

February 19, 2016

Kathleen Wynne, Premier of Ontario
VIA – Email

Dear Premier Wynne,

Please be advised that the Council of the Municipality of Bluewater passed the following motion at their Council meeting on February 16, 2016:

Moved by Councillor Zimmerman, seconded by Councillor Hill that:

Whereas Ontario's growing and aging population is putting an increasing strain on our publicly-funded health care system;

And Whereas since February 2015, the Ontario government has made an almost 7% unilateral cut to physician services expenditures which cover all the care doctors provide to patients – including cuts to programs which are specifically designed to act as incentives for physicians to practice in rural areas:

And Whereas the decisions Ontario makes today will impact patients' access to quality care in the years to come and these cuts will threaten access to the quality, patient-focused care Ontarians need and expect:

And Whereas Ontario is experiencing a growing rural population as retirees move to the countryside;

And Whereas many rural municipalities in Ontario have formed physician recruitment and retention committees and strategies to deal with the reality of physician retirements and shortages;

And Whereas rural areas in Ontario are already at a distinct disadvantage in recruiting family physicians due to a number of factors;

Now Therefore Be It Resolved that the Council of the Municipality of Bluewater hereby requests that the Minister of Health and Long Term Care reinstate incentives for physicians to practice in rural areas of Ontario, and that the minister return to the table with Ontario's doctors and work together through mediation-arbitration to reach a fair deal that protects the quality, patient-focused care Ontario families deserve;

And Be It Further Resolved that copies of this resolution be sent to the Premier of Ontario, the federal and provincial Ministers of Health, the Ontario College of Physicians and Surgeons, and all municipalities in Ontario. Carried.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Charlene Overholt".

Charlene Overholt
Manager of Corporate Services/Clerk