
COUNCIL RESOLUTION

January 4, 2021

Resolution No. 01-22

Moved by COUNCILLOR FITZSIMMONS

Seconded by COUNCILLOR HOCKING

WHEREAS, in 2020, Ontario had the lowest nurse-per-capita ratio in Canada, with 665 registered nurses (RNs) for every 100,000 people; and

WHEREAS, Ontario would require 22,003 more working RNs just to reach the national average; and

WHEREAS, the nursing shortage in Ontario is well documented and had reached crisis proportions even before the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the Ontario COVID-19 Science Advisory Table's recent report Burnout in Hospital-Based Healthcare Workers during COVID-19 says that more than 60 per cent of health-care workers surveyed in multiple Canadian studies have experienced severe emotional exhaustion; and

WHEREAS, Ontario nurses are leaving the workforce in droves because of retirement, burnout, change of occupations, and more attractive opportunities in the United States and elsewhere; and

WHEREAS, The South Bruce Grey Health Centre has stated they do not have enough staff to continue to operate at their current level of service and announced the closure of the emergency department at the Walkerton Hospital from 8 p.m. to 8 a.m. effective December 27, 2021; and

WHEREAS, This closure will have sweeping effects on workloads for local first responders, including police, firefighters and paramedics; and

WHEREAS, This closure will add significant workload pressures to neighbouring health care services and facilities, and particularly Hanover and District Hospital; and

WHEREAS, The council of the Municipality of Brockton has formally requested the County of Bruce to consider retaining a health services expert to examine nursing staff shortages in southern Bruce County and that the County of Bruce consider financial contributions up to \$10,000 for impacted municipalities to assist in addressing this shortage; and

WHEREAS, South Bruce Grey Health Centre has determined that alternatives related to staffing shortages need to be considered to address the health care crisis;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, The council of the Town of Hanover formally requests the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care work with the South Bruce Grey Health Centre to find an immediate solution to its staffing shortages; and

FURTHER THAT, The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care continue to work on strategies not only designed to recruit nurses to rural Ontario, but also focus on retaining experienced nurses who are essential to critical and emergency care units.

☒ CARRIED ☐ DEFEATED ☐ TABLED



MAYOR