



**TOWNSHIP OF
BRUDENELL, LYNDOCH AND RAGLAN**

42 Burnt Bridge Road, PO Box 40
Palmer Rapids, Ontario K0J 2E0
TEL: (613) 758-2061 · FAX: (613) 758-2235

February 5, 2025

The Honourable Sylvia Jones,
Minister of Health
5th Floor, 777 Bay St.
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3

RE: Robble Dean Family Counselling Centre

Dear Hon. Sylvia Jones,

Please be advised that at the Regular Council Meeting on February 5th, 2025, Council for the Corporation of the Township of Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan passed the following resolution, supporting the resolution from the County of Renfrew.

Resolution No: 2025-02-05-09
Moved by: Councillor Banks
Seconded by: Councillor Quade

"Be It resolved that the Council for the Corporation of the Township of Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan support the County of Renfrew's resolution regarding the Robbie Dean Family Counselling Centre seeking funding from the Minister of Health to expand their vital mental health services in Renfrew County.

And further that this resolution be forwarded to MPP John Yakabuski, and all Municipalities in Renfrew County."

Carried.

Sincerely,

Tammy Thompson
Deputy Clerk
Township of Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan

Office of the
County Warden



9 INTERNATIONAL DRIVE
PEMBROKE, ON, CANADA
K8A 6W5
613-735-7288
FAX: 613-735-2081
www.countyofrenfrew.on.ca

December 16, 2024

Hon. Sylvia Jones
Minister of Health
5th Floor, 777 Bay Street
Toronto, ON
M7A 2J3
Via email: Sylvia.jones@ontario.ca

Dear Hon. Sylvia Jones:

I am writing to express my support for the Robbie Dean Family Counselling Centre as they seek funding from the Ministry of Health to expand their vital mental health services in Renfrew County. During the past 11 years, the Centre has established itself as an indispensable resource for individuals and families in our community, providing free, accessible, and culturally adaptive mental health counselling to those who need it most. Research has shown the quality of a student's mental health has a bearing on their academic performance, their social relationships, and their future wellness, employment, and health. It is thought between 50 and 70 per cent of mental illnesses emerge before the age of 18 years.

In 2022, Statistics Canada reported suicide is the second leading cause of death in youth and young adults aged 15 to 24 years. They further report slightly over 20% of all adolescent deaths are attributed to suicide. This causes a significant and serious ripple effect in the remainder of the community. Our community is no different, and I am certain the Robbie Dean Family Counselling Centre can offer specific details. As you are no doubt aware CAMH reports "the economic burden of mental illness in Canada is an estimated \$51 billion per year including health care costs, lost productivity and reductions in health-related quality of life". The Robbie Dean Family Counselling Centre is uniquely positioned to address the pressing mental health needs of our region.

Their programs serve over 1,200 individuals annually and target vulnerable populations, including Indigenous peoples, low-income individuals, seniors, farmers, and newcomers. In light of the increasing cost of living, rising poverty rates, and limited access to affordable mental health services, the Centre's work is more critical than ever.

Programs offered support people from various walks-of-life as they develop skills: identifying and managing conflicting or overpowering emotions, examine or guide in building healthy relationships, planning, organizing and completing daily activities we take for granted. All of the aforementioned in combination with problem-solving can assist our community members with their present and future mental health. It can also assist present day students stabilize and improve their academic performance.

Informed family members or friends in the community noticing warning signs or being aware of risk factors of the need for mental health support is crucial. Community members in need may not feel comfortable in confiding in staff at and accessing services at the crowded frenzied environment of the local emergency room.

As a key stakeholder in the province of Ontario, the County of Renfrew plays an important role in advocating for and supporting services that enhance the quality of life for its residents. Our government provides child care, Ontario Work, Paramedic Services, Renfrew County VTAC, Renfrew County Housing and a variety of outreach assessment and treatment services. We feel it is vital to the health of our community to strengthen the Robbie Dean Family Counselling Centre's ability to maintain programming, reduce barriers to care, and build a healthier, more inclusive community for all by granting them sustainable and predictable funding

Thank you for considering this important request. We want to ensure that the Robbie Dean Family Counselling Centre continues to be a lasting beacon of hope and healing in our community.

I can be reached at warden@countyofrenfrew.on.ca or 613-401-7186 at any time, or through gdombroski@countyofrenfrew.on.ca.

Sincerely,



Peter Emon, Warden

County of Renfrew

warden@countyofrenfrew.on.ca

c: MPP John Yakabuski, Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke
Mayor Ron Gervais, City of Pembroke
All Municipalities in County of Renfrew