

Use Municipal Letterhead

[Date]

Hon. Deb Matthews
Minister of Health and Long Term Care
Queen's Park, 111 Wellesley Street West
Main Legislative Building

RE: Support for [Municipality] to make their community more cardiac safe

Dear Minister,

Every year, 7,000 cardiac arrests occur in Ontario, with the majority occurring in public places or homes. However, an individual's chance of survival can increase to 75% when early CPR is used in combination with an AED. Recent data indicates that Ontario has a survival rate, for out-of-hospital cardiac arrests, of only 5-6%. When a person is in cardiac arrest, seconds count. With each passing minute, the probability of survival declines by 7–10%. The use of CPR and an AED can dramatically increase the odds of survival of an out-of-hospital cardiac arrest, however, too few Ontarians know this life saving skill.

Our council recently met with local representatives from the Heart and Stroke Foundation. As the leader in resuscitation in Canada, the Foundation has developed key policy recommendations for municipalities that can significantly increase the out of hospital survival rates for sudden cardiac arrest.

Following this deputation **[Council]** or **[name of supporting Mayor or Councilor]** resolved to:

1. Commit to implementing a broad public education campaign raising awareness around issues such as the ease of CPR training and use of an AED.
2. Work with the Heart and Stroke Foundation through the Ontario Defibrillator Access Initiative (ODAI) to ensure AEDs are placed in all sport and recreation facilities and schools.

Furthermore, we strongly recommend an amendment be made to the script for emergency medical dispatchers from the current Dispatch Priority Card Index II pre-arrival instruction for CPR which asks, *“with my help, would you like to begin chest compressions?”* to a script that provides the most compelling, clear and mandatory CPR direction in all cases of cardiac arrest.

We are calling on the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care and the Provincial Government of Ontario to support of the Heart and Stroke Foundation's request that the script for emergency medical dispatchers be revised in all cases of cardiac arrest.

Thank you for working to make communities more cardiac safe.

Regards,

[Name]

[Title]