

Re: [EXTERNAL]Concerns over universal changerooms.

Brown, Patrick - Mayor <Patrick.Brown@brampton.ca>

Wed 2023-05-10 10:49 AM

To: Beata Kostka [REDACTED]; Keenan, Dennis (Councillor) <Dennis.Keenan@brampton.ca>

I will look into this

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**From:** Beata Kostka [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Wednesday, May 10, 2023 10:28 AM

**To:** Brown, Patrick - Mayor <Patrick.Brown@brampton.ca>

**Cc:** Kaur, Rupinder <Rupinder.Kaur@brampton.ca>; Brown, Patrick - Mayor <Patrick.Brown@brampton.ca>; Fortini, Pat - Councillor <Pat.Fortini@brampton.ca>; Toor, Gurpartap (Councillor) <Gurpartap.Toor@brampton.ca>; Vicente, Paul - Councillor <Paul.Vicente@brampton.ca>; Santos, Rowena - Councillor <Rowena.Santos@brampton.ca>; Palleschi, Michael - Councillor <Michael.Palleschi@brampton.ca>; Brar, Navjit Kaur (Councillor) <NavjitKaur.Brar@brampton.ca>; Medeiros, Martin - Councillor <Martin.Medeiros@brampton.ca>; Keenan, Dennis (Councillor) <Dennis.Keenan@brampton.ca>; Recreation <Recreation@brampton.ca>; DEV-Construction <DEV-Construction@brampton.ca>; Boyes, Bill <Bill.Boyes@brampton.ca>; Recreation <Recreation@brampton.ca>

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]Concerns over universal changerooms.

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As a tax paying resident of Brampton, I would hope our concerns would be respected and taken seriously, especially over such a serious matter. In regards to you plan of a universal all-inclusive family changeroom, many parents believed it was simply a temporary change, as the other family change room was being renovated. This is not the case. The plan is to make that changeroom the same.

This is now affecting schools as they participate in the swim to survive course. Water safety is a vital skill, however, with this plan, the school boards will not allow the children to participate, as children cannot be undressing in the same room with adults. They must keep children safe, so in turn, you are now taking away a piece of education and a skill that is extremely important. They will no longer have the ability to participate in these courses. After much discussion with our school and [REDACTED] from Earnscliffe Rec Centre, an agreement was made that the children could change in the room by the ice rink. That plan was curiously changed at the last minute, to: the children arriving dressed, and to go straight into the pool, and when the swim course was completed, there would be a waiting period until the changeroom was clear, and we could stand at the doorway to ensure no one enters. There was a [REDACTED] sitting and staring at me as I stood in the doorway, giving me an uncomfortable feeling. Then, a young man came up, and I kindly asked him if he could wait for 5 -10 minutes, as our children were changing and he kindly agreed, but instantly the [REDACTED] casually sitting on the chair in the hall came barreling toward me, trying to be intimidating, and pushed the young man in, stating he could go in and we couldn't stop him from doing so. I stated we made an arrangement for accommodation, and [REDACTED] replied there was no accommodation agreement made. [REDACTED] stated he was the [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] knew all the goings on, that occur at [REDACTED] rec centre. In speaking with this [REDACTED], who was extremely rude, attempting to be intimidating with his demeanor, and power tripping over the sense of [REDACTED] "authority", was also none of those goals described by our Commissioner of Community services Bill Boyes. (Providing a safe, respectful, and welcoming environment) [REDACTED] continued to be aggressively argumentative, and then [REDACTED] also vehemently denied any indecent exposure happened, that it was false, and that [REDACTED] knew of all concerns and complaints occurring within the rec centre, to which I made [REDACTED] aware it was in fact true, as it happened to my daughter and myself. I also let [REDACTED] know of the other 2 incidents that had occurred. I calmly stated I didn't appreciate [REDACTED] denial, and [REDACTED] was either intentionally lying to people, and denying this happened, or [REDACTED] had no idea as to what was happening under [REDACTED] watch of the rec centre. [REDACTED] responded with a disregarding huff, but had no argument to proceed with staying silent, and then suddenly walked away. [REDACTED] was not professional, and did not take these concerns seriously. How [REDACTED] is placed in a position where children are present, is rudely aggressive, and simply turns a blind eye, denying the seriousness of the matter is disgraceful and

questionable. Indecent exposure is a criminal offence, and with this new plan, it is aiding disturbed individuals in doing so. I also worry for older children who are able to enter on their own without parental supervision, and fear what may be in wait for them. As they may have no adult to defend or protect them. This is a disaster of a plan, and our safe family changerooms must be brought back. In providing truth to the statement made by Mr. Bill Boyes, I would expect the change be made to provide safety to our children and community.

I also attending the Open Engagement Session at Century Gardens Community Centre this past Saturday with another parent who also had this devastating experience of indecent exposure with their child. The two ladies were quite shocked to hear both of our encounters. I also let them know of the third parent's story with their child. They seemed genuinely concerned, and I truly hope our voices and concerns will be taken seriously. But on top, as we were there, another woman walked in and stated another incident. So now we have 4 that I know of! How many more will come forward? There's no doubt this has occurred many more times, than I personally know of. How many more children have to be exposed to this disgusting criminal act, for the sake of being "inclusive"??? What is also interesting is the [REDACTED] of Century Gardens, had no idea that this plan was being implemented, and simply thought it was a "renovation", so why is the city quietly and secretly implementing such a dangerous policy, that they are not even telling the staff about?

Your plan to implement an all-inclusive family changeroom, by definition, is not a family changeroom, and does not offer a safe and secure space for families with their children.

The definition of family according to the Meriam Webster Dictionary is: a: The basic unit in society traditionally consisting of two parents rearing their children, also: any of the various social units differing from but regarded as equivalent to the traditional family, ie: a single-parent family. And b: spouse and children.

A family changeroom, should be for "Families", not individuals, or an adult group of friends...Please bring back the safety for our children, and return the family changerooms as they should be.

Thank you,

Betty

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