



Motion Memorandum

SUBJECT: AMO/OMA Joint Health Resolution Campaign –
Physician Shortage

TO: Mayor and Members of Council

FROM: Councillor Rory Nisan, Ward 3
Councillor Kelvin Galbraith, Ward 1

Date to Committee: n/a

Date to Council: September 17, 2024

Motion for Council to Consider:

WHEREAS the state of health care in Ontario is in crisis, with 2.3 million Ontarians lacking access to a family doctor, emergency room closures across the province, patients being derostered and 40% of family doctors considering retirement over the next five years; and

WHEREAS it has becoming increasingly challenging to attract and retain an adequate healthcare workforce throughout the health sector across Ontario; and

WHEREAS the Northern Ontario School of Medicine University says communities in northern Ontario are short more than 350 physicians, including more than 200 family doctors; and half of the physicians working in northern Ontario expected to retire in the next five years; and (Northern Ontario only)

WHEREAS Ontario municipal governments play an integral role in the health care system through responsibilities in public health, long-term care, and paramedicine.

WHEREAS the percentage of family physicians practicing comprehensive family medicine has declined from 77 in 2008 to 65 percent in 2022; and

WHEREAS per capita health-care spending in Ontario is the lowest of all provinces in Canada, and

WHEREAS a robust workforce developed through a provincial, sector-wide health human resources strategy would significantly improve access to health services across the province;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Region of Halton urge the Province of Ontario to recognize the physician shortage in Halton Region and

Ontario, to fund health care appropriately and ensure every Ontarian has access to physician care; and

Be it further resolved that the Clerk forward the resolution to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, Halton Local Municipalities, the Ontario Medical Association and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario for their information.

Reason:

AMO has requested that municipalities pass the above resolution and provided the following rationale:

Communities across Ontario have been facing critical healthcare challenges, including long waitlists for primary care, shortages of doctors and other healthcare workers; and emergency room closures. These cracks in Ontario's health care system are impacting economic development, health, and well-being at the local level.

In response, the Ontario Medical Association (OMA) and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) are working collaboratively to advocate for a better healthcare system for Ontario's residents and communities.

We have jointly developed the attached draft council resolution (Appendix A - Also in PDF and Word Versions), urging the provincial government to recognize the physician shortage in your municipality and the rest of Ontario. By adopting this resolution, your municipality can play a crucial role in highlighting the urgent need for more healthcare resources and support.

Outcome Sought:

Approval of the motion, leading to increased advocacy to the Government of Ontario to properly fund Ontario's healthcare system.

Vision to Focus Alignment:

(check those that apply)

- ☒ Designing and delivering complete communities
- ☒ Providing the best services and experiences
- ☐ Protecting and improving the natural environment and taking action on climate change
- ☐ Driving organizational performance

Share with Senior Staff ☐

Approved as per form by the City Clerk,

Reviewed by the City Manager - In accordance with the Code of Good Governance, Council-Staff Relations Policy and an assessment of the internal capacity within the City to complete the work based on a specific target date (quarter/year).

Comments:

City Clerk: none

Chief Administrative Officer: none