**Hamilton Registry Week Key Messages / FAQ**

1. *How many people do you expect to survey?*

* In Hamilton, the 20,000 Homes Registry Week will provide a snapshot of the needs of people experiencing homelessness in our community. While our goal is to connect with as many people as possible, we are not undertaking an exhaustive count of every person experiencing homelessness in Hamilton.

1. *What information is being collected?*

* Registry week will survey individuals to gather information on their history of housing and homelessness, as well as their health and social needs.

1. *What happens after Registry Week / How will the Data Be Used?*

* The data collected from the Registry Week will help match people to existing programs and services, such as Housing First.
* The data will also be used to inform provincial and federal partners of Hamilton’s homelessness and housing needs. The information will be used to support continuous improvement practices.
* Data will also be used as a baseline and will help document future trends (such as a reduction in people experiencing chronic/episodic homelessness)

1. *What are the next steps?*

* A summary of the information will be shared publically at a Community Debrief event on April 30.  All are welcome to attend.
* Hamilton is one of the three communities in Canada piloting the Registry Week before the campaign launches this summer.  The lessons learned in Hamilton through the process of conducting the registry week will help to inform the campaign going forward.
* As a national initiative, the campaign will provide the City of Hamilton the opportunity to draw on resources, best practices and lessons learned in addressing homelessness in other communities across Canada to support our community as we come together to find solutions and continue to work towards system integration.

1. *What steps are in place to ensure respect for respondents’ privacy?*

* Volunteers will receive training and will survey in small teams led by local professional social service staff. The surveys will be immediately turned into City Staff who will enter the information in a secure database. Individual data will not be shared publicly. Participation in the survey is voluntary.

1. *How will you ensure the needs of women, youth, Aboriginals experiencing homelessness are represented?*

* We are coordinating with community partners to ensure that the particular needs of each group are taken into account in the Registry Week process.
* This is Hamilton’s first experience in conducting a registry week; the support of community partners and the lessons learned from this experience will allow us to continue to refine the process to support future efforts and address the needs of specific groups.

1. *Will additional funding be provided to house those who are identified through the survey? Is there enough housing?*

* The survey data will contribute to community efforts to align supports to individuals’ needs.
* The need for permanent housing can overwhelm the resources available. The survey tool will provide information to help prioritize individuals for housing first programs based on need.
* We recognize that the funding we receive to address homelessness does not meet the need in this community. For example, in the case of Federal Homelessness Partnering Strategy funding, the annual allocation has remained the same for the last 16 years, while Hamilton continues to grow, social assistance supports and benefits continue to dwindle, and the costs to deliver services continues to rise. We don’t have enough funding to meet Hamilton’s actual need. All levels of government need to play a more active role in addressing this issue.

1. *Will the 20,000 Homes Campaign result in more affordable housing in Hamilton?*

* The campaign will leverage existing resources and help match people to programs and services, such as Housing First.
* The initiative will help to highlight the importance of, and need for, additional affordable housing.

1. *What is the number of people that will be housed in Hamilton through the campaign? / What proportion of the 20,000 people to be housed will be housed in Hamilton?*

* The purpose of the campaign is to gather data from around the country though the registry week process. The target will then be shared among participating communities based on the overall data and the data of each community.
* During the Registry Week on April 26-30, we are collecting and analysing information that will establish a baseline.

1. *What is the connection between the survey questions and how that will translate into getting people housed:*

* The survey questions directly relate to people’s housing stability. The survey will highlight key areas where there are high levels of risk to people in our community experiencing homelessness.
* We will use this information to assess whether we are providing the right types of services and supports.
* It also provides us with an opportunity to speak about the systemic barriers with other key sectors in a specific way. For example, if we learn that there is a significant number of people frequently accessing the ER we can share this aggregated information with our health sector and discuss developing targeted intervention strategies. In order to create housing stability for people we need to ensure that the risk factors are being addressed effectively.