonstrated experience, skill & training.
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- Over 18 years of age & a resident of Halton Hills.

Deadline to apply:

8:30 a.m. on Monday, February 15, 2021



Visit haltonhills.ca/publicart for full details & application process.

NEWS

REGION PUSHING FEDS TO SPEED UP VACCINE DELIVERY

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The Region is calling on the federal government to accelerate the delivery of COVID-19 vaccines for local residents and all Canadians.

A motion to that effect was unanimously passed by regional council during its Jan. 20 session, coming on the heels of news that shipments of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine into Canada are facing reductions and delays by the manufacturer in the coming weeks.

"We have a responsibility to stand up for our residents and do everything we can to keep them safe," said Regional Chair Gary Carr, who put the motion forward with Oakville Councillor Allan Elgar.

"Our public health team and many partners have been working so hard to get these life-saving vaccines to our most vulnerable populations. There is tremendous planning that happens behind the scenes, and without the ongoing, predictable supply of vaccines, their plans are forced to change and the risk of severe illness or death rises."

While some councillors

contended the federal government has left no stone unturned to get the vaccines here as quickly as possible, the consensus was to put pressure on those in Ottawa to expedite the situation.

Once the vaccines are in the country, they're distributed to each province. The provincial government then has to prioritize where the doses will go, and which part of the population will receive them first. The current priority is to immunize residents, staff and essential caregivers in long-term care and high-risk retirement homes.

During the meeting, Halton Medical Officer of Health Dr. Hamidah Meghani detailed the challenges the local vaccine program has faced so far.

She said Halton Public Health was preparing for a shipment of the Moderna vaccine to roll out immunizations at long-term care and retirements homes, but the Province ended up reallocating Halton's share of the supply to harder-hit areas of Ontario.

Health officials then had less than a week to work with Halton Healthcare — which is operating its own vaccination clinic for priority populations —

to determine a method to safely transport the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine that requires ultra-cold storage from the hospital to local long-term care homes.

"We continue to manage this one supply of vaccine with our hospital partners and have not received any additional allocations of either vaccine," Meghani said.

Despite the hurdles, the Region managed to forge ahead with its mobile vaccination teams and hopes to finish immunizing all long-term care home residents by Jan. 23. Halton's COVID-19 Vaccine Committee also has plans in the works for immunization clinics down the road when the inoculation is more widely available.

The motion passed by council asks the federal and provincial governments to clearly and consistently communicate with the public on who's prioritized to receive the vaccine, and the timing of vaccine delivery.

For further details visit halton.ca/COVID19.

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