



## Committee Report

**To:** Warden Paul Eagleson  
Members of the Corporate Services Committee

**From:** Bettyanne Cobean, C.M.O.  
Director of Corporate Services

**Date:** November 1, 2018

**Re:** County Courthouse Facility - Cayley Street, Walkerton

### Recommendation:

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That a copy of the County Courthouse Facility - Cayley Street, Walkerton Report be forwarded to the Municipality of Brockton.

### **Background:**

In and around 1865, in order to become an incorporated County, the County leaders at that time made a decision to build the County Administration Centre, known as the County Seat in Walkerton. Additional requirements included a County Jail and Courthouse. Since then a Registry Office was built now known as Service Ontario. The Jail served the residents of Bruce County until it was closed in December 2011, along with other small jails in Ontario. At that time the County made every effort to continue its operations but it was not in the Province's masterplan to operate and maintain the smaller jails.

Recently the County received a communication from the Municipality of Brockton indicating that "despite the significance of this infrastructure, the building has a number of deficiencies in terms of accessibility for the public and security for staff, judges and counsel." In speaking with Municipal Staff I understand this communication was issued as a result of a tour by members of Brockton Council and Staff by the Ontario Provincial Police. The Municipality is responsible for providing the Court Security. The County did not participate in the tour nor have we ever been made aware of any current security or accessibility issues.

County staff work very closely with the Provincial Staff both on and offsite and in 2017 renegotiated 5 year leases for all of the facilities without a single leasehold improvement request.

The County is always interested in continuous improvement and should pursue discussions with the Municipality of Brockton to determine what role they would like to play both financially and as a support for future measures to insure the continued presence in the community.



**Financial/Staffing/Legal/IT Considerations:**

There are no financial, staffing, legal or IT considerations associated with this report.

**Interdepartmental Consultation:**

There was no interdepartmental consultation required for this report.

**Link to Strategic Goals and Elements:**

**Goal #6** - Explore alternate options to improve efficiency, service

**Goal #9** - Coordinate concerted efforts to advance our agenda

**Approved by:**

Kelley Coulter  
Chief Administrative Officer



**SENT BY EMAIL**

To the Corporation of the County of Bruce  
c/o Kelly Coulter, CAO  
Christine MacDonald, Acting CAO

Attention: Bruce County Council Members

**Re: Walkerton Courthouse Building**

The Walkerton Courthouse plays a central role in the Municipality of Brockton and the County of Bruce. Despite the significance of this infrastructure, the building has a number of deficiencies in terms of accessibility for the public and security for staff, judges and counsel.

On behalf of Brockton Council we are proposing that the Municipality of Brockton and the County of Bruce initiate joint discussions with the Province of Ontario to request provincial assistance with addressing these deficiencies and initiate a plan for improvements in the near future.

The Municipality of Brockton is committed to supporting any measures aimed at preserving, maintaining, or updating the Walkerton Courthouse building and ensuring its continued presence in our communities.

We look forward to working with you on sustaining this asset in the Community of Brockton.

Sincerely,

Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer  
Municipality of Brockton

c.c. David Inglis, Mayor