



Katherine Fife  
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Township of Puslinch  
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Puslinch, ON N0B 2J0  
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November 28, 2023

RE 6.12 Town of East Hawkesbury Fixing the Long-Term Care Amendment Act (Till Death Do Us Part)

Please be advised that Township of Puslinch Council, at its meeting held on November 8, 2023 considered the aforementioned topic and subsequent to discussion, the following was resolved:

**Resolution No. 2023-360:**

Moved by Councillor Bailey and  
Seconded by Councillor Hurst

That the Consent Agenda items 6.12, and 6.13 listed for NOVEMBER 8, 2023 Council meeting be received; and

Whereas Council supports the resolutions from the Township of East Hawkesbury regarding Bill 21, Fixing the Long-Term Care Amendment Act (Till Death Do Us Part); and

That Council direct staff to send a support resolution accordingly.

**CARRIED**

As per the above resolution, please accept a copy of this correspondence for your information and consideration.



Sincerely,

Justine Brotherston,  
Municipal Clerk

Cc: Catherine Fife, Waterloo MPP  
All Ontario Municipalities

**Township of East Hawkesbury  
Regular Meeting**



**Agenda Number:** 16.  
**Resolution #** 2023-50  
**Title:** Correspondence  
**Date:** October 10, 2023

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**Moved by:** Monique Desjardins  
**Seconded by:** Stéphanie Sabourin

Be it resolved that Council support Bill 21 amends the Residents' Bill of Rights set out in section 3 of Fixing Long-Term Care Act, 2021 by adding the right of residents not to be separated from their spouse upon admission but to have accommodation made available for both spouses so they may continue to live together.

[Redacted signature]

**Carried**

[Redacted signature]

Hemi Villeneuve, Clerk,

**Canton de Hawkesbury Est  
Réunion Extraordinaire**




**No. du point à l'ordre du jour:** 16.  
**Résolution #** 2023-50  
**Titre:** Correspondance  
**Date:** le 10 octobre 2023

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**Proposé par:** Monique Desjardins  
**Appuyé par:** Stéphanie Sabourin

Qu'il soit résolu que le Conseil soutien le projet de loi 21 qui modifie la Charte des droits des résidents énoncée à l'article 3 de la loi de 2021 sur les soins de longue durée en ajoutant le droit des résidents de ne pas être séparés de leur conjoint au moment de leur admission, mais de disposer d'un logement pour les deux conjoints afin qu'ils puissent continuer à vivre ensemble.

**Adoptée**

  
Hemi Villeneuve, Gréffière,



MUNICIPALITY OF  
**North Perth**

[www.northperth.ca](http://www.northperth.ca)

A Community of Character

330 Wallace Ave. N., Listowel, ON N4W 1L3

Phone: 519-291-2950

Toll Free: 888-714-1993

October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Minister of Long-Term Care  
438 University Avenue, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Toronto, ON M5G 2K8

To Whom It May Concern,

Please be advised that the Council of the Municipality of North Perth passed the following resolution at their regular meeting held on October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023 regarding a request for support for Bill 21, Fixing Long-Term Care Amendment Act (Till Death Do Us Part), 2022 from Catherine Fife, Waterloo MPP.

**Moved By:** Lee Anne Andriessen    **Seconded By:** Sarah Blazek

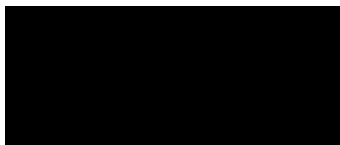
THAT: The Council of the Municipality of North Perth supports Consent Agenda Item 7.11 *Catherine Fife, Waterloo MPP – Request for Support for Bill 21, Fixing Long-Term Care Amendment Act (Till Death Do Us Part), 2022.*

AND THAT: Staff be directed to forward the resolution to other provincial entities and other Council counterparts across Ontario.

**CARRIED**

If you have any questions regarding the above resolution, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Regards,



Sarah Carter  
Acting Clerk/Legislative Services Supervisor  
Municipality of North Perth  
330 Wallace Ave. N., Listowel ON N4W 1L3  
519-292-2062  
[scarter@northperth.ca](mailto:scarter@northperth.ca)

Cc: Catherine Fife, Waterloo MPP  
Perth Wellington MPP, Matthew Rae  
All Ontario Municipalities



# Catherine Fife

MPP Waterloo

Todd Kasenberg  
Mayor of Municipality of North Perth

**RE: Requesting your support for Bill 21, Fixing Long-Term Care Amendment Act (Till Death Do Us Part), 2022**

September 25, 2023

Dear Mayor Kasenberg,

I am writing to you today to share an update on Bill 21, Fixing Long-Term Care Amendment Act (Till Death Do Us Part), 2022, and to request your support for this important legislation.

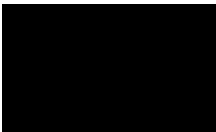
Bill 21 amends the Residents' Bill of Rights set out in section 3 of Fixing Long-Term Care Act, 2021 by adding the right of residents not to be separated from their spouse upon admission but to have accommodation made available for both spouses so they may continue to live together.

The Act was inspired by Cambridge resident Jim McLeod, who will have been separated from his wife of 65 years Joan, on September 17, 2023. Nearly 6 years later, Jim continues to champion spousal reunification. He often says that he will talk to anyone and has two giant binders full of his advocacy work on the Bill. Last week, he told me that his heart is breaking because of his separation from Joan. He has brought other seniors who are separated from their spouses into the advocacy – you cannot sit with these folks for any amount of time and not care deeply about this legislation.

I know that you value the many contributions that older adults have made to Waterloo Region, and care deeply that they can live their final years with dignity and love. **I am hoping you will consider bringing a motion forward to your Council, in support of the Till Death Do Us Part Act.** Your support will help us to keep attention on this important legislation, so that it can finally be called to the Standing Committee on Social Policy – one step closer to Royal Assent.

I would be happy to discuss the Bill with you further, via phone call or an in-person meeting at your convenience. Thanks in advance for considering my request.

Sincerely,



Catherine Fife, Waterloo MPP  
Finance & Treasury Board Critic

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## BACKGROUND:

On November 15, 2022, the Till Death Do Us Part Act, passed second reading in the Ontario legislature after being [introduced for the third time in September 2022](#). The bill was then referred to the Ontario Legislature's Social Policy Committee. You can view highlights of the second reading debate here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mYRlgQgDe2k>

I have been pushing for the Standing Committee on Social Policy to schedule a time to begin the work of reviewing Bill 21 since November 2022. **Today marks 286 days since the Act passed second reading at the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.** Unfortunately, the Bill has yet to be called to committee.

Bill 21, which was formerly Bill 153 and 95, respectively, had passed second reading and was sent to the Justice Committee in December 2019, but was wiped off the order paper when Premier Ford prorogued the house in 2021. It was reintroduced early 2022 but did not have time to progress before the election.

Since I first introduced this Bill in 2019, the number of people who've reached out to my offices with heartbreaking stories of couples entering long-term care who are torn apart has skyrocketed. Simply put, Ontario seniors deserve dignity in care and should have the right to live with their partner as they age. Of note, Nova Scotia passed similar legislation, titled the [Life Partners in Long-Term Care Act](#) in 2021.

Following many meetings with stakeholders, it's clear that "care campuses" which offer different levels of care (independent, assisted living and long-term care) are the progressive model for investing in quality care for Ontario's aging population. Care campuses are an essential element to keeping couples together as they often age at different rates. This level of choice has been brought to my attention as especially important to rural and northern municipal leaders across Ontario. The care campus model for seniors housing that builds different levels of care has unique financial savings that will be critical as we grapple with a rapidly aging province.

We need the Bill to be called to the Standing Committee on Social Policy as soon as possible. We know that couples who are separated across Ontario cannot wait any longer for this legislative change to be made.

Here are the links to recent media coverage of the Till Death Do Us Part Act, which provide more specific insights into the lived experiences of older adults who are separated from their spouses:

- [CTV News Kitchener: Ontario seniors separated in long-term care pushing for the right to remain together](#)
- [CityNews Kitchener: Waterloo MPP appeals for seniors bill to be brought forward](#)
- [Waterloo Region Record: Cambridge senior calls for end to separating couples in long-term care](#)

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