

**2. Motion to ensure the safety and dignity of vulnerable residents during power outages (Emergency Power Generators)**

**Motion pour assurer la sécurité et protéger la dignité des résidents vulnérables en cas de pannes de courant (génératrices de secours)**

**Committee recommendation**

**That Council direct staff to review Toronto's "Minimum Backup Power Guidelines for Multi-Unit Residential Buildings: Voluntary Performance Standards for Existing and New Buildings" (2016), and to report back in Q3 2023 on the resources required for the preparation of an Ottawa version of such a guideline.**

**Recommandation du Comité**

**Que le Conseil demande au personnel de prendre connaissance du document « Minimum Backup Power Guidelines for Multi-Unit Residential Buildings: Voluntary Performance Standards for Existing and New Buildings » (Ville de Toronto, 2016) et de lui faire, au troisième trimestre de 2023, un compte rendu des ressources nécessaires à la préparation d'un document similaire pour Ottawa.**

**Documentation/Documentation**

1. Committee Coordinator's report, Council and Committee Services, Office of the City Clerk, dated 16 February 2023 (ACS2023-OCC-CCS-0029)

Rapport du Coordonnateur de Comité, Service au Conseil municipal et aux comités, Bureau du Greffier municipal, daté le 16 février 2023 (ACS2023-OCC-CCS-0029)

2. Extract of draft Minutes, Emergency Preparedness and Protective Services Committee, 13 February 2023.

Extrait de l'ébauche du procès-verbal, Comité des services de protection et de la préparation aux situations d'urgence, le 13 février 2023.

Emergency Preparedness and  
Protective Services Committee  
Report 1  
22 February 2023

2 Comité des services de protection et  
de préparation aux situations  
d'urgence - Rapport 1  
Le 22 février 2023

Extract of Draft Minutes 1  
Emergency Preparedness and  
Protective Services Committee  
13 February 2023

Extrait de l'ébauche  
du procès-verbal 1  
Comité des services de protection  
et de préparation aux situations  
d'urgence - le 13 février 2023

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**Motion to ensure the safety and dignity of vulnerable residents during power outages (Emergency Power Generators)**

At the City Council meeting of Wednesday, 1 February 2023, Councillor Devine introduced a Notice of Motion, to be considered at the Council meeting of Wednesday, 8 February 2023 (**Council Motion 2023-07/07**).

At the Council meeting of Wednesday, 8 February, Motion 2023–07/07 was subsequently referred to the Emergency Preparedness and Protective Services Committee for consideration at its meeting of Monday, 13 February 2023.

At that meeting, a revised version of the Motion was introduced as follows:

**MOTION N<sup>o</sup> EPPSC 2023 01-01**

Moved by Councillor S. Devine:

**WHEREAS Ottawa has been hit with destructive weather events, including the tornados in 2018 and the derecho in 2022, causing extensive and lengthy power outages; and**

**WHEREAS weather experts, as confirmed in the Official Plan, project that Ottawa will experience severe, destructive weather events on a more frequent and basis; and**

**WHEREAS in the 36 hours following the derecho of May 2022, approximately 150,000 Hydro Ottawa customers were without power; and**

**WHEREAS following the derecho many Ottawa residents living in apartment buildings and condominium buildings were without power for over 10 days, without access to basic necessities such as elevators, emergency hallway lighting, and running water; nor access to emergency resources the city had set up for residents; and**

**WHEREAS** access to an elevator is essential to the personal autonomy, dignity, and safety of persons with disabilities and persons with mobility challenges living in apartment buildings and condominium buildings; and

**WHEREAS** the Supreme Court of Canada has said that “one must be wary of putting too low a value on accommodating the disabled. It is all too easy to cite increased cost as a reason for refusing to afford the disabled equal treatment.”; and

**WHEREAS** the Accessible Housing Network urges that the Government of Ontario require that every apartment building have a generator capable of powering elevators and emergency lighting; and

**WHEREAS** Hydro Ottawa CEO Bryce Conrad has written a letter to Councillor Devine conveying his “full support” of this motion, stating that “contingencies such as back-up emergency generators ensure multi-unit residents remain safe (particularly vulnerable populations) while reducing added demand on public services”; and

**WHEREAS** Ottawa Fire Services has stated a need to shift priorities in their post-storm response to attend to residents living in apartment buildings; and

**WHEREAS** Toronto has adopted the “Minimum Backup Power Guidelines for Multi-Unit Residential Buildings: Voluntary Performance Standards for Existing and New Buildings” (2016), which identifies key opportunities for strengthening resilience against area-wide power outages, including ensuring backup power providing for at least 72 hours in order to “provide safety and comfort, especially to vulnerable populations”; and

**WHEREAS** the *Protecting Human Rights in an Emergency Act, 2022*, as brought forward by Ottawa West-Nepean MPP Chandra Pasma, seeks to amend the Residential Tenancies Act, 2006, and the Condominium Act, 1998, to ensure that all apartment and condominium buildings have a back-up emergency generator capable of running an elevator, emergency hallway lighting, and water pumps for a period of two weeks; and

**WHEREAS** on February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023, Toronto City Council passed a Motion to Support Bill 47 (MM3.11);

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** Ottawa City Council express its support for Bill 47, *Protecting Human Rights in an Emergency Act (Emergency Power Generators), 2022*; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT City Council forward this item to local MPPs, the Premier, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), for information; and**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Council direct staff to review Toronto's "Minimum Backup Power Guidelines for Multi-Unit Residential Buildings: Voluntary Performance Standards for Existing and New Buildings" (2016), and to report back in Q3 2023 on the resources required for the preparation of an Ottawa version of such a guideline.**

Councillor Devine spoke to provide context for his Motion, and Committee heard from the following public delegations:

1. Ms Chandra Pasma, MPP, Ottawa West—Nepean
2. Dr. Lynn Ashdown<sup>+</sup>
3. Mr. Bryce Conrad, Chief Executive Officer, Hydro Ottawa

Written submissions were also received from the following:

1. Mr. Jerry Fiori\*, Past Chair, Ottawa Disability Coalition
2. Ms Deborah Garceau\*
3. Mr. Husam Shamsan\*

*[ + Slide presentations/visuals/video, held on file with the Office of the City Clerk]*

*[ \* Individuals / groups marked with an asterisk above either provided comments in writing or by e-mail; all submissions and presentations are held on file with the Office of the City Clerk. ]*

Following Committee's questions to the presenters and at the conclusion of Committee discussions, the Chair called for a split vote on the three resolutions of the Motion, as follows:

**That the Emergency Preparedness and Protective Services Committee recommend Council:**

1. **Express its support for Bill 47, Protecting Human Rights in an Emergency Act (Emergency Power Generators), 2022; and**

- 2. Forward this item to local MPPs, the Premier, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), for information; and**

YEAS (5): Councillors L. Johnson, S. Devine, J. Bradley, S. Plante and Chair R. Brockington

NAYS (6): Councillors M. Luloff, L. Dudas, C. Kelly, S. Desroches, A. Hubley, and D. Hill

**Lost**

**That the Emergency Preparedness and Protective Services Committee recommend Council:**

- 3. Direct staff to review Toronto's "Minimum Backup Power Guidelines for Multi-Unit Residential Buildings: Voluntary Performance Standards for Existing and New Buildings" (2016), and to report back in Q3 2023 on the resources required for the preparation of an Ottawa version of such a guideline.**

YEAS (11): Councillors M. Luloff, L. Dudas, C. Kelly, L. Johnson, S. Devine, J. Bradley, S. Plante, S. Desroches, A. Hubley, D. Hill and Chair R. Brockington

NAYS (0):

**Carried**