



April 5, 2019

Sent Via Email

The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier
doug.ford@pc.ola.org

The Honourable Christine Elliott
Minister of Health and Long Term Care
christine.elliott@ontario.ca

Dear Premier Ford and Minister Elliott:

Re: Ongoing Opioid Crisis in Peterborough

At its Regular Peterborough County Council meeting held on April 3, 2019, County Council passed the following resolution:

"Whereas Peterborough County/City ranks fourth among municipalities in Ontario (based on rate per 100,000) for opioid overdose emergency department visit rates, and

Whereas there were 19 suspected opioid related deaths in Peterborough City in 2017 (OPP did not track stats until October 2018), and

Whereas there were an estimated 4,000 opioid related deaths across Canada in 2017, and

Whereas there have been 13 suspected drug overdose related deaths in Peterborough County/City between January 1, 2019 and March 12, 2019 and 2 drug overdose related deaths January 1, 2018 and March 12, 2018, and based on this information results in a 433% increase in drug overdose related deaths compared to the same time period in 2018, and

Whereas the Peterborough County/City Paramedics use of service in 2018 was 161 opioid related calls and from January to March 2019 has resulted in 41 calls, and

Whereas this does impact every aspect of society, and

Whereas the Canadian drug and substance strategy and the Peterborough Health Unit Opioid Strategy is based on the four pillars of Prevention, Treatment, Harm Reduction, and enforcement and includes emergency management,



Therefore be it resolved:

1. That Peterborough County calls on the Province of Ontario to assign a provincial coordinator within the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care for the provincial response to the opioid overdose crisis;
2. That the Province of Ontario develop a comprehensive provincial strategy to address the opioid overdose crisis, based on a public health approach that addresses the social determinants of health that takes a non-discriminatory approach to drug overdose prevention and harm reduction;
3. That the Province of Ontario resume regular meetings of the Opioid Emergency Task Force with necessary funding;
4. That Peterborough County calls for Federal and Provincial funding to support, enhance, and expand evidence based treatment and rehabilitation services, addiction prevention and education, and harm reduction measures;
5. That the Minister of Education add a youth resiliency program to the school curriculum which includes coping skills to get through obstacles in life e.g. anger management, conflict resolution, healthy relationships and informed decision making, and that this start in kindergarten and through the grade and high schools. Investing in our youth is crucial;
6. That this Resolution be distributed to the leaders of all parties represented in the House of Commons and the Legislature, the Federal Minister of Health, the Provincial Minister of Health and Long Term Care, the Minister of Education, our local MPs and MPPs and AMO for distribution to member municipalities; and
7. That this Resolution be distributed to the City of Peterborough, Ontario Provincial Police, the Peterborough Police Service, Peterborough Public Health, Peterborough Regional Health Centre and Peterborough County/City Paramedics."

Should you have any questions, please contact Lynn Fawn, Manager, Legislative Services/Clerk at 705-743-0380, Extension 2102.

Yours truly,

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c: Hon. G. Petitpas Taylor, Minister of Health
Hon. M. Monsef, MP, Peterborough-Kawartha
K. Rudd, MP, Northumberland-Peterborough South

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J. Schmale, MP, Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock
Hon. L. M. Thompson, Minister of Education
Hon. M. Schreiner, Leader of the Green Party of Ontario
Hon. A. Horwath, Leader of the Ontario NDP
Hon. J. Fraser, Interim Leader of the Ontario Liberal Party
D. Smith, MPP, Peterborough-Kawartha
L. Scott, MPP, Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock
D. Piccini, MPP, Northumberland/Peterborough
J. Kennedy, Clerk, City of Peterborough
L. Darling, Inspector, Detachment Commander, Ontario Provincial Police
Chief Gilbert, Chief of Police, Peterborough Police Service
Dr. R. Salvaterra, Medical Officer of Health, Peterborough Public Health
Dr. P. McLaughlin, President & CEO, Peterborough Regional Health Centre
R. Mellow, Chief of Paramedics, Peterborough County/City Paramedics

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