

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Wednesday, September 13, 2023 11:27 AM

To: Moore, Jennifer <moorej@northumberland.ca>

Cc: [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Opioid Crisis in our Communities and Municipalities - Northumberland County

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CAUTION: External E-Mail

Your Worship and Municipality CAO

Good morning / afternoon,

We are following up on the previous emails we sent in the spring to see if your municipality is planning to bring a motion forward to council requesting the government of Ontario not to cut Chronic Pain treatment services.

If your Council has already dealt with this request we thank you.

This is an important item and if non-addictive Government funded treatment options are cut, the negative ramifications to the individuals health and well being, the strain on our healthcare system, and negative effects to our economy are well documented.

The Government of Ontario is specifically reviewing funding for Chronic Pain treatments this fall and your support by voicing your municipality's concerns would be greatly appreciated. We have also attached the original letter from Leeann Corbeil, Executive Director of the National Chronic Pain Society as a reminder to the issue faced.

If you require any additional information please do not hesitate to contact us.

Thank you,

-

Amira Chen on behalf of Hon. Jim Karygiannis

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

gta strategies **GTA Strategies**

From: Hon. Jim Karygiannis sent by Amira Chen [REDACTED]
Sent: May 30, 2023 4:44 PM
To: moorej@northumberlandcounty.ca
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Opioid Crisis in our Communities and Municipalities - Northumberland County

Mayor Mandy Martin
Northumberland County

Your Worship,

We are facing an opioid crisis in many of our communities and municipalities which requires our immediate action.

I am writing to you on behalf of the National Chronic Pain Society, an organization which is seeking to prevent OHIP and the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario from making dangerous changes to the coverage of pain management services – changes that will worsen the opioid crisis plaguing our communities.

Chronic pain affects 1 in 5 Ontarians and makes up nearly 40% of repeat visits to emergency rooms. It is also a frequent cause of social isolation and addiction issues, with many sufferers reporting depression and suicidal thoughts. Thousands of Ontarians rely on the services of pain management clinics to function in their daily lives, and these reductions would put their health and safety at risk, as more and more of them will turn to opioids to cope with the pain. This flies in the face of everything the Provincial government is doing to combat the ongoing opioid crisis in our communities.

Attached is a letter from Leann Corbeil, Executive Director of NCPS, explaining the situation, and requesting your council’s assistance in convincing the Ontario government to stop these changes from putting thousands of people at risk.

Please advise if there is any further information we can provide – together, we can help Ontarians receive the care they need.

Sincerely,

Hon. Jim Karygiannis
GTA Strategies



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May 2023

Your Worship,

Whether you live in a large, cosmopolitan city or a small hamlet, you have been faced with the opioid crisis facing Canadians.

The National Chronic Pain Society is asking for your assistance to help patients suffering from chronic pain from becoming addicted to opioids.

Recently, the Ontario College of Physicians and Surgeons has made a decision that will lead more people who suffer from chronic pain to turn to opioids to alleviate their pain. The College is targeting community pain clinics by requiring the use of ultrasound technology in the administration of nerve block injections by licensed physicians. They are not mandating this requirement for physicians in any other capacity, such as epidurals in hospitals. This requirement will increase the time it takes to administer the nerve block and, therefore, reduce the number of patients a physician can see in a day.

Also, the Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP) is proposing to reduce coverage for several vital healthcare services, including a drastic reduction in the number and frequency of nerve block injections a patient can receive. These changes have been proposed without any consultation with pain management medical professionals or with their patients. This cut will force chronic pain clinics to shut down, putting a greater strain on family physicians and emergency rooms.

With the reduction in the number of nerve blocks being administered, many patients, looking for pain relief, will turn to overcrowded emergency rooms, opioid prescriptions from doctors or opioid street drugs.

We are asking that your Council pass a motion requesting that the Government of Ontario maintain OHIP coverage for chronic pain treatments and continue to provide much-needed care for the people of Ontario.

Further if you can please communicate that motion to the Premier, Minister of Health, Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions and your local MPP(s),

Thank you for your kind consideration of this matter. If you have any question, please do not hesitate to contact me at [REDACTED], or by email at [REDACTED].

You may also contact me through Elias Diamantopoulos of GTA Strategies at [REDACTED] or at [REDACTED]

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Leeann Corbeil".

Leeann Corbeil, Executive Director
National Chronic Pain Society