

The Corporation of the Township of Bonnechere Valley

49 Bonnechere Street East
P.O. Box 100
Eganville, Ontario K0J 1T0



Phone (613) 628-3101
Fax (613) 628-1336
e-mail annetteg@eganville.com

May 15, 2024

Re: Resolution to support City of Pembroke Mental Health facility

At its regular council meeting of May 7, 2024, the Council of the Township of Bonnechere Valley reviewed correspondence on

This letter is to advise that Council voted in support of this correspondence with the following resolution:

*24.072 MOVED BY **Brent Patrick**
SECONDED BY **John Epps***

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 travelling 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 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 the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Bonnechere Valley:

1. Urgently requests the Province of Ontario to allocate funding specifically for the establishment of a mental health, addition, 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.

And Furthermore that, the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Bonnechere Valley encourages all residents to support this resolution and join the collective effort to enhance mental health and addiction services in our region.

And 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; and all neighbouring County of Renfrew lower-tier municipalities.

Carried

I trust you will find this satisfactory, but if you have any questions or comments please feel free to contact the undersigned.

Yours truly,

Annette Gilchrist, CMO., AOMC
CAO/Clerk/Treasurer
Township of Bonnechere Valley