

EMPOWERING MENSTRUAL EQUITY WITH A QR-CODE OPERATED DISPENSER & SMART-APP



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PROBLEM

How might we improve access to hygiene products & efficient navigation of public washrooms in Hamilton?

Menstrual products now available at no cost to employees in federally regulated workplaces

> Only about 6% of workplaces in Canada fall under federal regulation¹

Ontario Increasing Access to Free Menstrual Products in Schools

Province expands supports for students and breaks down barriers

Does not cover 85.9% of all menstruating individuals (19-55yrs)²

SOLUTION

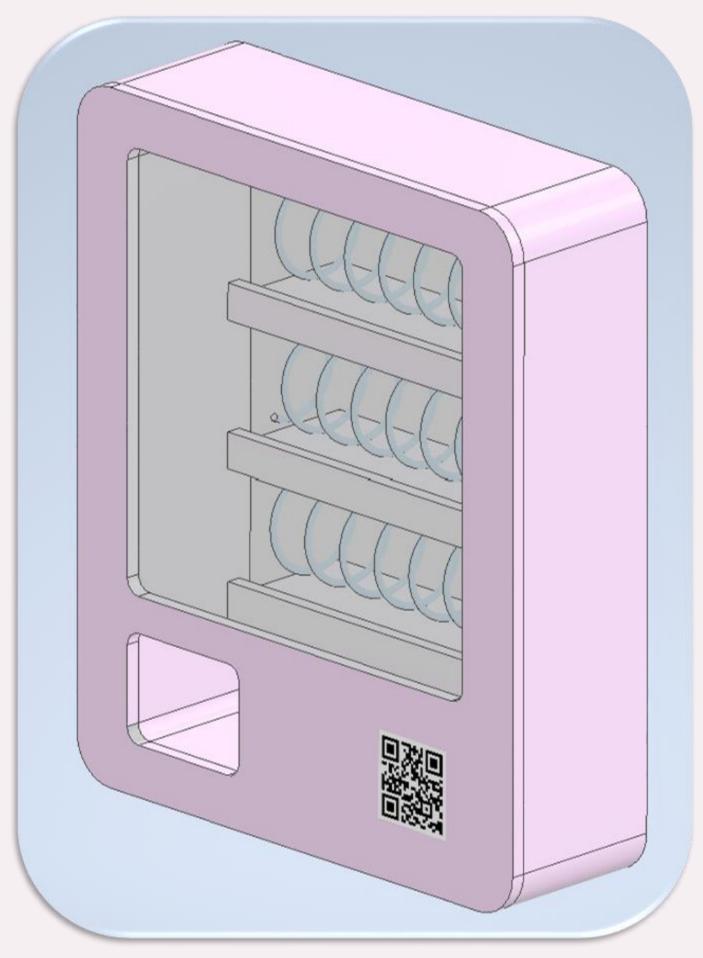
A FREE QR code-operated hygiene product dispenser paired with a mobile app that helps users locate the nearest public washroom and availability of menstrual products.

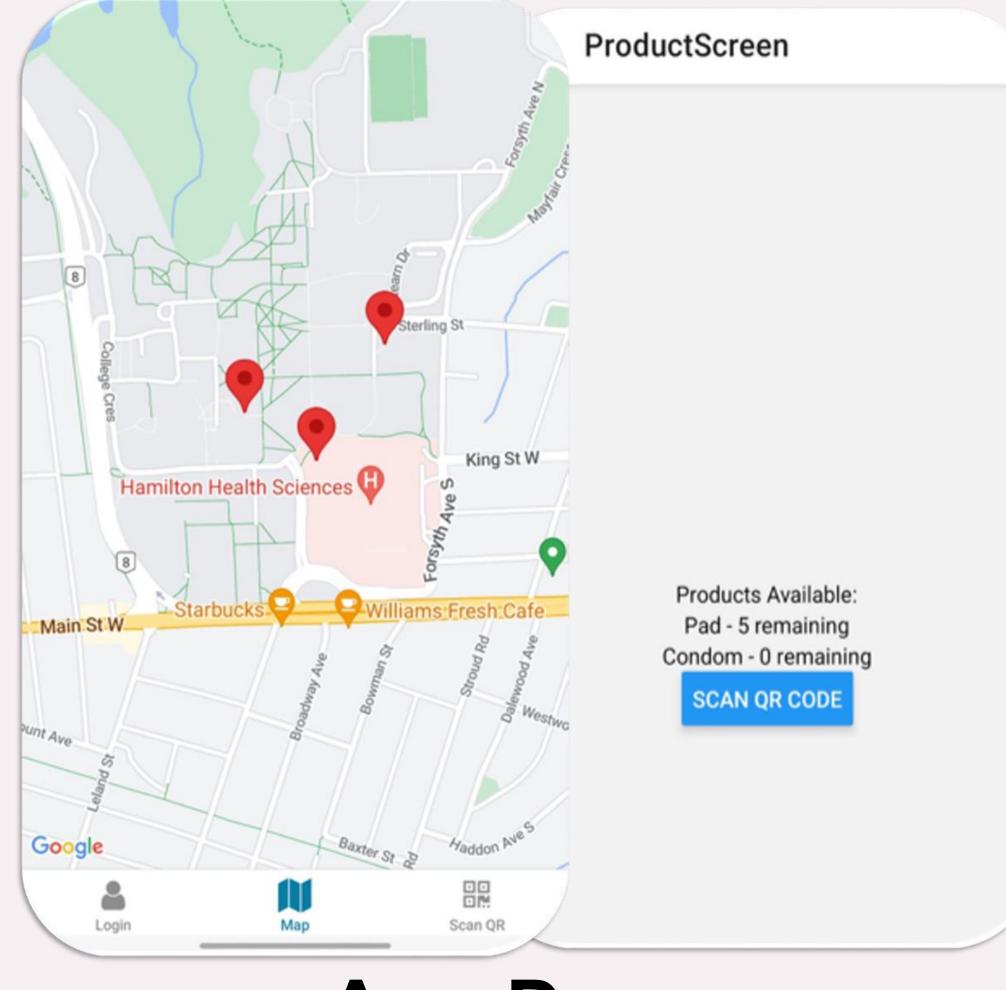
Easy & Contactless Experience!

- 1.Scan the QR-code on the dispenser
- 2. Select the hygiene product you need
- 3. Receive your product; no payment required!

About the dispenser:

- Stainless steel, strong clear glass to prevent vandalism
- Placing height of ~3ft to ensure accessibility to wheelchair users³
- Located at various washrooms across Hamilton!
- Holds up to 30 products
- No personal data collection

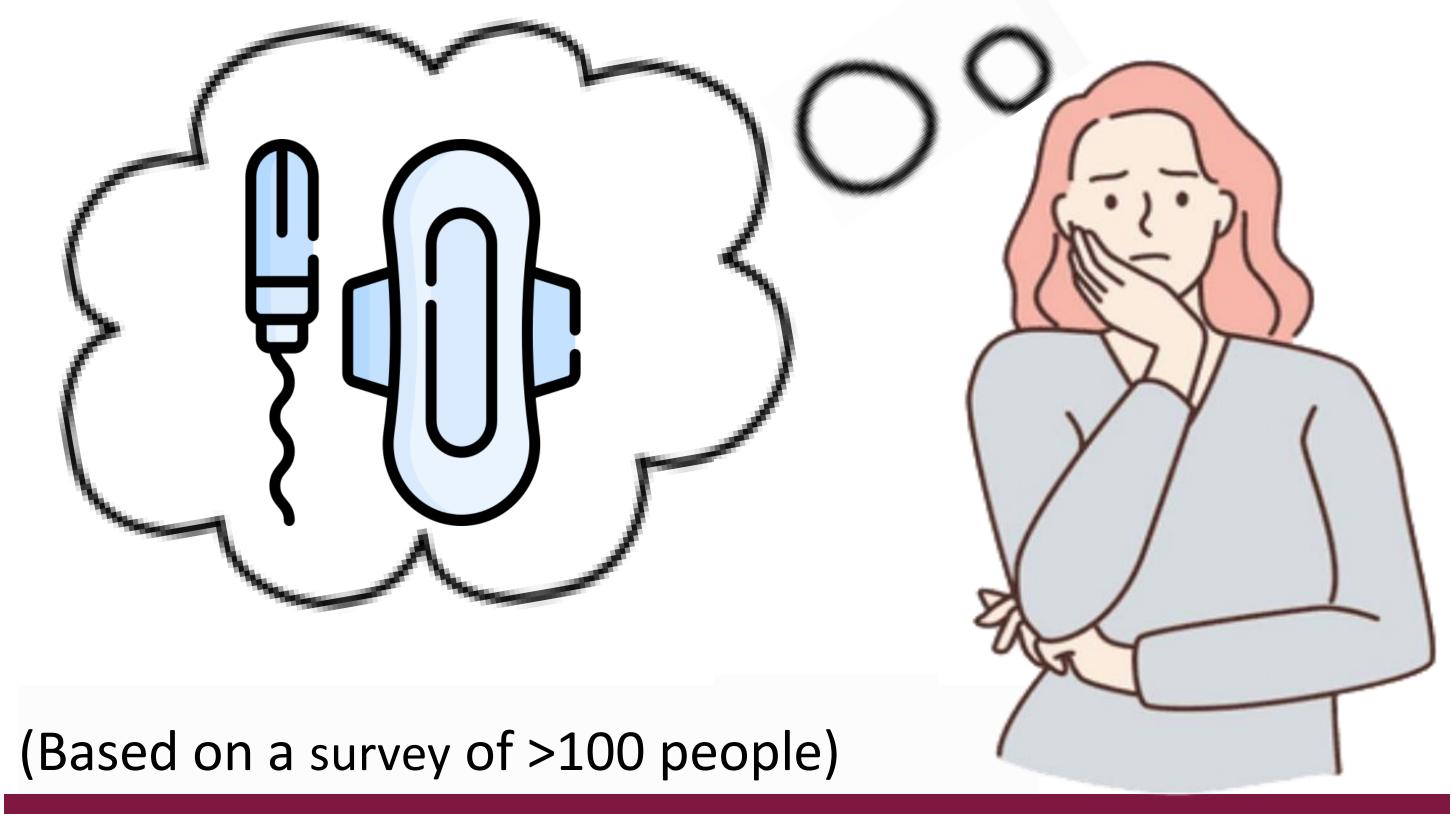




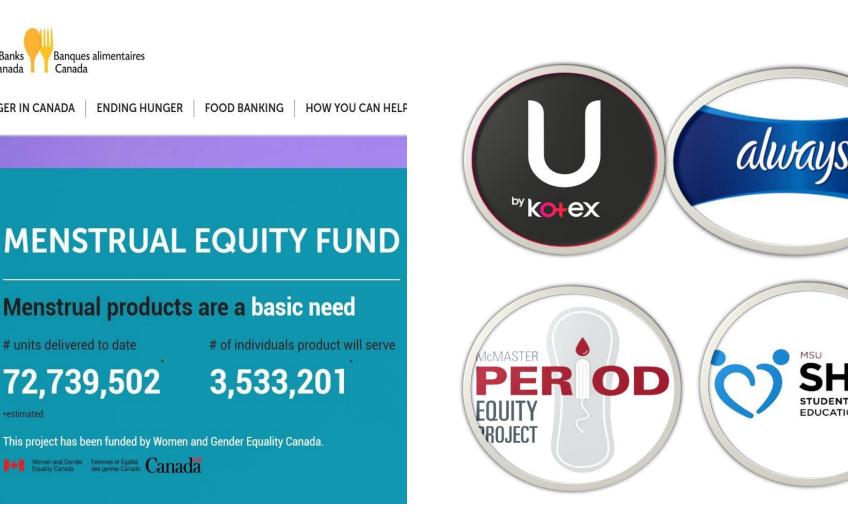
3D Prototype

App Demo

92.9% of Hamilton residents face or know someone who faces barriers to accessing menstrual products in public spaces when needed.



NEXT STEPS







- Seek funding from the Menstrual Equity Fund, period product companies, and other non-profit organizations.
- Pilot the project at McMaster University, Community Centers, and Shelters
- If initial start is successful, we can expand to offer other products in more locations





REFERENCES

- 1. Government of Canada. (2023, December 15). Menstrual products now available at no cost to employees in federally regulated workplaces. Retrieved from canada.ca
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- **3. CSA Group.** (2022). Period poverty in Canada: Addressing access to menstrual products through policy. Retrieved from csagroup.org
- 4. AliExpress. (n.d.). TM004-3B1 Mini QR Code Vending Machine for Small Items. Retrieved from AliExpress