



DISTRICT OF PARRY SOUND

56 ONTARIO STREET
PO BOX 533
BURK'S FALLS, ON
POA 1C0

(705) 382-3332

(705) 382-2954

Fax: (705) 382-2068

Email: rward@armourtownship.ca

Website: www.armourtownship.ca

Mayor's Report – Governance of Family Health Teams

To: Members of Council
From: Rod Ward, Mayor
Date: August 12, 2025

Subject: Support for Standardized Governance Models for Family Health Teams

Family Health Teams are a vital part of Ontario's healthcare system, particularly in rural and underserved communities like ours. These teams provide collaborative, team-based care that improves patient outcomes and relieves pressure on hospitals and emergency services.

Our municipality, like many others across the province, continues to invest local taxpayer dollars to support healthcare delivery — through physician recruitment efforts, infrastructure, and other community health initiatives. However, despite this investment and our community's reliance on these services, municipal and community voices are often underrepresented on the boards that govern Family Health Teams.

Currently, there is no mandatory governance framework for these boards, which has led to inconsistent representation and, in some cases, governance structures that do not reflect the communities they serve. This can lead to decisions being made without sufficient local input, oversight, or accountability.

The attached resolution calls on the Province of Ontario to implement a standardized and mandatory governance model for Family Health Teams, requiring that at least 50% of board members be community representatives. This would help ensure local interests are considered in decision-making, and strengthen transparency and trust in our healthcare system.

I recommend Council's support for this resolution and the forwarding of it to the appropriate provincial bodies and municipal partners.

Sincerely,

Rod Ward

Rod Ward
Mayor



CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ARMOUR

RESOLUTION

Date: August 12, 2025

Motion # 248

WHEREAS Ontario's Family Health Teams provide team-based healthcare which is critical to our communities;

AND WHEREAS healthcare in Ontario is publicly funded;

AND WHEREAS municipalities invest significant additional public/taxpayer money in support of Family Health Teams and other healthcare-related organizations, including supports for primary care recruitment, healthcare facilities, and additional community healthcare needs;

AND WHEREAS the governance models for Family Health Teams in Ontario do not follow mandatory standards;

AND WHEREAS governance models are designed to ensure appropriate representation, transparency, and guardrails with respect to potential conflicts of interest for the organizations they represent;

AND WHEREAS many boards of Family Health Teams are not balanced in terms of representation from the communities and municipalities that they cover;

AND WHEREAS the lack of a standard and balanced governance model means that the needs of the local communities are not necessarily fully represented;

AND WHEREAS the province is directing the Primary Care Action Team (PCAT), through Dr. Jane Philpott, to ensure connected and convenient healthcare across the province;

AND WHEREAS Family Health Teams are crucial in the delivery of the mandate of PCAT;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT The Council of the Township of Armour urges the Province of Ontario to implement a standard and mandatory governance model for the boards of Family Health Teams across the province, which ensures that community members make up 50% of the overall board membership to ensure appropriate representation for the communities which use and support healthcare in their local area;

AND THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario; the Honourable Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health; Dr. Jane Philpott, Chair of the Primary Care Action Team; the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO); the Association of Family Health Teams of Ontario (AFHTO); and all municipalities in Ontario.

Moved by: Blakelock, Rod ☐
Brandt, Jerry ☒
Haggart-Davis, Dorothy ☐
Ward, Rod ☐
Whitwell, Wendy ☐

Seconded by: Blakelock, Rod ☐
Brandt, Jerry ☐
Haggart-Davis, Dorothy ☒
Ward, Rod ☐
Whitwell, Wendy ☐

Carried / Defeated

R

Declaration of Pecuniary Interest by:

Recorded vote requested by:

Recorded Vote:

Blakelock, Rod

Brandt, Jerry

Haggart-Davis, Dorothy

Ward, Rod

Whitwell, Wendy

For

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Opposed

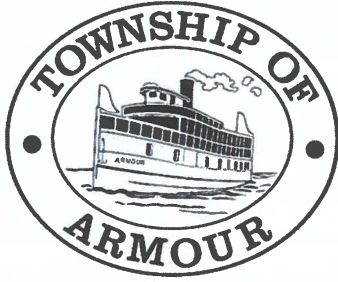
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