

March 4, 2022

The Honourable Christine Elliott
Minister of Health
College Park, 5th Floor
777 Bay Street
Toronto, Ontario M7A 2J3

Re: Funding Ontario Health Teams

Dear Honourable Minister,

The County of Essex supports the creation of Ontario Health Teams (OHT) as a method of providing a full continuum of care to our communities.

As a Land Ambulance service provider, the County of Essex understands the value of an integrated approach to healthcare delivery. Together with local agencies, we have experienced great success through collaboration and the County fully appreciates the concept of working cohesively to provide optimal care.

Where our concern begins is with the possibility of being asked to provide funding for operating budgets of an Ontario Health Team through fees and other 'membership-like' dues. The municipal contribution to the community health and wellness system is significant and should not be increased to fund initiatives that fall clearly within the sphere of Provincial jurisdiction. Maintaining a clear line of funding responsibility ensures for greater accountability and success tracking over time.

The County of Essex supports the opinion shared by AMO in their letter to your office dated March 1, 2022, and would also ask for your consideration of this issue by amending existing OHT Guidance Documents from your Ministry to ensure that these funding requests are not made to municipal governments, boards, public health units, or municipal services.

Sincerely yours,



Gary McNamara
Warden, County of Essex

Funding Ontario Health Teams

March 4, 2022

CC:

The Honourable Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Kate Manson-Smith, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Dr. Catherine Zahn, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Health
Melanie Fraser, Associate Deputy Minister, Health Services, Ministry of Health
Susan Picarello, Assistant Deputy Minister, Emergency Health Services Division, Ministry of Health
Amy Olmstead, Executive Lead (Acting), Ontario Health Teams, Ministry of Health
Dr. Paul Roumeliotis, President, Association of Local Public Health Agencies (ALPHA)
Jamie McGarvey, President, Association of Municipalities Ontario (AMO)
Peter Dundas, President, Ontario Association of Paramedic Chiefs (OAPC)
Connie Lacy, Chair, AdvantAge Ontario
Mike Galloway, CAO, County of Essex
Bruce Krauter, Chief, Essex-Windsor EMS
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