



The Corporation of the Municipality of Wawa

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

RESOLUTION

Tuesday, June 16, 2026

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| Resolution # RC26131 | Meeting Order: 5 |
| Moved by: <i>S. W. Opata</i> | Seconded by: <i>Cathy Cannon</i> |

WHEREAS growing pressures across Ontario's healthcare system are increasing patient volumes in emergency rooms (ERs), requiring more complex care and contributing to longer patient wait times for residents across the Province of Ontario; and

WHEREAS Health Quality Ontario data from October 2025 reports that patients requiring admission to hospital waited an average of 19 to 20 hours, while high-urgency patients waited close to five hours on average to be assessed by a physician; and

WHEREAS the Auditor General of Ontario reported in December 2023 that significant hospital staffing shortages were reducing access to timely emergency care; and

WHEREAS the Financial Accountability Office of Ontario reported in March 2023 that emergency room wait times were increasing significantly, with the longest wait times recorded in more than fifteen years, and that provincial funding was projected to be \$21.3 billion short of maintaining current health programs through 2028; and

WHEREAS the Ontario Hospital Association has reported that Ontario has had the lowest per capita hospital expenditure in Canada since 2018 and that approximately 4,200 Alternate Level of Care (ALC) patients remain in acute care beds, contributing to emergency room overcrowding and delays; and

WHEREAS emergency room overcrowding and prolonged wait times have been linked to adverse patient outcomes and place additional strain on Ontario's healthcare system, including municipal paramedic services experiencing excessive ambulance offload delays; and

WHEREAS the Provincial Government has taken important steps to improve healthcare in Ontario; however, additional funding, staffing resources, and capacity enhancements remain critical to ensuring timely access to emergency medical care; and



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WHEREAS concerns regarding emergency room staffing shortages, temporary closures, and failure to consistently meet national standards such as the Canadian Triage and Acuity Scale (CTAS) continue to be raised by healthcare professionals, municipalities, and residents across Ontario; and

WHEREAS the tragic death of sixteen-year-old Finlay van der Werken on February 9, 2024, following an extended wait in an emergency department, has highlighted the urgent need for enhanced protections and standards for pediatric emergency care;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Municipality of Wawa supports the resolution of the Western Ontario Wardens' Caucus and calls upon the Ontario Ministry of Health to take immediate action to reduce emergency room wait times through enhanced triage protocols, increased hospital funding, and additional healthcare staffing resources to strengthen emergency readiness across Ontario; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Municipality of Wawa supports the introduction of "Finlay's Law" to ensure that no child in Ontario is left without timely emergency medical care, including measures to:

1. Establish maximum emergency room wait time standards for patients under the age of 18;
2. Mandate safe pediatric nurse-to-patient and physician-to-patient staffing ratios in emergency settings;
3. Establish independent oversight to audit hospital performance, investigate pediatric emergency room deaths, and enforce compliance with provincial standards;
4. Require timely and independent inquiries by the Chief Coroner of Ontario into pediatric deaths occurring in emergency room waiting areas; and
5. Provide funding for enhanced pediatric emergency readiness, including staffing, training, equipment, and infrastructure improvements;



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AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Municipality of Wawa calls upon the Federal Minister of Health to utilize the Canada Health Transfer framework to ensure compliance with the principles of the Canada Health Act by monitoring adherence to national emergency care standards, including the Canadian Triage and Acuity Scale (CTAS), and supporting the establishment and implementation of national sepsis care standards; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT copies of this resolution be forwarded to The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, The Honourable Sylvia Jones, Ontario Minister of Health, The Honourable Marjorie Michel, Federal Minister of Health, The Ontario Medical Association (OMA), The Ontario Hospital Association (OHA), The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), The Western Ontario Wardens' Caucus (WOWC); and the Algoma District Municipal Association (ADMA).

| RESOLUTION RESULT | | RECORDED VOTE | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|-----|----|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | CARRIED | MAYOR AND COUNCIL | YES | NO |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | DEFEATED | Mitch Hatfield | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | TABLED | Cathy Cannon | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | RECORDED VOTE (SEE RIGHT) | Melanie Pilon | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | PECUNIARY INTEREST DECLARED | Jim Hoffmann | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | WITHDRAWN | Joseph Opato | | |

Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and the general nature thereof.

Disclosed the pecuniary interest and general name thereof and abstained from the discussion, vote and influence.

Clerk: _____

| MAYOR - MELANIE PILON | CLERK - MAURY O'NEILL |
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