

**Constituency Office**  
48 Alliance Blvd, Unit 104  
Barrie, ON  
L4M5K3  
705-728-2596  
doug.shipley@parl.gc.ca



**Ottawa Office**  
229 Wellington St  
Ottawa, ON  
K1A0H9  
613-992-0718  
www.dougshipleyp.ca

Doug Shipley, M.P.  
Barrie – Springwater – Oro-Medonte

Mayor Lehman & Council  
City of Barrie  
70 Collier Street  
Barrie, Ontario  
L4M 4T5

Dear Mayor Lehman and Council,

On December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020, the House of Commons passed a motion introduced by Conservative MP Todd Doherty, through unanimous consent, to bring a national 3-digit suicide prevention hotline line to Canada.

**That, given that the alarming rate of suicide in Canada constitutes a national health crisis, the House call on the government to take immediate action, in collaboration with our provinces, to establish a national suicide prevention hotline that consolidates all suicide crisis numbers into one easy to remember three-digit (988) hot- line that is accessible to all Canadians.**

We're asking all municipalities across Canada to consider passing a motion similar, to the one below. In order to make 988 a reality, we must continue to put pressure on the government and the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC).

Personally, you can support the cause by signing our electronic petition at:  
<https://petitions.ourcommons.ca/en/Petition/Details?Petition=e-2772>

The past year has been a challenging year. Lives and livelihoods have been lost. We have begun to see the devastating impacts that COVID has had, through isolation, on the mental health of Canadians. The rates of suicide continue to rise. As elected officials and as leaders, and especially during this period of difficulty as a nation, Canadians are counting on all of us to make a difference.

Please consider passing this motion as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "D Shipley".

MP Doug Shipley  
Barrie-Springwater-Oro-Medonte

**Draft motion:**

Support for 988 Crisis Line

WHEREAS the Federal government has passed a motion to adopt 988, a National three-digit suicide and crisis hotline;

AND WHEREAS the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has increased the demand for suicide prevention services by 200 per cent;

AND WHEREAS existing suicide prevention hotlines require the user to remember a 10-digit number and go through directories or be placed on hold;

AND WHEREAS in 2022 the United States will have in place a national 988 crisis hotline;

AND WHEREAS Barrie City Council recognizes that it is a significant and important initiative to ensure critical barriers are removed to those in a crisis and seeking help;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Barrie City Council endorses this 988 crisis line initiative;

and that Staff be directed to send a letter indicating such support to the local MP, MPP, Federal Minister of Health, the CRTC and local area municipalities to indicate our support.