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5-6038 Willow Street, Vancouver, British Columbia, V5Z 3S6

November 2020

Dear Jody Wildman,

**Re: The Overdose Crisis**

I am writing, on behalf of Moms Stop The Harm (MSTH), to request your assistance in ending the overdose crisis and the toll it is taking on our communities.

MSTH is a network of Canadian families impacted by substance use related harms and deaths. Our network provides peer support to grieving families and those with loved ones who use or have used substances. In addition, our organization works hard to change failed drug policies.

MSTH knows that municipalities have also been working hard, both on the ground and with representative bodies such as the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM). We would like to sincerely thank you for your efforts and thank FCM members for the call for a pan-Canadian response to the opioid crisis.

We recognize that your efforts have brought significant progress in some areas, but there is still a long way to go. At present, there is no comprehensive plan to deal with the opioid crisis, even though it is one of the largest public health emergencies of our lifetime, with a death on average about every two hours and a death toll of over 16,360 since 2016 (January 2016 to March 2020). Tragically, the number of people dying from overdoses has increased in 2020 in many parts of the country.

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it is premature to talk about drug policy reforms until there are comprehensive supports for people to get well. Recently, the Minister altered this position somewhat by indicating that officials are “deliberating” over decriminalization.[i] MSTH agrees that supports are needed but believes the government’s focus should be on harm reduction and saving lives so that people are able to live long enough to access supports. Currently, the stigma of criminalization causes people to hide their substance use, and many use and die alone.

It is our view that the federal government needs to do much more than it has to date, which is why we are requesting that your municipality, together with others in Canada, consider passing the [attached resolution](#) calling on the federal government to: 1) do the right thing and declare the overdose crisis a national public health emergency, and 2) work with provinces to develop a comprehensive pan-Canadian plan for ending the overdose crisis.

Thank you very much for considering this request. If you have any concerns about our resolution, please consider passing your own version of a resolution. You can reach us by email at [info@momsstoptheharm.com](mailto:info@momsstoptheharm.com) or mail at 5-6038 Willow Street, Vancouver, British Columbia, V5Z 3S6. Additional information about MSTH can be found on our website at <https://www.momsstoptheharm.com/>

Sincerely,

Leslie McBain  
Co-founder  
Chair, Board of Directors  
Moms Stop The Harm

Petra Schultz  
Co-founder  
Vice Chair, Board of Directors  
Moms Stop The Harm

[i] Hina Alam, “Federal health minister says it’s too early for broad drug decriminalization”, Canadian Press, January 16, 2020, <https://bc.ctvnews.ca/federal-health-minister-says-it-s-too-early-for-broad-drug-decriminalization-1.4771090>; CBC, The Current, January 9, 2020, 59:18 minute mark, <https://www.cbc.ca/listen/live-radio/1-63-the-current/clip/15754621-remembering-lost-iranian-plane-crash-the-politics-investigating> ; Teresa Wright, “Discussion on decriminalizing drugs should be considered in wake of opioid

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November 17, 2020

## **AMO Policy Update – COVID-19 Resiliency Infrastructure Stream Intake Open, Expanding Mental Health Services, and AODA Compliance Report Deadline Extended**

### **Project Intake: COVID-19 Resiliency Infrastructure Stream**

As AMO reported to members on October 28, municipal governments have access to \$250 million federal and provincial funding through the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) COVID-19 Resiliency Stream. Today, The Honourable Laurie Scott, Minister of Infrastructure, announced that the application intake for this funding is open.

Municipalities have been provided with their funding allocations. All ICIP projects require review by the provincial government and nomination to the federal government for approval. The intake deadline for projects is **December 21, 2020 for municipalities eligible to submit single projects and January 7, 2021 for municipalities eligible to submit multiple projects.**

For more information, see the program guidelines and FAQs.

### **Expanding Mental Health Services**

The Ontario government today announced over \$37 million to significantly expand mental health services across the justice system. The funding will be used to expand mobile crisis teams across the province, hire additional staff, and support the creation of tailored programs for First Nations communities. This is part of the government's \$176 million investment this year in the Roadmap to Wellness, Ontario's plan to build a comprehensive and connected mental health and addictions system.

As part of this investment, the Province is providing mental health and justice services that will lead to better supports for individuals with mental health and addictions challenges, including help to reduce their interactions with police. This includes:

- **Over \$6.5 million for mobile crisis services.** This funding will allow 33 communities across the province to expand or launch mobile crisis response services, including a brand-new service in Ottawa, a new Indigenous service in Six Nations of the Grand River, and additional teams in smaller communities in the Northwest, such as Red Lake, Sioux Lookout, Dryden, Atikokan, Fort William

First Nation, and the surrounding area of Marathon. These services support individuals in mental health and addictions crisis and help determine if the crisis can be resolved at the scene or if further supports, such as psychiatric attention at hospital emergency departments, are required.

- **\$5 million for safe bed programs to support mobile crisis teams.** This funding will enhance four existing programs while implementing seven new programs across Ontario, including two urban safe bed programs in downtown Toronto and Ottawa. Safe bed programs provide individuals in mental health and addictions crisis who are in contact with mobile crisis teams with short-stay, 24/7 community residential crisis services. The mobile crisis teams assist local police services in de-escalating high-pressure situations and connect individuals with the mental health and addictions services they need.
- **Over \$14 million for supportive housing programs designated for justice involved individuals.** This will fund up to 524 new units across the province for individuals who are either on diversion plans from mental health court or have been released from a provincial correctional facility, including \$1.03 million for up to 20 units that are affiliated with five new post-court transitional case managers. Transitional case managers will also provide support to individuals involved in the justice system with mental health and/or addictions challenges to rapidly access services, such as counselling, therapy and peer support, so that they can live safely in the community.
- **\$2 million for addictions/withdrawal specialists to support safe beds.** This funding will provide eight communities with addiction specialists for their safe bed programs, as well as addiction specialist support for the Kenora and Toronto Downtown East Justice Centre pilots.
- **\$2 million for mental health and addictions peer support for offenders under community supervision.** This funding will help establish partnerships with local community-based mental health and addictions service providers and Indigenous organizations.
- **\$1.1 million for mental health and addiction supports to vulnerable and marginalized persons as part of the Ministry of the Attorney General's Justice Centres.** Investments will provide critical mental health and addictions supports to prevent crime, break the cycle of offending, and create safer communities in Kenora, London, Toronto's Downtown East, and Toronto's Northwest areas. These investments will also enhance access to culturally relevant mental health and addictions services for Indigenous and Black communities.

In addition, Ontario will continue to build evidence-based research on post-traumatic stress disorder and occupational stress injury — two common mental health challenges affecting Ontario's frontline emergency providers. These findings will help identify new tools and programs to support their mental health and well-being.

## Province Extends AODA Compliance Report Deadline

Public sector organizations, including municipal governments, are required to submit a report by year end to report on compliance with the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act* (AODA) requirements.

The deadline has been extended from December 31, 2020 to June 30, 2021. See the Ontario website for more information on completing your [accessibility compliance report](#) and on [municipal compliance requirements](#).

AMO's [COVID-19 Resources](#) page is being updated continually so you can find critical information in one place. Please send any of your municipally related pandemic questions to [covid19@amo.on.ca](mailto:covid19@amo.on.ca).

\*Disclaimer: The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) is unable to provide any warranty regarding the accuracy or completeness of third-party submissions. Distribution of these items does not imply an endorsement of the views, information or services mentioned.



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**THE CORPORATION OF  
THE TOWNSHIP OF ST. JOSEPH  
COUNCIL MEETING  
AGENDA**

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.**

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Moment of Silent Reflection**
- 3. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest**
- 4. New Business**
- 5. Adoption of the Previous Minutes**

a. Marina Modernization Program Discussion

a. Regular Council Meeting

Recommendation: Be it resolved that the minutes of the Regular Council meeting held on Wednesday, November 4, 2020 be adopted as circulated.

b. Special Council Meeting

Recommendation: Be it resolved that the minutes of the Special Council meeting held on Thursday, November 5, 2020 be adopted as circulated.

c. Special Council Meeting

Recommendation: Be it resolved that the minutes of the Special Council meeting held on Monday, November 16, 2020 be adopted as circulated.

**6. Business Arising / Activity Log**

Review of the Pending Projects list.

**7. Staff and Committee Reports**

AODA Website Compliance and Website Maintenance RFQ results

Recommendation: Be it resolved that the report from the Office Assistant / Healthy Living Coordinator regarding the results of the RFQ process to contract the Accessibility for

Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) website compliance and continued maintenance be received; and

THAT Council approves staff to enter into a contract to repair and maintain the Township Website with the contractor named in this report.

**8. Addendum**

To be circulated

**9. Closed Session**

Recommendation: Be it resolved that Council proceed into Closed Session at \_\_\_\_ p.m. accordance with Section 239 of the Municipal Act in order to discuss personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees.

a. Staffing

Recommendation: Be it resolve that the position of Back Up Day Out Leader be accepted; and

The person named in the report be hired as the Back Up Day Out Leader on a casual basis to be paid at level 14 (1).

**10. Confirmation By-law**

Recommendation: Be it resolved that leave be granted to introduce By-law 2020-\_\_ being a by-law to confirm the proceedings of the Council meeting held this Eighteenth day of November, 2020.

**11. Adjournment**

Recommendation: Be it resolved that this meeting of the Council of The Township of St. Joseph adjourn at \_\_\_\_ pm, to meet again on Wednesday, December 2, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.

SCHEDULE "A" (as amended)  
to By-law 2011 – 48

**THE TOWNSHIP OF ST. JOSEPH POLICY ANDPROCEDURE MANUAL**

Policy Name: Cell Phone/Portable Technology Policy

Policy Number:

Approved: Nov, 2 2011

Revised: Nov 4, 2020

**PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to establish a uniform set of standards for identifying those persons that require access to a cell phone/mobile, mobile device and to ensure that the use of the same is authorized, monitored and represents an appropriate use of corporate resources.

This policy applies to elected officials, municipal employees, and any other persons issued or using a device in the conduct of municipal business or who receive reimbursement for the use of personal devices.

The category of devices to which this policy applies, is understood to include cell phones, wireless PDA/ telecommunications hybrid devices such as the Blackberry and Laptop Computers.

**AUTHORIZATION**

The issuance and use of a Municipal device must be recommended by the Clerk Administrator and approved by Council and may be revoked at any time.

A device will be assigned by need, with that need to be reviewed and evaluated in consideration of business requirements, safety issues and appropriateness.

**RATIONALE**

The nature of local government services is such that certain personnel need to be accessible while away from their workstation, or working from remote locations or home, during or after normal office hours, where a mobile device can be a useful and effective tool.

The municipality is committed to providing wireless communication devices, where needed, to improve the operations of the municipality.



### **Cell Phone/Portable Technology Policy**

- In accordance with the applicable legislation, where operational needs require an individual to be responsive to calls while in transit, that individual shall pull over and stop the vehicle safely before answering, placing or returning calls or messages. No attempt at talking, texting or other activities shall be undertaken while in transit that would distract the driver, unless that individual is exempted by legislation.
- The primary function of any device owned and issued by the municipality shall be business related.
- A municipally issued device may, from time to time, be used for personal calls, so long as this use is incidental to its primary business use.
- If a situation occurs that warrants personal use of a municipal device beyond an incidental nature, the individual shall reimburse the municipality as appropriate.
- The use of Bell directory service (411), 1-900 lines and other pay-per-use features is strictly forbidden.

### **Laptop / Tablet Technology Policy**

- The primary function of any device owned and issued by the municipality shall be business related,
- A municipally issued device should be reserved for Township business as its primary use.
- Private and personal information should not be stored on a Township-issued laptop, as it is the property of the Township; and therefore, all documents and items on the laptop/tablet are considered to be Township documents.
- Access passwords and pin numbers for email and accounts should be recorded and stored in a safe location. Passwords and access will be given to a supervisor who requests them for business continuity reasons should an employee be terminated, have a change of duty or be on an extended leave.
- A supervisor, or council may, at any time, request the return of a laptop or tablet for security or business continuity reasons.

### **Personal Wireless Communication Devices**

- Employees are encouraged to make any personal calls outside of regular work hours, or on established break periods.
- Employees should make friends and family members aware of this policy to deter them from making personal calls during regular work hours.
- Personal text messaging during regular business hours is strictly prohibited.
- Personal wireless communication devices must be turned off or silenced during working hours, unless their use has been approved for business purposes.

- Employees are strictly prohibited from using wireless communication device MP3 player capabilities, mobile internet access for personal use and video games during regular business hours.
- Employees are strictly prohibited from using personal wireless communication devices for the storage or removal of the municipality's confidential business information through the use of cameras or memory storage devices.
- Neither company nor personally owned cell phones intended for business use may be used to conduct illegal transactions, harassment, or any other unacceptable behavior.

### Reimbursement for Personal Use

Elected officials and The Township Equipment Operators using personal devices for municipal business shall be eligible to receive a maximum of ~~\$35.00~~\$25.00 per month reimbursement to offset expenses upon annual submission of a copy of ONE (1) current bill which shall indicate an cell/data plan is in effect. Additionally, the charge for municipal business use is to be recorded as a Council expense and not recorded to the Council salary line.

Municipal staff using personal devices for municipal business may submit an expense claim for any costs associated with such use, provided proper documentation is provided and where practical, approval by the Clerk Administrator is obtained prior to incurring any expense.

~~The Township Equipment Operators using personal devices for municipal business shall be eligible to receive a maximum of \$25.00 per month reimbursement to offset expenses upon annual submission of a copy of ONE (1) current bill which shall indicate an active cell/data plan is in effect.~~

All costs associated with the personal equipment procurement of the device, service plan charges, overages, maintenance and replacement of personal communications devices shall be borne by the official who shall:

- Be responsible for the cost of all monthly service charges, maintenance, repair and replacement costs;
- Ensure that their device has adequate security features to protect confidential data, including a password that locks the device when not in use, and that those features are enabled;
- Provide the Township with access to information related to the business of the Township upon request in a timely manner; .
- Ensure that their personal communication device and service plan includes voice and email service; and,
- Ensure their personal communication device has hand free capability.

## Other

Cellular transmissions are not secure and users should exercise discretion in relaying confidential information in this manner.

All reasonable precautions should be taken to ensure the security of municipal devices, while an individual issued a device shall immediately report a lost, stolen or damaged device to their supervisor.

If an employee is to be absent from work for a short period of time, they are required to change their voicemail, and email 'out of office' reply to include a date when they will be returning to the office. This reply should also include a name of the person(s) that will be covering for them in their absence and a contact number/email.

If an employee takes an extended leave which requires another person to cover their duties, or has a change of duties, the employee's supervisor may require the employee to return the device(s) for the purposes of business continuity.

Upon ~~termination~~cessation of employment with the Township, ~~change of duties or during extended leave for business continuity, at the request of a supervisor an individual who has been issued a~~any device(s) shall ~~be returned that device~~ to their supervisor.

**SCHEDULE "B"**

**THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ST JOSEPH CELL PHONE/MOBILE  
DEVICES POLICY**

**DEVICES CURRENTLY ASSIGNED**

<b>POSITION</b>	<b>CELL PHONE</b>	<b>LAPTOP w/ DOCKING STATION</b>	<b>TWP OWNED Y / N</b>
<b>STAFF</b>			
Clerk Administrator		X	Y
Treasurer		X	Y
Deputy Clerk/Treasurer		X	Y
Works Superintendent	X		Y
Equipment Operator	X		N
Equipment Operator	X		N
Fire Chief	X		Y
Healthy Living Coordinator	X		Y
<b>THE DR. TREFRY MEMORIAL CENTRE</b>			
Manager Seniors and Persons with a Disability Services			Y
Program Assistant			Y
Seniors Transportation Coordinator			Y
<b>COUNCIL</b>			
Mayor	X	Laptop only	Y

