

Period Promise Policy Addendum: Draft Motion and Backgrounder to support efforts to expand access to menstrual products in municipal facilities.

Motion:

That City Council direct staff to provide a report regarding the cost and implementation of providing city facilities, including recreational spaces and libraries, working with homeless, street-involved, and low income and vulnerable girls, women, transgendered individuals and non-binary people access to free menstrual products in a manner that reduces menstrual stigma. AND that the City endorse the United Way [Period Promise Policy](#), as a locally-built solution that promotes equity, inclusivity, health, well-being, security and dignity in Niagara.

Backgrounder:

Whereas:

1. Period poverty is the widespread lack of access to menstrual products due to financial limitations which affects girls, women, and transgendered and non-binary individuals in Niagara who cannot afford menstrual products for themselves or are dependents of people who cannot afford menstrual products.
2. More than one quarter of Canadian women say they have struggled to afford menstrual products for themselves or their children.
3. Period Poverty is a symptom of poverty and, as a result, is likely experienced at a higher rate by single mothers, transgendered and non-binary individuals, Indigenous communities and Peoples, people of colour, people living with disabilities, and other marginalized groups who are affected by poverty at a disproportionately high rate.
4. People who are menstruating but do not have menstrual products available to them experience extreme social isolation by not being able to attend school, work, or community activities without experiencing stigma and shame.
5. People who experience period poverty are placing themselves at greater risk by using menstrual products for longer than their recommended time, or using unsanitary alternatives such as toilet paper, placing their health and security at risk.
6. The United Way Period Promise campaign has been working to address the issue of period poverty as experienced by vulnerable people in the Niagara region for several years. It promotes policy change and has collected and distributed more than 800,000 individual period products since 2018 through community partners in Niagara. This work builds awareness of period poverty in our community while promoting changes that can reduce the barriers and isolation experienced by people who face it every single month.