

July 20, 2017

Chair and Members
Community and Protective Services Committee

Re: **Establishment of Opioid Crisis Working Group**

Canada, including our own city, is struggling with an epidemic of opioid/drug use and abuse.

It shows no signs of slowing. In fact, appears to be continuing to grow at a disturbing rate.

The human tragedy arising from opioid addiction and the explosion of fatal overdoses, as well as the associated pressures placed on London's health, emergency and social service agencies, makes this issue impossible to ignore.

It is imperative that we take immediate steps to try and find solutions to contain and mitigate the crisis in our community.

That is why I am proposing the creation of an Opioid Crisis Working Group and would respectfully request that the following motion be adopted by the Municipal Council:

"That the following actions be taken with respect to addressing the opioid crisis in London:

- a) the Mayor BE DIRECTED to liaise with key community stakeholders in order to establish an Opioid Crisis Working Group, comprised of the Mayor and other interested key community stakeholders; and
- b) the Opioid Crisis Working Group BE REQUESTED to report back to the Municipal Council with proposed terms of reference for the Working Group that would provide for
 - i) consultation with the community;
 - ii) exploration of a response to the current situation, including the possibility of supervised injection sites; and
 - iii) development of recommendations as to how to best address the opioid crisis in London;

it being understood that the Working Group would liaise with the Civic Administration in the development of the proposed terms of reference, including establishing a timeline for completion of the Working Group's mandate."

Sincerely,



Mayor Matt Brown