



SMITHS FALLS

RISE AT THE FALLS

September 13, 2024

Association of Municipalities of Ontario

VIA EMAIL ONLY: communicate@amo.on.ca

To Whom it May Concern:

Please be advised that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Smiths Falls passed the following resolution at their September 3rd, 2024 Council meeting:

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

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 Corporation of the Town of Town of Smiths Falls urge the Province of Ontario to recognize the physician shortage in Bradford West Gwillimbury and Ontario, to fund health care appropriately and ensure every Ontarian has access to physician care; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be circulated to the Premier of Ontario, Hon. Doug Ford; our local Member of Provincial Parliament, Hon. Caroline Mulroney, the Minister of Health, Hon. Sylvia Jones; and all Ontario municipalities.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions and/or concerns.

Yours truly,

Kerry Costello
Town Clerk