



July 9, 2019

To: MPP Dave Smith, and MPP Dave Piccini,  
Minister of Infrastructure the Honourable Laurie Scott  
Deputy Premier & Minister of Health the Honourable Christine Elliott

**Subject: Peterborough County City Paramedics  
2019 Service Funding & Community Paramedicine Funding**

Dear esteemed MPP's:

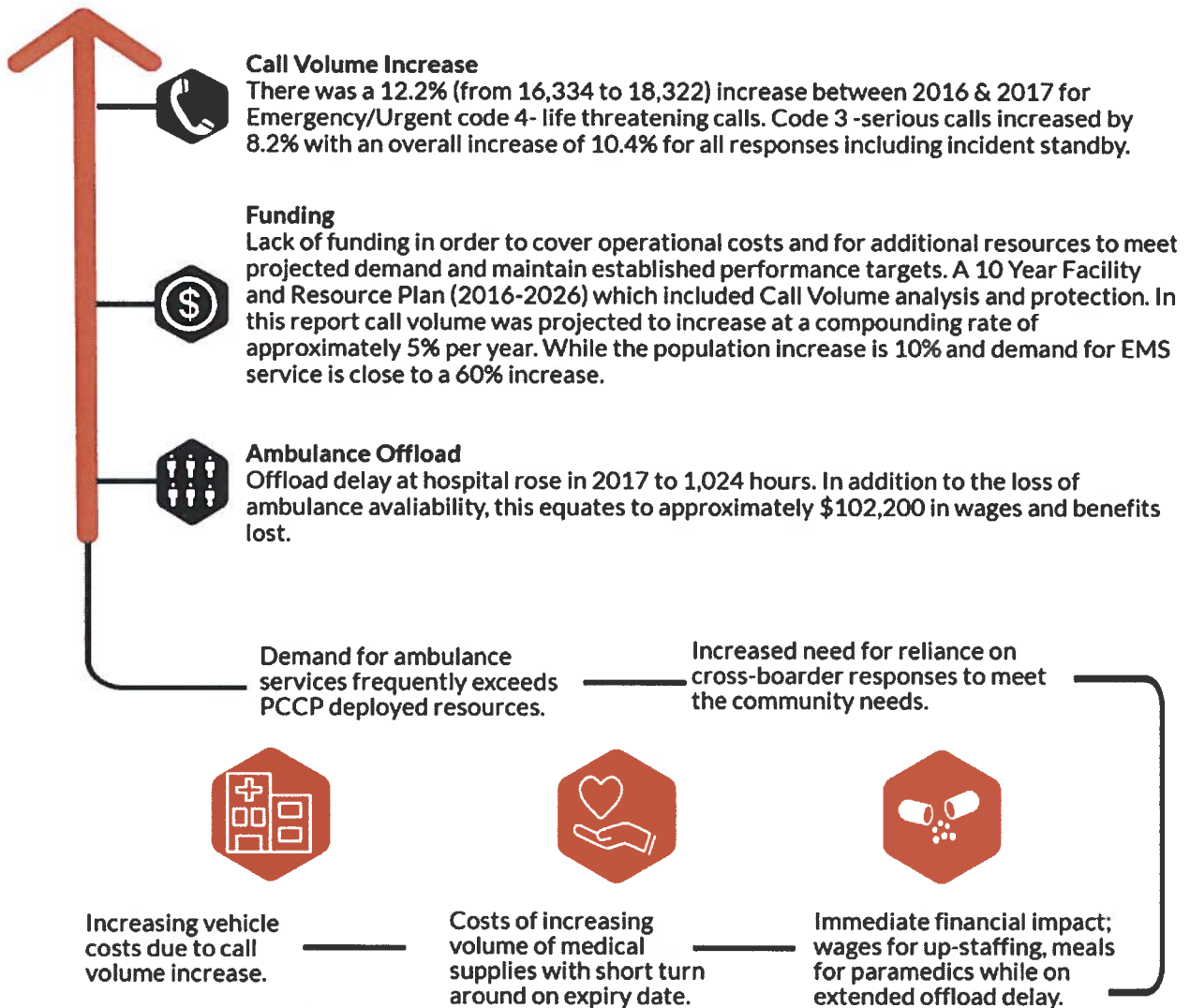
On May 17<sup>th</sup> we were pleased to meet with MPPs Smith and Piccini to discuss concerns regarding sustainable provision of paramedic land ambulance services while facing increased service demand, offload delay pressures and potential pending Land Ambulance funding freeze. As requested, we respectfully provide the attached for your information.

#### **2019 Service Enhancements - Funding**

Peterborough County-City Paramedics have been industry leaders in efficient and effective service provision of land ambulance. We have held our increases below provincial averages, while maintaining response times and service excellence. We have implemented efficiencies in all areas of the service, including being the first service in North America to pilot and integrate solar panels on vehicles to operate vehicle systems, saving on engine idling and reducing GHG emissions. Our ambulance bases are all either repurposed buildings or shared use facilities (such as with fire or public works).

As indicated in our position paper, Peterborough County-City Paramedics have experienced significant call volume growth over the past few years, with that growth forecasted to increase and compound annually. Compounding the high call volumes are the offload wait times at the hospital and the aging demographic we have in our area. In the 2019 budget, County Council approved a service enhancement that would put more paramedics and vehicles on the ground in support of our ever increasing call requirements. With the announced Provincial funding freeze at 2017 levels, this would mean that Peterborough County and City would not be funded for these service enhancements, leaving the cost borne solely on the municipal taxpayer.

**Peterborough County-City Paramedics (Peterborough County) respectfully requests the Province to fund fifty percent (50%) of costs for 2019 (which include the required service enhancement).**





### **Community Paramedicine:**

In seeking out evidence based initiatives to reduce or mitigate call volumes Peterborough County City Paramedics implemented a Community Paramedic Remote Patient Monitoring program (CPRPM) which provided education and monitoring of persons living with congestive heart failure (CHF) and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).

The goal was to reduce costs and burden on the health care system through reduced 911 calls, Emergency Department (ED) visits and hospitalizations. Through this program we experienced a significant reduction in ED visits and readmission of patients, thereby achieving significant cost savings to the health care system as a whole. Unfortunately the funding for this program ended and we were unable to fund its continuation, however we do see this type of program as one that would be invaluable to the region and to mitigate future call volume increases.

**With funding, the Peterborough County/City Paramedics community paramedicine program would bring together providers and organizations from across the continuum of care, TCP's will ensure complementary and coordinated services, share information between providers with greater accuracy, and be better equipped to manage patients with chronic disease and multiple illnesses. *Funding and implementing the community paramedic programs has potential to offset paramedic call volume growth and would mitigate the need for future rate of service level growth or enhancement.* This strategy will address clinical issues related to the patient's condition as well as the social care needs of patients and families.**

We hope that the foregoing and attached detailed information will provide you with the information and insight into our service. We are always seeking to identify efficiencies, new technologies and strive to achieve service delivery excellence to our residents. We are happy to meet with you to further discuss our requests and to work collaboratively with you.

Sincerely,

Troy Speck B.A., LL.B.  
Chief Administrative Officer  
Peterborough County

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Peterborough County/City Paramedics  
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