



PORT COLBORNE

CITY OF PORT COLBORNE

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COMMUNITY & CORPORATE SERVICES DEPARTMENT, CLERK'S DIVISION

September 19, 2016

The Honourable Kathleen Wynne, Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1A1

Dear Premier:

Re: Resolution of Support - Dental Health Access

Please be advised that at its meeting of September 12, 2016, the Council of The Corporation of the City of Port Colborne resolved as follows:

That the correspondence received from Lori Kleinsmith, Health Promoter, Bridges Community Health Centre, Re: dental health access request for support be received and that the following motion be approved:

WHEREAS in Canadian public policy the care of our lips, tongues and throats is fully covered by public funding, but not our teeth and gums; and

WHEREAS oral health is essential to maintaining overall health; and

WHEREAS a mounting body of evidence shows a link between poor oral health and diabetes, cardiovascular and respiratory diseases and Alzheimer's disease; and

WHEREAS untreated tooth decay, gum disease and tooth loss results in social and psychological suffering and interferes with employment opportunities; and

WHEREAS between two to three million Ontarians have not seen a dentist in the past year mainly due to the cost of private dental services; and

WHEREAS approximately every nine minutes a person in Ontario arrives at a hospital emergency room with a dental problem but can only get painkillers or antibiotics, and this costs the health care system at least \$31 million annually with no treatment of the problem;

WHEREAS almost a third of Canadians have neither public nor private insurance to help them pay for the care of their teeth and gums; and

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WHEREAS access to oral health care should not be limited to people with private health insurance or who can afford to pay out of pocket; and

WHEREAS Ontario's reform of the health care system should include oral health care so that vulnerable people in our communities have equitable access to the dental services they need to be healthy; and

WHEREAS Ontario only has public dental programs for low income children, and no public programs for low income adults and seniors; and

WHEREAS local Ontario Works recipients are eligible for limited discretionary coverage for emergency treatment only and Ontario Disability Support Program recipients are eligible for basic dental care and limited discretionary coverage for dentures;

NOW THEREFORE THE COUNCIL OF THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF PORT COLBORNE RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

That Council strongly endorses the importance of oral health and requests that the Premier of Ontario include oral health as part of the government's primary care transformation initiatives, and further

That Council calls on the provincial government to expand public oral health programs with prime consideration for low income adults and seniors, and further

That Council forwards copies of this resolution to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, Local Members of Provincial Parliament, Member Municipalities, and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario.

Please let me know if there is anything further you require.

Sincerely,



Ashley Grigg
City Clerk

ec: Minister of Health and Long Term Care
Association of Municipalities of Ontario
Local Members of Provincial Parliament
Lori Kleinsmith, Health Promoter, Bridges Community Health Centre
Niagara Region
Local Area Municipalities