October 7, 2009

To: All Ontario Municipalities

Re: Lambton County Council - Supports Moratorium on Major Health Care Restructuring

Please be informed that Lambton County Council, at its session on October 7, 2009 passed the following resolution:

"Burns/Foubister: That the County of Lambton support the resolution concerning a moratorium on major health care restructuring as follows:

"WHEREAS the Health and Long-Term Care Minister recently appointed a Small and Rural and Northern Health Care Panel to review and better coordinate access to health care services in Rural and Northern Ontario;

WHEREAS to call for a moratorium on the restructuring of health care services in rural and small communities to be imposed upon each Local Health Integration Network in the Province of Ontario until such time as a province-wide review process has been conducted. The Ontario College of Family Physicians, Canadian Association of Emergency Physicians, Rural Section of the Ontario Medical Association and the Society of Rural Physicians have endorsed this call;

WHEREAS it is deemed necessary and expedient for small, rural and northern Municipalities to call upon the government to impose a moratorium on any further reductions to health care services in rural and northern communities;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Lambton County Council that it hereby petitions the Honourable Dalton McGuinty, Premier of Ontario and the Honourable David Caplan, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care to impose a moratorium upon each Local Health Integration Network to prevent any further reductions and/or restructuring in health care services in rural and northern communities in the Province of Ontario until such time as a Province-wide review process has been conducted, resulting in the following action:
1. The urgent establishment of knowledgeable representation, similar to those involved in the Rural and Northern Health Care Framework, to provide recommendations to the LHINs regarding the role and future of emergency departments and small hospitals;

2. The adoption of the standards that have been developed identifying the services that are required to provide emergency care;

3. The identification of how many emergency departments are needed in each community and in each LHIN;

4. The adoption of standards regarding the level of services that should be available in local rural hospitals to support the health care needs of the local population;

5. The adoption of standards regarding the level of services that should be available to local communities to provide the non-hospital based services that are required to meet the health care needs of the local population;

6. The implementation of a system to ensure accessibility to regional services (London) that are deemed necessary to support local delivery systems;

7. The implementation of standards regarding EMS availability in the event of a closure of an emergency department;

THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to all small, rural and northern Municipalities in the Province of Ontario for support; and further,

THAT the Ontario Ombudsman and Auditor General are so notified of this action as well as all other appropriate person and local Members of Parliament.

Carried.

Sincerely,

Stephane Thiffeault,
(A) General Manager, Corporate Services
County Clerk

:cc Andrew Taylor, (A) General Manager
Public Health Services Division

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