

Office of the Chair

October 27, 2011

Resolution No. 2011-953

The Honourable Laurel Broten
Minister of Education
22nd Floor, Mowat Block
900 Bay Street
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1L2

Dear Minister Broten:

Subject: Bystander Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation

I am writing to advise that Peel Regional Council approved the following resolution at its meeting held on September 22, 2011:

"Whereas, the Region of Peel has demonstrated its commitment to working with and supporting community partners to respond to the health needs of Peel residents;

And whereas, the Region of Peel has been asked to support "Physicians and Paramedic Urging Lifesaving Education" in their efforts to make Ontario a leader in bystander cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR);

Therefore be it resolved, that the Regional Chair write to the Minister of Education, the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, and to the Minister of Finance on behalf of Regional Council, to request that their ministries adopt the measures proposed by "Physicians and Paramedics Urging Lifesaving Education" to increase bystander CPR;

And further, that a copy of the report of the Commissioner of Health Services dated August 10, 2011, titled "Bystander Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation" and its corresponding resolution be sent to designated delivery agents for land ambulance in Ontario and to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario for their information and support".

On behalf of Regional Council, I request that you give consideration to the above resolution. I look forward to your reply. Please quote the Region of Peel's reference number in your reply.

Sincerely,

Emil Kolb
Regional Chair and Chief Executive Officer

EK:tr

c: Janette Smith, Commissioner of Health
Peter Dundas, Chief and Director, Peel Paramedic Services

Also sent to:

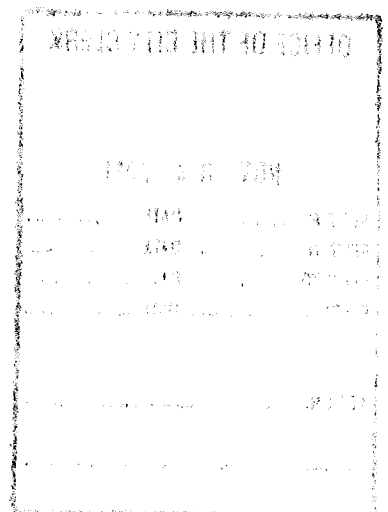
The Honourable Deb Matthews
Minister of Health and Long-Term Care
10th Floor, Hepburn Block
80 Grosvenor Street
Toronto, Ontario M7A 2C4

The Honourable Dwight Duncan
Minister of Finance
7th Floor, Frost Building South
7 Queen's Park Crescent
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1Y7

Also Copied:

Henry Alamenciak, Chief of EMS, Algoma EMS
Jayne Carman, Clerk and Co-ordinator Council Committee Services, County of Brant
Doug Smith, Chief of EMS, Bruce County EMS
Judy Smith, Manager, Municipal Governance/Clerk, Municipality of Chatham-Kent
Steve Trinier, Director EMS, Cochrane District
Denise Labelle-Gélinas, City Clerk, City of Cornwall
Pam Hillock, Clerk/Director of Corporate Services, Dufferin County Ambulance
P.M. Madill, Regional Clerk, Durham Region
Susan McConnell, Administrative Services Coordinator, Elgin County
Mary Brennan, Director of Council Services/Clerk, Essex Windsor
Dan Shilling, First Nation Manager, Chippewas of Rama First Nation
CAO-Clerk, Frontenac Paramedic Services
Sharon Vokes, County Clerk/Director of Council Services, Grey County EMS
Evelyn Eichenbaum, Clerk, Haldimand County EMS
Tamara Wilbee, County Clerk/HR, Haliburton County EMS
Susan Lathan, Regional Clerk and Director of Council Services, Halton Region EMS
Rose Caterini, City Clerk, City Hall Hamilton EMS
Jim Pine, Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk, Hastings Quinte EMS
David Lew, Chief Emergency Services, Huron County EMS
Keith Kirkpatrick, Chief, City of Kawartha Lakes
Jeff Brooks, Acting Manager, County of Lambton EMS
County Clerk, Lanark County Ambulance Service
Lesley Todd, EMS, United Counties of Leeds and Grenville
Larry Keech, Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk, Lennox and Addington County
Michael MacIsaac, EMS Chief, Manitoulin-Sudbury EMS/SMU
Kathy Bunting, Middlesex County Clerk
Debbie Crowder, District Clerk, District of Muskoka
Office of the Regional Clerk Region of Niagara, Public Health Dept., EMS Division
Jean-Guy Belzile, EMS Manager, District of Nipissing EMS

Bev Wood, Clerk/Manager of Council Services, Norfolk County EMS
Diane Cane, County Clerk, Northumberland County Emergency Medical Services
Leslie Donnelly, Deputy City Clerk, Ottawa Paramedic Service
Brenda Tabor, County Clerk, Oxford Public Health and Emergency Services
Sharon Montgomery-Greenwood, Director of Emergency Services, Parry Sound
Peter Dundas, Chief and Director, Peel Regional Paramedic Service
Kerri Ann O'Rourke, County Clerk, Perth County EMS
Sally Saunders, Clerk, Peterborough County/City EMS
Stéphane P. Parisien, CAO and Clerk, EMS - United Counties of Prescott-Russell
Dan McCormick, Health Services Manager, Rainy River EMS
Jim Hutton, Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk, County of Renfrew EMS
Malcolm White, City Clerk, Sault Ste. Marie Fire Service - EMS Division
Brenda Clark, Clerk, County of Simcoe Paramedic Services
Tim P. Beadman, Chief of Emergency Services, Greater Sudbury EMS
Norm Gale, Chief of EMS, Superior North EMS
Mike Trodd, EMS Chief, District of Timiskaming EMS
Paul Raftis, Chief, Toronto Emergency Medical Services
John Prno, Director Emergency Medical Services, Region of Waterloo
Denis Kelly, Regional Clerk, Corporate Services Department York Region
Pat Vanini Executive Director, Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)



OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

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REC'D BY _____ DATE _____
REF'D TO *B. Brumby* DATE _____
REF'D TO _____ DATE _____
REF'D TO *Curry* DATE _____

ACTION: *Council Agenda*

DATE: August 10, 2011

REPORT TITLE: **BYSTANDER CARDIOPULMONARY RESUSCITATION**

FROM: Janette Smith, Commissioner of Health Services

RECOMMENDATION

Whereas, the Region of Peel has demonstrated its commitment to working with and supporting community partners to respond to the health needs of Peel residents;

And whereas, the Region has been asked to support “Physicians and Paramedic Urging Lifesaving Education” in their efforts to make Ontario a leader in bystander cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR);

Therefore be it resolved, that the Regional Chair write to the Ministers of Education, Health and Long-Term Care, and Finance, on behalf of Regional Council, to request that their Ministries adopt the measures proposed by “Physicians and Paramedics Urging Lifesaving Education” to increase bystander CPR;

And further, that a copy of the report of the Commissioner of Health Services dated August 10, 2011, titled “Bystander Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation” and its corresponding resolution be sent to designated delivery agents for land ambulance in Ontario and to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario for their information and support.

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

- The Canadian Association of Emergency Physicians believes Canadians should be trained in CPR and regardless of training should be able to respond, and that all ambulance dispatch centres should provide dispatch assisted pre-arrival CPR instructions in all cases of cardiac arrest.
- The Association made recommendations on how to increase CPR education through high school curriculum, through tax incentives and through a national campaign to increase bystander CPR.
- Region of Peel programs work both to improve the rate of survival for out of hospital heart attack victims and to reduce rate of heart disease that can lead to heart attacks.
- The Region of Peel has been asked to lend further advocacy support so that Ontario can continue to take the lead for bystander CPR.

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BYSTANDER CARDIOPULMONARY RESUSCITATION

DISCUSSION

1. Background

This report updates Council on recent efforts to increase the survival rate for heart attack victims in Peel, and how the Region of Peel may support the province-wide efforts to increase the rate of bystander CPR. Dr. Sheldon Cheskes, Medical Director for Paramedic Services, presented on this subject in his delegation at the June 9 meeting of Regional Council.

As Council is aware, the Peel community is moving ahead with several initiatives to increase the survival rate for victims of cardiac arrests. Dr. Cheskes' presentation highlighted work involving paramedic services, Peel-area hospitals, employers, and organizations promoting heart health and early response to heart attacks such as the Heart and Stroke Foundation, St. John Ambulance and the Canadian Red Cross.

Of all these efforts to save lives, Dr. Cheskes reported that more needs to be done to expand bystander CPR. Bystanders performing hands-only CPR before paramedics get to the scene is an extremely important factor in the success of a cardiac resuscitation, and can mean the difference between life and death. The survival rate of those suffering a cardiac arrest in the community (i.e. out of hospital) is proven to be higher when those witnessing a cardiac arrest perform CPR. Dr. Cheskes emphasized that the chance of survival when bystander CPR is performed is four times greater than if no CPR is performed.

Peel has been making progress in this area. More people in Peel are now trained to respond than ever before, resulting in the rate of bystander CPR almost doubling to 31 per cent since 1992. Furthermore, real advancements have been made in CPR training methods and tools to make CPR training as accessible as possible to all Canadians.

2. Findings

There has been increasing efforts provincially and nationally to expand CPR training to more Canadians. Region of Peel staff have partnered with members of the Canadian Association of Emergency Physicians and are looking at ways that municipalities can assist in advocacy efforts to expand bystander CPR.

a) Evidence Supporting Bystander CPR

The Canadian Association of Emergency Physicians has recently endorsed a position statement on bystander CPR. Dr. Cheskes was part of the expert panel that developed this position statement that highlights evidence supporting bystander CPR and makes recommendations on how to increase the rate of bystander CPR.

The Canadian Association of Emergency Physicians contends that it is not acceptable that vast numbers of witnessed cardiac arrest victims are not receiving bystander CPR. The Association believes all Canadians should be trained in CPR and regardless of training should be able to respond, and that all ambulance dispatch centres should provide dispatch assisted pre-arrival CPR instructions in all cases of cardiac arrest. The evidence includes the following:

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- Cardiovascular disease is the leading cause of death in North America;
- Most heart attacks (60 per cent) occur outside of the hospital setting. 85 per cent of these heart attacks happen at home. Approximately half of these heart attacks are witnessed by a bystander;
- For half of all heart attack victims, the cardiac arrest is the first sign of cardiovascular disease; and
- Overall survival to hospital discharge for out of hospital cardiac arrest victims is improved where CPR is attempted.

The Canadian Association of Emergency Physicians calls for strong inducements and a systematic approach to ensure that more people in the community are prepared and are ready to perform this life saving skill.

b) Provincial Advocacy to Increase Bystander CPR

The Canadian Association of Emergency Physicians made recommendations on how to increase CPR education through high school curriculum, through tax incentives and through a national campaign to advance the cause of bystander CPR. These recommendations have been adopted by a provincial coalition of emergency physicians and paramedics called "Physicians and Paramedics Urging Lifesaving Education". This coalition's goal is to have Ontario take the lead on bystander CPR through the following policy initiatives:

- That the Ministry of Education require all Grade 12 students to complete a Heart and Stroke Foundation Heartsaver Basic CPR course or equivalent to receive their Ontario Secondary School Diploma; and
- That the Ministry of Finance implement individual tax rebates to individuals who complete a CPR course and a corporate tax rebate for businesses that train employees in CPR.

With respect to CPR training being mandatory for high school graduation, the Ministry of Education has indicated that making CPR training a mandatory requirement for graduation is not being considered. However, this Ministry plans to strengthen the curriculum on this issue through new teacher tools that emphasize the values of CPR training.

The Ontario Children's Activity Tax Credit assists parents with the cost of enrolling children in physical and other eligible activities, including CPR courses.

Provisions in the *Good Samaritan Act, 2001* provide legal protection for persons providing first aid assistance to a person in an emergency.

c) Region of Peel Efforts

Region of Peel programs in Public Health and Paramedic Services work both to improve the rate of survival for out of hospital heart attack victims and to reduce rate of heart disease that can lead to heart attacks.

Given the evidence that greater bystander CPR saves lives, Peel Regional Paramedic Services is committed to efforts to increase CPR in those minutes before an ambulance arrives. Since 2009, Peel Paramedics has put bystander CPR at the forefront of its public education program. Some notable initiatives include:

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- CPR awareness and education sessions (i.e. "lunch and learns") conducted in collaboration with emergency services from Mississauga, Brampton and Caledon, which drew over 500 City and Regional Employees in February of 2009;
- CPR awareness, education and training provided to students during visits to local high schools by members of the Peel Paramedic Association;
- 40 to 50 public education and outreach events per year, which include CPR awareness; and
- Accessible CPR education and awareness material provided on the Peel Regional Paramedic Services' internal and external websites.

Peel Regional Paramedic Services is committed to ongoing public education about the importance of bystander CPR and training on how to perform CPR as a means to increase the capacity of the community to perform this life-saving skill.

Peel Public Health, through reports on the health status of the Peel community, has noted the prevalence of heart disease in Peel and that it is the leading cause of death in Peel. Peel Public Health has placed strategic importance on lowering smoking rates and to reducing obesity rates in Peel, both being linked to increased risk of heart disease and other health conditions.

Proposed Direction

The Region of Peel has been approached by "Physicians and Paramedics Urging Lifesaving Education" to lend further advocacy support so that Ontario can continue to take the lead for bystander CPR. Given the success of current efforts and the need to do more to increase bystander CPR, it is recommended that the Region of Peel also advocate to the provincial government on this issue.



Janette Smith
Commissioner of Health Services

Approved for Submission:

per 

D. Szwarc, Chief Administrative Officer

For further information regarding this report, please contact Peter Dundas at extension 3921 or via email at peter.dundas@peelregion.ca

Authored By: Cullen Perry, Health Services

c. Legislative Services