



Member of Provincial Parliament  
Barrie - Springwater - Oro-Medonte

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**March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019**

**City of Barrie: Clerk's Office**

Through recent news reports, it has come to my attention that City Council has questions regarding issues surrounding opioid use and addictions in the city of Barrie. I received an email from a Barrie City Councillor on the afternoon of Wednesday February 20th, 2019 requesting support for a proposed resolution of Council on Monday February 25th, 2019.

I was disappointed that Council was given the impression there was a lack of engagement, due to my office receiving the requesting email with three business days notice prior to the Council meeting. I have been engaged with dozens of stakeholders since my election in June, and I would be pleased to work with the City of Barrie to explore areas in which we can collaborate to the benefit of our constituents.

As you will be aware, the Province of Ontario extended the operations of existing injection sites in Ontario, and then initiated an application process for Care and Treatment Services. Locally, the application is being led by the Gilbert Centre, Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit and the Simcoe County Canadian Mental Health Association. The provincial CTS program emphasizes care and treatment. The applicants for the Barrie CTS Centre are currently in the consultation period, and I am actively following their progress.

I watched some of the Council meeting, where it was suggested that the Province of Ontario provide funding and services in a wide variety of areas. The motion calls for action on the following items:

- 2. That the City of Barrie calls for Federal and Provincial funding to support, enhance, and expand evidence-based treatment and rehabilitation services, addiction prevention and education, and harm reduction measures.*
- 3. That the City of Barrie calls for Federal and Provincial funding to address the root causes of addiction, including housing, poverty, unemployment, mental illness and trauma.*
- 4. That the City of Barrie calls for Federal and Provincial funding to address illicit drug supply, production, and distribution.*

Although the City of Barrie seeks funding for a broad set of issues from the Provincial government through this resolution, I am interested in collaborating with any initiatives by the City of Barrie to deal with these important and critical issues.

The City of Barrie and County of Simcoe serve an important role as managers of front line services like Fire, Ambulance, Police and several others.

If there are any applications to the Province of Ontario by the City of Barrie that touch on the above issues, it would be helpful if my office is copied on them.

I look forward to working with Council.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Doug Downey". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the beginning and a long, sweeping underline.

Doug Downey, MPP  
Barrie – Springwater – Oro-Medonte