



## Council Report

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**Report Number:** EMS 2021- 005  
**Meeting Date:** December 14, 2021  
**Title:** Kawartha Lakes Paramedic Service Community  
Paramedic Support for Long Term Care Proposal  
**Author and Title:** Randy Mellow, Paramedic Chief

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### Recommendation(s):

**That Report EMS 2021-005 Kawartha Lakes Paramedic Service Community Paramedic Support for Long Term Care Proposal**, be received; and

**That** upon receipt of the Provincial Transfer Payment Agreement the necessary By-law be prepared and the Mayor and Clerk be authorized to execute the Transfer Payment Agreement with the Province of Ontario.

**Department Head:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Financial/Legal/HR/Other:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Chief Administrative Officer:** \_\_\_\_\_

## **Background:**

Community Paramedicine programs are a proven cost-effective option for the delivery of healthcare in the Province of Ontario. They are innovative and agile, with the flexibility to adapt to changing pressures affecting access to care. This has been evident by their success in reducing Emergency Department visits, reducing 911 calls and significantly improving quality of life and resilience of seniors, keeping them safely in their homes and reducing strain on long term care.

Community paramedics have proven they are well positioned and proficient at integrating and collaborating in the healthcare system and responding to the changing needs within their communities. The City of Kawartha Lakes has been deeply invested in providing this crucial support by providing Community Paramedicine as part of the collaborative and integrated care model within a region with its unique needs and health care system pressures.

Efforts to date, while successful, have relied on episodic funding which really has not allowed the full potential to be achieved and to truly build programming meeting local needs, particularly long-term care needs.

The City of Kawartha Lakes has a significantly larger portions of the population within age groups exceeding 65 years and 85 years as compared to provincial average. This segment of the population is projected to continue to increase. As a result of the current state and pending demographic trends, our region faces capacity concerns related to Long Term Care now and into the future.

On October 29, 2021 the Ministry of Long-Term Care (MLTC) announced a funding opportunity for the City of Kawartha Lakes to expand its community paramedicine program to include Community Paramedic Support for Long Term Care (CPLTC). The CPLTC program will keep individuals stabilized in their illness trajectory and in their own home for as long as possible.

This 100% provincially funded program will focus exclusively on seniors in three categories of eligibility:

- Those on the waitlist for long-term care;
- Those who have been assessed as eligible for long-term care by a LHIN Care Coordinator (but not yet on the waitlist); and,
- Those who are soon to be eligible for long-term care.

The CPLTC funding allotment for the CPLTC Program is based on an analysis of the local wait times for long term care beds. Specifically, the City of Kawartha Lakes is eligible to receive the following funding to administer the CPLTC program for the following fiscal periods:

- |                       |             |
|-----------------------|-------------|
| • Q3/Q4 of 2021-22    | \$1,000,000 |
| • Fiscal year 2022-23 | \$2,000,000 |
| • Fiscal year 2023-24 | \$2,000,000 |

**Rationale:**

This investment will have a direct and positive impact on, not only the Long-Term Care System pressure, but also health care system pressure as a whole by leveraging the unique skills and abilities of our community paramedics to support seniors by providing quality care and service they need to live longer and in comfort of their homes. By providing services such in home visits, assessments and remote monitoring, this program will provide comfort, safety, and peace of mind for seniors and their families while waiting to access the long-term care system.

By keeping our seniors safely at home while waiting or potentially delaying long term care admission, the program will also avoid 911 responses, hospital visits and admission and well as keeping our clients safer from additional community acquired infection.

KLPS staff have commenced program design which builds upon our already well-established community paramedic program to support the CPLTC initiative. In accordance with the funding requirements, staff have developed and submitted requisite business case and budget documents to secure and initiate transfer payments for the program. Eligible costs (100%) submitted within the business case and budget include staffing, vehicle costs, medical costs, various equipment required, training and development needs and other administrative costs.

Once the submission is approved, a by-law will be required to authorize the City of Kawartha Lakes to enter into a Transfer Payment Agreement.

**Other Alternatives Considered:**

None

**Alignment to Strategic Priorities**

Implementation of the KLPS CPLTC programs aligns with the following strategic priorities:

1. An Exceptional Quality of Life – By assisting individuals to live longer and in comfort of their homes this program will provide safety, and peace of mind for seniors and relieve pressures on the long-term care system.
2. A Vibrant and Growing Economy- The CPLTC program funding arrangement will provide direct benefit to the residents without impact on the local tax levy. Further, this program will offer additional opportunities for service sharing and efficiency opportunities.

3. Good Government – In addition to enhancing service delivery without local tax levy impact, this program will offer additional opportunities for service sharing and efficiency opportunities

**Financial/Operation Impacts:**

The CPLTC program is to be 100% funded by the Ministry.

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**Department Head:** Randy Mellow

**Department File:** 2021-98-SS