



**TOWNSHIP OF
BRUDENELL, LYNDOCH AND RAGLAN**

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January 8, 2025

The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
Premier's Office
Room 281, Legislative Building, Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

RE: Child Welfare Funding

Dear Mr. Ford,

Please be advised that at the Regular Council Meeting on January 8th, 2025, Council for the Corporation of the Township of Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan passed the following resolution, supporting the resolution from the County of Renfrew.

Resolution No: 2025-01-08-15

Moved by: Councillor Quade

Seconded by: Councillor Banks

"Be it resolved that the Council for the Corporation of the Township of Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan support the County of Renfrew's resolution regarding Child Welfare Funding as attached.

AND WHEREAS Council for the Township of Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan also formally requests that the Province of Ontario consult with and collaborate with Child Welfare agencies to develop an updated and equitable Child Welfare funding formula and that the newly developed funding formula be structured to ensure an equitable and proportionate distribution that meets the diverse, unique, individual and complex needs of the communities and populations served.

And further that this resolution be forwarded to the, the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, Renfrew Nipissing Pembroke MPP Johan Yakabuski, Association of Municipalities (AMO), Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA), Eastern Ontario Warden's Caucus (EOWC), Eastern Ontario Mayors' Caucus (EOMC), Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies (OACAS), and all municipalities in Ontario."

Carried.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tammy Thompson".

**Tammy Thompson
Deputy Clerk
Township of Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan**

Office of the
County Warden



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November 5, 2024

The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1
Via email: Premier@ontario.ca

RE: Child Welfare Funding

Dear Premier Ford:

The Council of the Corporation of the County of Renfrew, at their regular meeting on October 30, 2024, passed the following resolution regarding Child Welfare Funding. Council and our community are deeply concerned about the ongoing funding reductions to the child welfare sector. Renfrew County is experiencing a significant rise in complex social challenges within our communities, placing a heavy strain on local resources and hindering our ability to effectively support families in need.

WHEREAS the County of Renfrew and the City of Pembroke have no financial obligations concerning the funding of Child Welfare agencies; and

WHEREAS the Financial Accountability Office in June 2024 identified issues with funding in the Child Welfare sector; and

WHEREAS Family and Children's Services of Renfrew County has experienced a funding cut of \$1.59 million, or 10.8%, over the past ten years; and

WHEREAS Family and Children's Services of Renfrew County was provided planning allocations reflecting a further funding reduction of \$963, 603 over the next two years; and

WHEREAS Family and Children's Services of Renfrew County has achieved administrative efficiencies as a multi-service agency, has implemented various cost mitigation measures, including reductions in staff and services, and has reached a point where further measures could negatively impact children at risk and their families; and

WHEREAS both the County of Renfrew and the City of Pembroke are committed to improving the health and safety of their residents; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the County of Renfrew and the City of Pembroke formally request the Province of Ontario to consult with and collaborate with Child Welfare agencies to develop an updated and equitable Child Welfare funding formula; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the newly developed funding formula be structured to ensure an equitable and proportionate distribution that meets the diverse, unique, individual, and complex needs of the communities and populations served; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Warden of the County of Renfrew and the Mayor of the City of Pembroke be directed to write a letter to Minister Parsa expressing their concerns and request a

meeting in the fall of 2024 or to submit a joint delegation request for the 2025 Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) conference;

AND THAT this resolution be shared with Premier Doug Ford, Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke MPP John Yakabuski, Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA), Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus (EOWC), Eastern Ontario Mayors' Caucus (EOMC), Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies (OACAS), and local municipalities.

A compounding challenge impacting our community is that the County of Renfrew has recently declared a state of emergency in response to the opioid crisis, with our service partner, the City of Pembroke, experiencing overdose death rates per capita that are twice the national average. Family and Children's Services of Renfrew County has been negatively impacted by a funding reduction of \$1.59 million over the past ten years and is facing a further cut of \$963,603 over the next two years. This continued erosion to the investment in our local child welfare agency will jeopardize the safety and wellbeing of vulnerable children and their families. The cuts will diminish the agency's capacity to offer essential support to those with the greatest need within our small and largely rural communities.

The social determinants of health play a critical role in shaping children's wellbeing, influencing their development, educational success, and overall health outcomes. For children in communities with geographic isolation and underdeveloped services such as we experience, these determinants become even more pronounced. In Renfrew County, families often face challenges such as limited access to quality healthcare, mental health support, and educational resources.

The lack of these essential services can result in children experiencing higher rates of chronic illnesses, mental health issues, and developmental delays. Furthermore, many families throughout our region are experiencing economic hardships, which can lead to poor nutrition, unstable housing, and heightened exposure to environmental stressors. Again, I am sure you will agree, all of which negatively impact children's long-term health and wellbeing.

Maintaining consistent funding for our rural agency that provides child protection and essential support services is vital. Without adequate financial support for these critical services, vulnerable children may not receive the interventions they need to develop and thrive. Child protection agencies are essential in safeguarding children from abuse and neglect while helping to address emotional and psychological challenges early in life, setting children on a path to healthier futures.

In an area like Renfrew County with limited clinical and assistive infrastructure, these services often become a lifeline, helping to mitigate the impact of social determinants on child health. Prioritizing funding for these services can help break the cycle of disadvantage, promote healthier environments, and ensure that all children have the opportunity to reach their full potential.

Thank you for your interest in our most vulnerable age group in our community.

Sincerely,



Peter Emon, Warden
County of Renfrew

warden@countyofrenfrew.on.ca