



**CHILD ADVOCACY CENTRE  
SIMCOE/MUSKOKA**

October 18, 2016

Mayor Jeff Lehman  
70 Collier Street, Box 400.  
Barrie, ON L4M 4T5

Re: Motion of Council – Sustainable Funding Support for Child Advocacy Centres and the Child Advocacy Centre Simcoe/Muskoka

Dear Mayor Lehman and Council,

The Child Advocacy Centre Simcoe/Muskoka has been serving children and families in Simcoe County for almost three years. In this time over 260 child abuse interviews have been conducted here at the Centre. We have taken a lead in the province with respect to our child abuse prevention programs as well as the creation of the Anti-Human Trafficking Coalition of Simcoe County. In less than two years our organization has been the recipient of two Ministry of Attorney General Victims Services Awards of Distinction. We are doing good work. We have no sustainable funding to continue our service delivery heading in to 2017. Together, the Child Advocacy Centres across Ontario need your support in calling on the provincial government to provide sustainable, operational funding for this essential service for young victims of crime.

The Council of the City of St. Catharines has passed the following motion and we humbly request that the Council of the City of Barrie does the same.

“Whereas child and youth advocacy centres (CAC’s) provide support for victims of child abuse and trauma and a unique way of managing child victim needs and investigation excellence while also addressing and preventing longer-term impacts of child abuse at the outset; and

Whereas CAC’s currently receive financial support through local fundraising and federal funding; and

Whereas provincial governments across Canada, including the Province of Ontario do not provide sustainable dollars to support CAC’s resulting in a wide variance as to what resources are available for children; and

Whereas Ontario ministries sustain programs and funding for child welfare, health, police and public safety, but not CAC’s which provide all of these services; and

Whereas the Ontario provincial government is focused on addressing issues of poverty, homelessness and sexual assault which can be potential outcomes of untreated child abuse and trauma, and on creating new community hubs.

***“Children’s Voices will be Heard”***

Child Advocacy Centre of Simcoe/Muskoka • 359 West Street North • Orillia ON • L3V 5E5  
Telephone: (705) 327-0118 • Toll Free 1-855-309-7880 • Fax: (705) 325-8705  
[www.cacsimcoemuskoka.ca](http://www.cacsimcoemuskoka.ca)



## CHILD ADVOCACY CENTRE SIMCOE/MUSKOKA

Whereas Alberta is the only province in Canada which currently provides sustainable funding for CAC's including the Sheldon Kennedy Centre. Through the Children First Act, the Province of Alberta reallocated dollars from various ministries including child welfare, social services, policing and health services to provide core services to child victims through CAC's without requiring new funding; and

Whereas CAC's have been in existence for almost 30 years in the United States, and the Child Advocacy Centre Simcoe Muskoka was the third of seven currently operating in Ontario.

Therefore Be it Resolved that the Barrie City Council urges the Government of Ontario to direct the Ministry of Attorney General, Ministry of Children and Youth Services, Ministry of Health, and Ministry of Corrections and Public Safety to work together to create a sustainable core funding formula for Ontario's Child Advocacy Centres; and

That staff be directed to circulate the Council resolution to the Ministry of the Attorney General, the Ministry of Children and Youth Services, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Corrections and Public Safety, MPP Patrick Brown, MPP Ann Hoggarth, MPP Norm Miller, Simcoe Regional Council, all Simcoe/Muskoka municipalities and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario. FORTHWITH"

We thank you for your support. The children, youth and families in Simcoe County deserve this level of service and response to such a serious issue.

Jennifer Jackson

Executive Director

***"Children's Voices will be Heard"***

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## Legal and Clerks Services

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July 14, 2016

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Michael Coteau  
77 Wellesley Street West  
PO Box 156  
Toronto, ON, M7A 1N3  
[mcsmin@mcys.gov.on.ca](mailto:mcsmin@mcys.gov.on.ca)

**Re: Motion of Council – Sustainable Funding Support for Child Advocacy Centres and the Kristen French Child Advocacy Centre Niagara**  
**Our File No.: 35.2.2**

Please be advised that the Council of the City of St. Catharines, at the meeting of July 11, 2016, supported unanimously the following motion which was Moved by Mayor Sendzik:

“Whereas child and youth advocacy centres (CAC’s) provide support for victims of child abuse and trauma and a unique way of managing child victim needs and investigation excellence while also addressing and preventing longer-term impacts of child abuse at the outset; and

Whereas CAC’s currently receive financial support through local fundraising and federal funding; and

Whereas provincial governments across Canada, including the Province of Ontario do not provide sustainable dollars to support CAC’s resulting in a wide variance as to what resources are available for children; and

Whereas Ontario ministries sustain programs and funding for child welfare, health, police and public safety, but not CACs which provide all of these services; and

Whereas the Ontario provincial government is focused on addressing issues of poverty, homelessness and sexual assault which can be potential outcomes of untreated child abuse and trauma, and on creating new community hubs.

Whereas Alberta is the only province in Canada which currently provides sustainable funding for CAC’s including the Sheldon Kennedy Centre. Through the Children First Act, the Province of Alberta reallocated dollars from various ministries including child welfare, social services, policing and health services to provide core services to child victims through CAC’s without requiring new funding; and

Whereas CACs have been in existence for almost 30 years in the United States, and the Kristen French Child Advocacy Centre in Niagara is the oldest free standing CAC in Canada, with six more centres operating in Ontario;

Therefore Be It Resolved that St. Catharines City Council urges the Government of Ontario to direct the Ministry of the Attorney General, Ministry of Children & Youth Services, Ministry of Health, and Ministry of Corrections and Public Safety to work together to create a sustainable core funding formula for Ontario's Child Advocacy Centres; and

That staff be directed to circulate the Council resolution to the Ministry of the Attorney General, the Ministry of Children and Youth Services, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Corrections and Public Safety, MPP Jim Bradley, MPP Cindy Forster, MPP Tim Hudak, Niagara Regional Council, all Niagara Region municipalities and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario. FORTHWITH"

The Mayor and Council of the City of St. Catharines respectfully requests your consideration of this important initiative. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Office of the City Clerk at Extension 1517.



Heather Salter  
Deputy City Clerk

cc: Hon. Eric Hoskins, Minister of Health and Long Term Care  
MPP, Jim Bradley  
MPP, Cindy Foster  
MPP, Tim Hudak  
Regional Municipality of Niagara Council  
Local Municipalities  
Association of Municipalities of Ontario