

Memorandum

Office of the City Clerk
Fax: 623-5468
Telephone: 625-2230

TO: Members of Council
FROM: Krista Power, City Clerk
DATE: Monday, April 19, 2021
**SUBJECT: Additional Information
Committee of the Whole – April 19, 2021**

NEW BUSINESS

1. Support for Lakehead University

Memorandum from Mayor B. Mauro dated April 16, 2021 containing a motion relative to the above noted.

2. Advocating for Vaccine Distribution

Memorandum from Mayor B. Mauro dated April 19, 2021 containing a motion relative to the above noted.

3. Advocacy for Recreational Opportunities/Access

Memorandum from Mayor B. Mauro dated April 19, 2021 containing a motion relative to the above noted.

4. Establishment of Closed Session

The following resolution will be presented to Committee of the Whole for consideration:

“THAT a Committee of the Whole - Closed Session meeting be scheduled for Monday, April 26, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. in order to receive information relative to personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees; labour relations or employee negotiations; and the security of the property of the municipality or local board.”



Memorandum

TO: Krista Power, City Clerk
FROM: Mayor B. Mauro
DATE: April 16, 2021
SUBJECT: Motion – Support for Lakehead University
New Business - *Committee of the Whole* – April 19, 2021

Members of Council,

As the community is aware, information has been shared this week relative to challenges currently facing Lakehead University. I have been in contact with the President and Vice Chancellor of Lakehead University, Dr. Moira McPherson to collaborate in an effort to best support Lakehead University’s position with respect the emerging situation.

Attached is a letter sent from Lakehead University to the Ministry of Colleges and University with respect to the decision to sever the Northern Ontario School of Medicine (NOSM) from its long-standing partnership with Lakehead and Laurentian Universities. Lakehead University is an institution of significant importance in Northwestern Ontario. The partnership between Lakehead, Laurentian and NOSM was forged over many years through the collaboration, commitment and support of many dedicated local partners. It is our belief that the Government’s proposal is not in the best interests of our University, NOSM, Thunder Bay, or Northwestern Ontario. The positive impact of the existing partnership on the development of health care service offered in Thunder Bay and surrounding communities in Northwestern Ontario is immeasurable.

As such, it is my request that City Council endorse and provide full support for the position of Lakehead University as it relates to this decision.

The following motion is provided for City Council’s consideration;

WITH RESPECT to the memorandum from Mayor Bill Mauro dated April 16, 2021 relative to Lakehead University and the Northern Ontario School of Medicine, we recommend that City Council support and endorse the position outlined in the correspondence from President and Vice Chancellor of Lakehead University, Moira McPherson dated April 15, 2021;

AND THAT City Council advocate on behalf of Lakehead University where possible and practical;

AND THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to the following representatives:

- Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario Hon. Christine Elliott, Minister of Health
- Hon. Ross Romano, Minister of Colleges and Universities
- Hon. Prabmeet Singh Sarkaria, Associate Minister of Small Business and Red Tape Reduction
- Michael Gravelle, MPP Thunder Bay—Superior North Judith Monteith-Farrell, MPP Thunder Bay—Atikokan Steven Davidson, Secretary of Cabinet
- Shelley Tapp, Deputy Minister of Colleges and Universities Helen Angus, Deputy Minister of Health
- Giles Gherson, Deputy Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade

AND THAT any necessary by-laws be presented for ratification.

Attach: Letter from President and Vice Chancellor of Lakehead University, Moira McPherson dated April 15, 2021 to Hon. Ross Romano, Minister of Colleges and Universities



Lakehead
UNIVERSITY

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

April 15, 2021

Minister Ross Romano
Ministry of Colleges and Universities
438 University Ave, 5th Floor
Toronto, ON M7A 1N3

Dear Minister Romano,

As the President of Lakehead University, I am writing to communicate our concerns with your decision to sever the Northern Ontario School of Medicine (NOSM) from its long-standing partnership with Lakehead and Laurentian Universities.

We have not received any information from your office on what the severing of NOSM will entail. We are deeply concerned that we were only informed of this decision after it had already been made. For such a significant decision, we are astounded that there was no consultation whatsoever with Lakehead University, and that neither the President of Laurentian nor myself, as the Chair and Vice Chair of NOSM, were informed or consulted regarding the Government's plans. There are important perspectives that need to be carefully considered as part of the decision-making process and we are concerned that key stakeholders, including healthcare providers, Indigenous communities, and community and regional business leaders were left out of these conversations. We have a deep understanding of these issues because of the close integration of NOSM with the Universities. I have personally been involved with NOSM from the time of its conception, through years spent building it, to now when it has become the successful part of Lakehead and Laurentian Universities that it is. The Government's proposal is not in the best interests of the Universities, NOSM, the community of Northwestern Ontario or Ontario taxpayers.

As a fellow northerner, you will know the partnership between the Universities and NOSM was forged over many years through the collaboration, commitment and support of many dedicated local partners. The positive impacts of this partnership on Northwestern Ontario are innumerable. To date, this partnership, with academic oversight from the Universities, has developed a unique, accredited curriculum, has cultivated a network of more than 1,700 health care professionals supporting a distributed learning model throughout Northern Ontario, and trained over 600 highly skilled physicians in a curriculum that responds to the unique and complex health care needs of Northern Ontario. Through the support of the Universities, the partnership has enabled NOSM to attract almost \$14M in research grant funding, and have an economic impact of \$129-142M annually.

The collaborative model with the two Universities has created significant benefits and cost-savings for NOSM. Both University Senates oversee NOSM's curriculum, the Universities provide administrative support for NOSM including for its faculty and students, and the Universities provide the medical school with the physical space needed to run their programs. Any severance of this partnership will result in significant costs for the Government and consequently for taxpayers, with fewer funds going to train doctors and more being spent on administration. Existing relationships and collaborative

research and innovation, including those initiatives funded by Tri-Council research funds, will be put at risk and almost certainly be lost.

We have not received confirmation from your office that a NOSM campus will continue to serve the community, or even be located in Northwestern Ontario. Our existing model of University partnership with NOSM has contributed to the advancement of medical education and health care services in our region. This has also been a major driver in addressing community specific health care needs by training more than 600 physicians, many of whom choose to stay and practice in Northwestern Ontario. As we continue to manage the realities of the COVID-19 pandemic, we are gravely concerned that this decision will negatively impact Northwestern Ontario's long-term health outcomes and access to physicians.

We are also concerned about the further erosion of our Northern Ontario post-secondary institutions, particularly in the wake of ongoing cuts to programs at Laurentian and the impact of COVID-19 on all universities and our local communities. There have been significant job impacts across Northern Ontario as a result of the pandemic, and Lakehead has received no further information as to how this decision will impact the 246 employees and 16 full-time faculty at NOSM. At a time when there is so much at risk and universities continue to face uncertainty, we cannot fathom why a decision has been made to dismantle and destabilize these institutions even further.

As an important Government partner, and one of the founding institutions of NOSM, we expect that you will advise us in short order as to the actual impacts of this decision. Does the Government of Ontario know how much this decision will cost Ontario taxpayers? What impact will this have on our healthcare system in Northwestern Ontario? What are the impacts on faculty, university and research partnerships, and curriculum? What impact will the increased administrative costs have on students' tuition fees? Have the additional red tape, administrative costs, services and structures that will need to be introduced been considered? What does this mean for those whose jobs may be impacted by this decision? What are the funding and operational impacts on Lakehead University?

We await your response to these questions and thank you for your prompt attention to this important matter.



Moira McPherson
President & Vice-Chancellor
Lakehead University

CC: Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
Hon. Christine Elliott, Minister of Health
Hon. Prabmeet Singh Sarkaria, Associate Minister of Small Business and Red Tape Reduction
Michael Gravelle, MPP Thunder Bay—Superior North
Judith Monteith-Farrell, MPP Thunder Bay—Atikokan
Steven Davidson, Secretary of Cabinet
Shelley Tapp, Deputy Minister of Colleges and Universities
Helen Angus, Deputy Minister of Health
Giles Gherson, Deputy Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade
His Worship Bill Mauro, Mayor of Thunder Bay

Memorandum

TO: Krista Power, City Clerk
FROM: Mayor B. Mauro
DATE: April 19, 2021
SUBJECT: Motion – Advocating for Vaccine Distribution
New Business - Committee of the Whole – April 19, 2021

Members of Council,

As you know, Thunder Bay experienced a surge in COVID-19 cases earlier this year where our infection rates were the highest in the province and we were not declared a hot spot at that time. The province has recently announced that it will be increasing vaccine amounts to designated hotspots and this will likely decrease the number of vaccines available in Thunder Bay. This is concerning and a response from City Council is important and we need to advocate for fair and equitable distribution of vaccines as Thunder Bay is a regional hub for health care services.

The following motion is provided for City Council's consideration;

WITH RESPECT to the memorandum from Mayor Bill Mauro dated April 19, 2021 relative to vaccine distribution in Ontario, we recommend that City Council advocate for fair and equitable distribution of vaccines;

AND THAT a regional approach be utilized that is predicated on potential risk to communities;

AND THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to the following representatives:

- Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
- Hon. Christine Elliott, Minister of Health – Ontario
- Michael Gravelle, MPP Thunder Bay—Superior North
- Judith Monteith-Farrell, MPP Thunder Bay—Atikokan
- Hon. Patty Hajdu, Minister of Health – Canada

AND THAT any necessary by-laws be presented for ratification.

Memorandum

TO: Krista Power, City Clerk

FROM: Mayor B. Mauro

DATE: April 19, 2021

SUBJECT: Motion – Advocating for Recreational Opportunities/Access
New Business - *Committee of the Whole* – April 19, 2021

Members of Council,

On Friday, April 16, 2021, Premier Ford announced new regulations which prohibited use of many outdoor amenities and sports activities. Since the first announcement, there has been further changes to allow playgrounds to be used.

Recreation has a distinct and direct correlation to mental health and overall well being. Many medical professionals have provided feedback that these new regulations and prohibitions are not helpful in the fight against COVID-19. Our community has the benefit of large outdoor spaces where distancing can be easy to achieve and therefore, it is my request that City Council advocate to the province for changes to allow for access to outdoor amenities which can take place safely using public health measures such as golf and tennis.

The following motion is provided for City Council's consideration;

WITH RESPECT to the memorandum from Mayor Bill Mauro dated April 19, 2021 relative to Ontario Regulation 297/21, we recommend that the province reconsider the restrictions to outdoor amenities to allow for those which can take place safely using public health measures;

AND THAT City Council advocate for reconsideration of these restrictions;

AND THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to the following representatives:

- Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
- Hon. Christine Elliott, Minister of Health – Ontario
- Michael Gravelle, MPP Thunder Bay—Superior North
- Judith Monteith-Farrell, MPP Thunder Bay—Atikokan
- Hon. Patty Hajdu, Minister of Health – Canada

AND THAT any necessary by-laws be presented for ratification.