



For release: June 26, 2008

NEWS RELEASE

Council Supports New Healthcare Facility

Picton ON – At a Special Council meeting on June 26, 2008 Council adopted a recommendation from its Healthcare Advisory Committee to agree in principle to leasing land adjacent to the H. J. McFarland Memorial Home for the Aged for the construction of a new 25,000 sq. ft. primary healthcare facility.

The new facility was requested by the Prince Edward Family Health Team (PEFHT) with capital costs supported through Ministry of Health and Long Term Care funding. The municipality's contribution would come through a 40 year lease at \$1.00 per year and potentially other services in kind, to be determined. The physicians of PEFHT would commit to long term leases in which they would pay rents (estimated to be on average 25% greater than current rents) for the space.

"This is an excellent opportunity for the municipality to show leadership and participation in the highly challenging decisions related to healthcare and healthcare funding for our community," said Barb Proctor, Chair of the County's Healthcare Advisory Committee. "Our local physicians, our Family Health Team, our Healthcare Advisory Committee and our Council, all came together to take advantage of a unique provincial funding opportunity which will have significant benefits to the residents of Prince Edward County."

"This decision is an important step towards securing excellent health care now and into the future by paving the way to attract more health professionals, additional special services, and clinical service expansion to the County," said Mayor Leo P. Finnegan. "I believe the McFarland Home site is an excellent and strategic choice for a new healthcare facility and I commend the efforts of the Healthcare Advisory Committee and the Family Health Team in putting this proposal together."

PEFHT presented Council with numerous accomplishments – more health professionals, increased patient enrolment, increased health programs and specialist services and outreach to military families.

It sited its most daunting challenge to achieving its full potential was for appropriate space where physicians and allied health professionals can work together in a true team environment.

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For more information contact Mayor Leo P. Finnegan at 613-476-2148.

The submission to Council from the Prince Edward Family Health Team, and a copy of the resolution passed by Council is included in the Background.

BACKGROUNDER

Council Supports New Healthcare Facility

At its meeting of April 28, 2008 Council received a deputation from the Prince Edward Family Health Team regarding a provincial capital funding opportunity to address the need for a new, integrated, healthcare facility.

Council referred the request to its Healthcare Advisory Committee for a recommendation. The Committee, with input from a sub-committee, looked at various locations and options and finally selected the McFarland Home site as its preferred option.

The Committee recommended the following motion, which Council adopted on June 26, 2008:

THAT the County of Prince Edward agree in principal, subject to legal review and advice, to enter into a lease agreement with the recently incorporated not-for-profit corporation, Prince Edward Primary Healthcare Inc. to construct a healthcare centre on up to 3 acres of municipally owned land zoned for institutional use and adjacent to the H.J. McFarland Memorial Home for the Aged, with the final size detail to be determined in conjunction with local requirements for parking, access and other ancillary uses;

THAT municipal staff be requested to estimate the costs associated with development charges, other planning department fees or charges, water and sewerage connection fees to the service line connection only, and any other site development charges that would normally apply to such a project for the purpose of presenting an estimate of the total municipal cost figure to Council for consideration of additional contributions in kind to the proposed project, and that such report also include the groups of ratepayers or customers that would be affected by such a contribution and information on what impact these items would have;

THAT the proposed lease of lands be for a term of 40 years at the annual lease rate of \$1.00 per year with renewal terms upon mutual consent of the parties; and

THAT the municipality appoint two community representatives to the Board of Directors of the Prince Edward Primary Healthcare Inc. (PEPHI) which will oversee all aspects of the building operations and management of the healthcare centre.

The PEFHT presentation to Council on June 26, 2008 is attached as a separate document.