



City of Peterborough

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County of Peterborough

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July 17, 2018

The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier
Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

Dear Premier Ford:

Re: Joint City/County Paramedic Service Pressures

Under a Consolidated Municipal Service Management (CMSM) agreement, the County of Peterborough delivers Paramedic services to both the City and County of Peterborough. At a June 14, 2018 meeting of the City and County of Peterborough's Joint Services Steering Committee (JSSC), the JSSC passed the following resolution:

That the Mayor and Warden send a letter to the Premier, Minister of Health and Long Term Care, AMO, MPP Smith and MPP Piccini Northumberland-Peterborough South, MPP Laurie Scott Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock on behalf of the City and County, requesting the funding agreement for Land Ambulance Services be reviewed with the intent to obtain provincial assistance for said service.

At that meeting, the JSSC received a Paramedic Services 2017 Year End Performance Report. Through this report, the JSSC Chair and members were informed of the rapidly increasing demand for service on the County and City's Paramedic Service which has proven to be higher than previously predicted even for one of Canada's "most elderly communities". Further, the report examined the ongoing pressure of Ambulance Offload Delays experienced at Peterborough Regional Health Center (PRHC), the community's local, and only regional hospital.

As a result of the rapidly increasing service demand, combined with system pressures including ambulance offload delays, the Peterborough County and City is experiencing an increasing number of "Zero Ambulance Availability Levels", extended response times and correlated impacts such as heightened operational stress injuries to paramedics and adverse working conditions such as missed obligatory meal and rest periods.

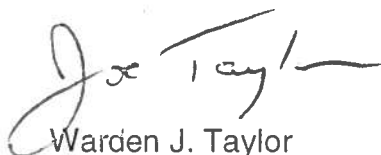
In the absence of paramedic service level enhancements or the implementation of strategies to mitigate the system pressures, conditions will continue to escalate as will the potential of risk to the public and paramedic staff. Should the strategies to reduce said risk be implemented, the cost would cause significant burden to the local tax base. These costs are disproportionate to communities such as Peterborough City and County which has a unique combination of the highest ratio of persons aged over 65, combined with significant and persistent offload delay pressures at a single regional local hospital.

Premier, we would appreciate the opportunity to meet with you and your Minister of Health and Long-Term Care (the "Minister") to discuss possible solutions and mitigation strategies to address these serious concerns. To that end, and with the support of the City of Peterborough, the County of Peterborough has requested a delegation with the Minister at the upcoming Association of Municipalities Ontario (AMO) conference in August. It is our hope that this delegation will provide an opportunity to expand further on the serious nature of the pressures experienced by the local paramedic services and to discuss possible solutions and mitigation strategies which may include:

- Funding for community paramedicine programs
- Expansion of ambulance offload nurse program
- Assistance for Peterborough Regional Health Center to accommodate the increasing patient volume
- Review of land ambulance funding model to address disproportionately experienced system pressures.

Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Yours truly,



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Mayor, D. Bennett
The City of Peterborough
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- c: Hon. Christine Elliott, Minister of Health
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
D. Smith, MPP, Peterborough-Kawartha
D. Piccini, MPP, Northumberland-Peterborough South
L. Scott, MPP, Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock
S. Clancy, CAO, City of Peterborough
T. Speck, CAO, County of Peterborough
R. Mellow, Chief, Peterborough County/City Paramedics