

March 7, 2011.

Mr. Gary King
Chief Administrative Officer/Deputy Clerk
County of Peterborough
County Court House
470 Water Street
Peterborough, ON K9H 3M3

Mr. Brian Horton
Chief Administrative Officer
City of Peterborough
500 George St. N.
Peterborough, ON K9H 3R9

Dear Messer's King and Horton:

For many years now, the City & County of Peterborough and local funeral homes have worked together to provide dignified funeral services to qualifying families through the Ontario Works and ODSP programmes. For close to 15 years now, the remuneration paid to funeral homes has not increased and has been set at \$2,250 (including all taxes) to provide these services. As you can appreciate, the cost of providing these services has increased each year. The current average cost to provide this type of funeral service in Peterborough County is now \$5,200. For each Social Services funeral provided, this rate leaves an average shortfall of \$2,950 which has been subsidized by the funeral homes.

As small businesses owners, we need to provide social service funerals at cost in order to remain operational and continue to contribute to our local tax base and community. We can no longer afford to continue to accept rates for services and merchandise which require us to underwrite the expense.

As you are aware, the province pays for 80% of the municipality's cost. You have the discretion to exceed the 1998 Provincial Guideline amount of \$2,250.00 where appropriate.

In a precedent setting decision three years ago, the municipality of Lanark County increased the Indigent Funeral allowance from \$2,960 to \$5,169 + GST (plus all cemetery disbursements or cremation fees to a maximum of \$750) effective January 1, 2008. Elgin District has also increased its Social Service Funeral allowance to \$4,883, as has Bruce County to \$4,834.44 (+ GST)

We respectfully request that the County and City of Peterborough begin paying full market value in fairness to our funeral homes, as you would pay full market value for any other business

service so that we may continue to operate and provide quality services for the less fortunate in our community.

Please find attached the proposed Fee Schedule for social service funerals. We are committed to work with you to establish a fee schedule that makes the transition to paying full market value for social service funerals as manageable as possible for the area.

We would appreciate your reviewing this matter and responding directly to us on behalf of all of the funeral directors that we are representing. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Scott B. Davidson
Hendren Funeral Homes



John Cunningham
Community Alternative Funeral Home

CC: Nisbett Funeral Home
Duffus Funeral Home
Benson Funeral Home
Brett Funeral Chapels
Mr. Ken Doherty, Director of Community Services
Mr. J. Murray Jones, Warden
Mr. Darryl Bennett, Mayor

Proposed Fee Schedule

Social Service Funerals, City of Peterborough

March 7, 2011

PLAN B - \$5200.00 + 13% Tax (\$676.00) = \$5876.00

ARRANGING & ADMINISTRATION: This service includes the availability of a licensed Funeral Director 24 hours a day, initial consultation and the funeral arrangements, coordination of the transfer from place of death, recording and filing of vital statistics, obtaining the services of a Coroner if required, attending to all details regarding funeral services and final disposition.

VEHICLES: Service Vehicle to transfer from the place of death (up to 25 kms) and to secure all documents for proper registration. Funeral Coach for use on day of Service for transportation to place of final disposition.

FUNERAL SERVICE: Professional staff to conduct the visitation prior to service and Funeral Service at location of Service. Professional staff to conduct professional embalming of deceased as requested by family.

FACILITIES: Use of the Funeral Home facilities for holding the deceased and for a period of Visitation for up to two (2) hours prior to the Funeral Service. Use of office facilities for families, to arrange and coordinate details as required. Office equipment as required, computers, fax, phones, etc.

CASKET USED: Cloth covered flat top casket made of particleboard. Under no circumstances may funds be used to upgrade the casket described above. The casket may only be supplied by the funeral home handling the deceased's final arrangements. Any casket coming from a third party retailer will be looked upon as an upgrade and is not allowed under this agreement.

PLAN A - \$2200.00 + 13% Tax (\$286.00) = \$2486.00

ARRANGING & ADMINISTRATION: This service includes the availability of a licensed Funeral Director 24 hours a day, initial consultation and the funeral arrangements, coordination of the transfer from place of death, recording and filing of vital statistics, obtaining the services of a Coroner if required, attending to all details regarding final disposition arrangements.

VEHICLES: Service Vehicle to transfer from the place of death (up to 25 kms), to secure all documents for proper registration and to transfer deceased to place of final disposition.

FUNERAL SERVICE: Professional staff to coordinate details for direct cremation or burial.

FACILITIES: Use of office facilities for families, to arrange and co-ordinate details as required. Office equipment as required, computers, fax, phones, etc.

CONTAINER USED: Solid wood construction container. Under no circumstances may funds be used to upgrade the casket described above. The casket may only be supplied by the funeral home handling the deceased's final arrangements. Any casket coming from a third party retailer will be looked upon as an upgrade and is not allowed under this agreement.

ADDITIONAL SERVICES & MERCHANDISE PROVIDED BY SOCIAL SERVICES:

1. Oversized Casket to a Maximum of \$400.00
2. Additional Transportation after 25 kms - \$1.95/km. both ways
3. Burial Vault Basic standard crypt when required by cemetery by-laws - \$795.00

DISBURSEMENTS & OTHER MERCHANDISE: are not covered by Social Services. Payment for these items is the responsibility of the family and these charges are NOT considered an upgrade. Examples of these fees may include tribute supplies (register book, memorial video etc.), urn, urn vault, clergy stipends, newspaper notices and reception facilities and food.

** We propose that this agreement remain in force for 5 years with a 5% increase each year beginning January 1, 2012.