

If you require this information in an alternate format, please contact the Accessibility Coordinator at [accessibility@northumberland.ca](mailto:accessibility@northumberland.ca) or 1-800-354-7050 ext. 2327



## Report 2025-114

**Report Title:** Dedicated Off Load Nursing Program

**Committee Name:** Community Health

**Committee Meeting Date:** June 3, 2025

**Prepared by:** Susan Brown  
Chief  
Northumberland Paramedics

**Approved by:** Jennifer Moore, CAO

**Council Meeting Date:** June 18, 2025

**Strategic Plan Priorities:** ☐ Innovate for Service Excellence  
☐ Ignite Economic Opportunity  
☐ Foster a Thriving Community  
☒ Propel Sustainable Growth  
☒ Champion a Vibrant Future

---

### Information Report

**That** the Community Health Committee receive Report 2025-114 'Dedicated Off Load Nursing Program' for information; and

**Further That** the Committee recommend that County Council receives this report for information."

---

### Purpose

This report has been prepared in response to County Council Resolution 2025-01-30-058 'Discretionary Services Review'. This report provides the background and timelines associated with the application and receipt of the Dedicated Off Load Nursing Program funding program.

### Background

The Dedicated Off Load Nursing Program (DONP) funding first became available for Northumberland in 2022. On November 2022, Northumberland County - Paramedics received their first invite to apply for DONP funding program for the 2022/23 fiscal year. Applications for new services to apply for the 2022/23 funding were due in December 2022. An application was

submitted for off load nursing program funding for both Northumberland Hills hospital (NHH) and for Campbellford Memorial Hospital (CMH) for a nurse 12 hours a day, 7 days a week. We received our funding announcement in February 2023 in the amount of \$102,783.00. These funds had to be utilized by the end of the fiscal year – March 31, 2023. The short timing required an agreement between the Service and the hospital, and hiring of a nurse at the hospital. These tight timelines only allowed for six (6) weeks of implementation at NHH, and unfortunately implementation was not possible at CMH due to staffing issues.

Northumberland Paramedics received an invitation from MOH- EHSB on April 26, 2023, to apply for 2023/24 DONP funding. An application was submitted by the Paramedic Service for NHH and CMH for one (1) nurse, 12 hours a day x 7 days a week at each respective location. The funding announcement was received August 30, 2023, in the amount of \$493,120. NHH implemented the off-load nursing program September 1, 2023, and CMH was delayed implementing due to human resource challenges and implemented the off-load nursing program February 18, 2024. All funding had to be utilized prior to March 31, 2024, and any remaining was recovered by the Ministry, there wasn't an option to carry the funding forward.

Northumberland Paramedics received an invitation from MOH – EHSB on January 30, 2024, for the 2024/25 funding year. An application was completed and submitted once again for a nurse 12 hours a day x 7 days a week at both NHH, and CMH in the amount of \$586,595.00. Concerned and not wanting to give back money again the hospitals took the lead and started providing the nurse for 12 hours 7 days a week beginning April 1, 2024. Northumberland County received a funding announcement on August 22, 2024, for a funding amount of \$163,800.00. This has resulted in a deficit amount of \$422,709.38 in off load funding that both NHH and CMH covered the costing.

<b>Funding Year (April-March)</b>	<b>Invite to Apply</b>	<b>Submission Due</b>	<b>Requested Funding</b>	<b>Announcement for funding</b>	<b>Funding Amount</b>	<b>Balance</b>
2022/23	Sept 23 2022	Oct 21 2022	\$102,783	Jan 12, 2023 – revised budget submit.  Feb 22 2023	\$102,783	\$93,000 +
2023/24	April 26 2023	May 26 2023	\$493,120	August 30 2023	\$493,120	\$303,595 +
2024/25	Jan 30 2024	March 8 2024	\$586,595	August 22, 2024	\$163,800	\$422,709.38 -
2025/26	Jan 30 2025	February				

This year we received the invitation to apply once again for the DONP Funding on January 20, 2025 and submitted our request in February 2025 prior to the deadline. At this time both hospitals will not discontinue this position and we will have to wait for the application and acknowledgement for the 2025/26 DONP Funding year- this will see our off load delays increase and have an increase in our response times within Northumberland County.

Timing is a challenge with the DONP funding. There is a 4–6-month delay between the time the invitation, application and announcement. This delay results in the inability to take full advantage of this funding program and its benefit to our community resulting in returning unspent funds or implementing the program at hospitals prior to secured funding and resulting in a potential deficit to the hospitals.

### **Consultations**

Ministry of Health – Emergency Health Services Branch (MOH -EHSB)

### **Legislative Authority / Risk Considerations**

N/A

### **Discussion / Options**

Challenges:

- Timing Issues – Application February, with announcement/confirmation of funding August, with only 7-8 months available to implement and utilize funding awarded.
- Funding amounts inconsistent – difficult to plan -human resources challenges
- Local Hospitals only – Services are only able to apply for funding of hospitals in their municipalities. This presents challenges and delays when transporting to hospitals outside of their catchment – Peterborough Regional Health Center (PRHC) and Trenton Memorial Hospital (TMH).

### **Financial Impact**

Financial costing of Northumberland Hills Hospital (NHH) and Campbellford Memorial Hospital (CMH) off load nurse/employee to provide for 12 hours a day, 7 days a week.

### **Member Municipality Impacts**

Impacts the potential availability and response time targets of ambulances within all member municipalities.

### **Conclusion / Outcomes**

Northumberland County Paramedics continues to apply for the Dedicated Off Load Nursing Program Funding (DONP) to assist with the availability and efficiency of our ambulances to the community for emergency responses.

Staff recommend that Committee / Council receive this report for information.

### **Attachments**

- 1) Report 2025-114 ATTACH 1 'Council Resolution 2025-01-30-058 – Discretionary Services Review'
- 2) Report 2025-114 ATTACH 2 '2020-2025 Offload Delays and Costing Graphs'