

London Municipal Council Resolution on Local Health Care Services

WHEREAS the Middlesex London Health Unit provides vital health promotion and prevention services based on the unique demographic and economic, social, and cultural needs of our communities, including the key role it is playing in helping London address its opioid addiction crisis and;

WHEREAS the City of London is facing an unprecedented increase in its share of ambulance service costs, facing a double digit increase in the 2020 fiscal year and;

AND WHEREAS the City of London through the Dearness Home is a service provider of long-term care homes with increasingly complex patient needs requiring proper staffing and resources,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

The City of London calls upon the Ontario government to halt any mergers or reductions of funding to our local Public Health Unit, Middlesex County Land Ambulance services, and the Dearness long-term care home;

Therefore, it also be Resolved

The Government of Ontario restore funding, particularly the two special funds and per diem funding of our long-term care homes, through the provincial tax base as it is the most equitable form of public financing for these critical institutions as opposed to adding it to the property tax levy.

ONTARIO HEALTH COALITION: SOURCES FOR MUNICIPAL COUNCIL RESOLUTION TO PROTECT LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH/AMBULANCE/HOSPITAL/LONG-TERM CARE SERVICES

Clause 1: WHEREAS public health care consistently ranks as the top priority in public opinion polls,

- IPSOS Poll: <https://www.ipsos.com/en-ca/news-polls/Canadians-want-political-parties-to-focus-on-healthcare>
- <https://globalnews.ca/news/2590731/healthcare-taxes-top-priorities-for-canadians-ahead-of-federal-budget-ipsos-poll/>
- <https://www.healthcare-now.org/blog/new-poll-shows-canadians-overwhelmingly-support-public-health-care/>
- <https://www.healthcoalition.ca/nine-out-of-10-canadians-want-to-see-the-federal-government-enforce-the-canada-health-act/>
- <https://canadians.org/fr/node/7982>

Clause 2: WHEREAS Public Health provides vital health promotion and prevention services based on the unique demographic and economic, social, and cultural needs of our communities,

- Open Letter 100 Emergency Room Health Professionals
https://d3n8a8pro7vhm.cloudfront.net/ward20/pages/2543/attachments/original/1567526735/Signed_Open_Letter_Re_Public_Health_Cuts_Sept_3_FINAL.pdf?1567526735,
<https://www.thestar.com/news/gta/2019/09/03/more-than-100-toronto-emergency-room-doctors-urge-province-to-reverse-public-health-cuts.html>
- Can also visit the webpage of Ontario Public Health for an understanding of broad scope of services provided

Clause 3: WHEREAS the evidence from hospital amalgamation in Ontario and across Canada is that they have cost billions of dollars and have not yielded the promised administrative savings but have taken money away from frontline care,

- \$800 million dollar cuts from health care services during the Mike Harris era
https://www.ola.org/en/legislative-business/house-documents/parliament-36/session-2/1998-10-19/hansard#P127_35207
- For more on \$800 million cuts can refer to budgets from 1995-1999
- The cost of this restructuring was \$3.9 billion dollars
<http://www.auditor.on.ca/en/content/annualreports/arreports/en01/409en01.pdf>
- Additional report on mergers <http://www.ontariohealthcoalition.ca/wp-content/uploads/final-merger-report.pdf>

Clause 4: WHEREAS there is no evidence to support the proposed closure of 25 out of 35 local Public Health Units, the closure of 12 of 22 local ambulance dispatch centres, and the closure of 49 out of 59 local ambulance services,

- Open Letter 100 Emergency Room Health Professionals
https://d3n8a8pro7vhm.cloudfront.net/ward20/pages/2543/attachments/original/1567526735/Signed_Open_Letter_Re_Public_Health_Cuts_Sept_3_FINAL.pdf?1567526735,

<https://www.thestar.com/news/gta/2019/09/03/more-than-100-toronto-emergency-room-doctors-urge-province-to-reverse-public-health-cuts.html>

- 8 health ministers signed opposition to cuts <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/10-ex-ontario-health-ministers-issue-joint-letter-decryng-attack-on-public-health-1.5145835>
- OPA letter <https://www.ontarioparamedic.ca/news-and-events/opa-response>, <https://globalnews.ca/news/5176597/hamilton-paramedics-wary-of-ontario-ambulance-merger/>
- Additional report on mega mergers <http://www.ontariohealthcoalition.ca/wp-content/uploads/final-merger-report.pdf>

Clause 5: WHEREAS there is a deep consensus among virtually all stakeholders that increasing acuity in our long-term care homes requires additional staff and resources, not cancellation of the two special funds and real dollar cuts to per diem funding of our long-term care homes,

- Wettlaufer Inquiry <https://longtermcareinquiry.ca/en/>
- Ontario Health Coalition report on increasing acuity and violence in long-term care homes <http://www.ontariohealthcoalition.ca/wp-content/uploads/FINAL-LTC-REPORT.pdf>

Clause 6: WHEREAS our local hospitals have been downsized for an entire generation and cannot meet population needs while sustaining real dollar cuts to hospital global budgets.

- See Appendices I and II of LTC report <http://www.ontariohealthcoalition.ca/wp-content/uploads/FINAL-LTC-REPORT.pdf>
- Almost half of province's acute beds and complex continuing care beds have been closed over the last 25 years <https://beta.theglobeandmail.com/legacy/static/focus/homecare/Doc7.pdf?token=1496685928>
- Ontario hospital funding is lowest in Canada: <http://www.ontariohealthcoalition.ca/wp-content/uploads/chart-hospital-funding-per-province-comparison-2.pdf>
- Ontario hospital capacity (beds per population) lowest in Canada, fewest nurses/patient, lowest hospital funding, and more charts from Canadian Institute for Health Information (Canada's national database for health care statistics): <http://www.ontariohealthcoalition.ca/wp-content/uploads/Pre-Budget-Briefing-Feb-2016-1.pdf>