



February 2, 2021

Dr. Paula Stewart, Medical Officer of Health
25 Johnston Street
Smiths Falls, Ontario
K7A 0A4

Dear Dr. Stewart,

At its regular council meeting of January 27, 2021, Council again discussed our sincere appreciation for the dedicated efforts of the Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit to protect our community. As we continue to face the challenges and impacts from COVID-19, we are encouraged to see the vaccination program begin to roll out locally, As a result of Council's conversation, the following resolution was passed:

MOTION #CC-2021-15

MOVED BY: K. Van Der Meer **SECONDED BY:** S. Redmond

"**WHEREAS**, throughout the COVID-19 global pandemic Lanark County has remained committed to protecting the health and safety of all residents and staff while taking prudent measures to stop the spread of this virus; and

WHEREAS, in the weeks ahead Lanark County remains vigilant in following the lead and endorsing the health and safety measures established by the provincial government and the Leeds Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit; and

WHEREAS, Lanark County Council continues to recognize and support Dr. Paula Stewart, Medical Officer of Health and her team at the Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit in their continuous efforts since the onset of our fight against COVID-19 in early 2020. It is with pride, we honour and thank these dedicated individuals for their crucial and tireless efforts in keeping our communities safe, healthy and educated; and

WHEREAS, Lanark County Council recognizes the keen interest within our community and throughout the province to obtain the COVID-19 vaccine(s); and

WHEREAS, we appreciate that many people are eagerly anticipating their turn for the vaccine, we ask that everyone remain patient as the Health Unit continues to work efficiently and effectively in the delivery of the COVID-19 vaccine throughout our communities in adherence to their COVID-19 Distribution and Administration Roll Out Plan that aligns with the Ministry of Health's COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Plan; and

WHEREAS, as a council and a community, we remain deeply grateful to all the frontline workers who continue to work tirelessly to help keep our communities going and ensuring our residents are safe. Throughout this pandemic, we have seen you display acts of courage, selflessness and genuine caring for your community. Once again, we thank you for your dedication and commitment to your positions, which has ensured that we are all able to continue to enjoy the luxuries that come with living in Lanark County during the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, as we approach the one year mark of this global pandemic, it is recognized that the continued necessary isolation is taking a toll on the well-being of individuals and businesses within our communities, and although the pandemic has underscored the pain of disconnection, it has also inspired a revival of meaningful connection. In Lanark County alone, we have seen broad-based community approaches being applied to save lives and serve neighbors. We've witnessed cross-sector collaboration to meet the needs of our most vulnerable populations. People are coming together on their own to take care of their friends and neighbors. Rather than approaching the crisis in a spirit of self-preservation, people are taking stock of their collective assets and embracing a new kind of philosophy. COVID-19 is revealing our interdependence in ways that no event in our lifetimes has done. We are touched and will never lose sight by the outpouring of collective goodwill.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, Warden Christa Lowry and the Council of Lanark County encourage all residents to continue to adhere to public health guidelines, including the wearing of face coverings, adhering to proper social distancing (keep 2m/6ft from others both indoors and outdoors), thorough hand hygiene, staying home when you are sick and following the stay at home order throughout the current declared state of emergency, for their own safety and well-being and to ensure that we continue to work together to minimize the risk of the virus spreading in our communities.

AND THAT, Warden Lowry send a letter of recognition to Dr. Stewart, with a copy to the Board of Health and each local municipality in Lanark County."

The County of Lanark strongly supports the guidelines recommended by you and your team at the Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit. As leaders, we will continue to set a good example and recommend that our residents adhere to mask wearing, proper social distancing and effective handwashing protocols, all of which have been put in place to protect our health and the health of our community during the pandemic.

In sincere appreciation,



Christa Lowry, Warden
County of Lanark