



April 8, 2024

CITY OF PEMBROKE

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Pembroke, Ontario
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Tel. 613-735-6821

**Chief Administrative
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Honourable Doug Ford
Via email: premier@ontario.ca

Dear Premier Ford:

Please be advised that Council of the Corporation of the City of Pembroke passed the following resolution at its meeting of April 2, 2024:

Resolution #011 (April 2, 2024)

Moved by Deputy Mayor Brian Abdallah
Seconded by Councillor Troy Purcell

Whereas the well-being of our community members is of paramount importance, and addressing mental health and substance use disorder is crucial for the overall health and safety of all our residents; and Whereas the County of Renfrew, like many other regions, faces significant challenges related to mental health and addiction, with individuals and families grappling with the devastating impact of these conditions; and Whereas timely access to specialized treatment and residential rehabilitation services and transitional housing is essential for those struggling with mental health issues and substance use disorders; and Whereas we need to address the urgent need for additional treatment beds, especially for adults requiring intensive supports, and to improve access to care in rural, Northern, and Indigenous communities; and Whereas the number of drug-related deaths in the County of Renfrew, as a whole, is on the rise underscoring the critical importance of accessible treatment options for those at risk of negative impacts including overdose and death; and

Whereas the establishment of a mental health, drug addiction treatment and residential rehabilitation facility serving the County of Renfrew would provide the following benefits:

1. **Local Accessibility:** Residents would have access to specialized services without the burden of traveling long distances, ensuring timely intervention and continuity of care.
2. **Holistic Approach:** The facility could offer integrated care, addressing both mental health and substance use disorders concurrently, thereby improving outcomes for clients.
3. **Community Support:** By providing a safe and supportive environment, the facility would contribute to reducing stigma and fostering community understanding of mental health and addiction.
4. **Collaboration with Existing Services:** The facility could collaborate with existing community organizations, healthcare and social service



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providers, and law enforcement agencies to create a comprehensive network of support (i.e. County of Renfrew MESA program).

Now Therefore, be it resolved that Council of the Corporation of the City of Pembroke:

1. Urgently requests the Province of Ontario to allocate funding specifically for the establishment of a mental health, addiction, and residential drug treatment rehabilitation facility serving the County of Renfrew.
2. Advocates for a facility that offers evidence-based, trauma-informed care, addressing both addiction and concurrent mental health issues.
3. Commits to working collaboratively with neighbouring municipalities, all community stakeholders, and provincial authorities to ensure the successful implementation of this vital facility.

Furthermore, the City of Pembroke Council encourages all residents to support this resolution and join the collective effort to enhance mental health and addiction services in our region.

Be It Further Resolved that copies of this motion be distributed to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario; Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health; Michael Tibollo, Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions; Robin Martin, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Health; the Honourable John Yakabuski, Member of Provincial Parliament for Renfrew~Nipissing~Pembroke; the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO); the Eastern Ontario Wardens Caucus; Eastern Ontario Mayor's Caucus; Peter Emon, Warden, for the County of Renfrew; and all neighbouring County of Renfrew lower-tier municipalities.
Carried

Sincerely,

David Unrau
Chief Administrative Officer

/nr