

City of Toronto Body Rub Parlours and Holistic Centres Bylaw Review - Summary of Recommendations

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In March 2019, the City of Toronto embarked on a series of public consultations and stakeholder meetings with a view towards reviewing municipal bylaws governing Body Rub Parlours and Holistic Centres. More than 120 holistic practitioners and owners attended the consultations to express their views and concerns. As representatives for holistic practitioners, body rubbers, and their allies in sector and with extensive community connections, we wish to foreground the importance of the views and perspectives of holistic practitioners and body rub workers in this review. [Full report](#)

Summary of Recommendations

Overall Recommendations

- Do not abolish the holistic licensing system
- Ensure that the primary focus of the bylaw review is on poverty alleviation, antidiscrimination, equity, community empowerment, health and safety, and worker's rights
- Conduct bylaw review with the meaningful participation of practitioners and owners who will be most directly affected by the bylaw changes
- Ensure bylaw review is evidence-based and does not incorporate misleading information
- Review bylaws to ensure compliance with Access T.O. policies
- Publish bylaw enforcement guidelines and complaint mechanisms and make them available and accessible to practitioners and owners
- Provide proper training to law enforcement officers to increase their understanding of racism, sexism, inclusivity, sex work, human rights, diversity, and anti-oppression
- Combat moral panic, stereotyping, and discrimination against holistic practitioners, body rubbers, and sex workers through education and policy
- Provide support and services to people who are vulnerable and exploited, including victims of trafficking

Holistic Specific Recommendations

- *Remove provision that impedes holistic workers from locking their doors (Bylaw 545-177(l))*
- *Remove provision regarding appearance of holistic workers (Bylaw 545-185)*
- *Remove provisions which prohibit and impede workers affiliated with certain professional health associations (Bylaws 545-160.2(b), (f))*
- *Remove provisions that require practitioners and owners to post detailed licensing information in public places and provide personal information to inspectors (Bylaws 545-4(i), 545-179, 545-182)*
- *Remove provision which violates clients' privacy rights by requiring the collection of personal client records (Bylaw 545-173(a.1))*

Body Rub Specific Recommendations

- *Eliminate cap on body rub parlour licenses (Bylaw 545-361)*
- *Reduce fees on body rub parlour licenses (Municipal Code 545.4(a))*
- *Remove provision that prohibits body rub workers from locking their doors (Bylaw 545-343)*
- *Remove provision that prohibits body rub parlours from using security cameras (Bylaw 545-358)*
- *Remove provisions requiring body rubbers to undergo intrusive medical examinations for "communicable diseases" prior to working (Bylaws 545-333, 545-346)*
- *Eliminate Zoning Restrictions on Body Rub Parlours (Zoning Bylaw 569-2013, Chapter 150)*

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