

From: Hon. Jim Karygiannis sent by Amira Chen <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 2:57 PM
To: info@thebluemountains <info@thebluemountains.ca>
Cc: Elias <[REDACTED]>; NCPS [REDACTED]
Subject: Opioid Crisis in our Communities and Municipalities - The Blue Mountains

Mayor Andrea Matrosovs
The Blue Mountains

Your Worship,

We are facing an opioid crisis in many of our communities and municipalities which requires our immediate action.

I am writing to you on behalf of the National Chronic Pain Society, an organization which is seeking to prevent OHIP and the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario from making dangerous changes to the coverage of pain management services – changes that will worsen the opioid crisis plaguing our communities.

Chronic pain affects 1 in 5 Ontarians and makes up nearly 40% of repeat visits to emergency rooms. It is also a frequent cause of social isolation and addiction issues, with many sufferers reporting depression and suicidal thoughts. Thousands of Ontarians rely on the services of pain management clinics to function in their daily lives, and these reductions would put their health and safety at risk, as more and more of them will turn to opioids to cope with the pain. This flies in the face of everything the Provincial government is doing to combat the ongoing opioid crisis in our communities.

Attached is a letter from Leeann Corbeil, Executive Director of NCPS, explaining the situation, and requesting your council's assistance in convincing the Ontario government to stop these changes from putting thousands of people at risk.

Please advise if there is any further information we can provide – together, we can help Ontarians receive the care they need.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Hon. Jim Karygiannis
GTA Strategies

[REDACTED]



GTA Strategies

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May 2023

Your Worship,

Whether you live in a large, cosmopolitan city or a small hamlet, you have been faced with the opioid crisis facing Canadians.

The National Chronic Pain Society is asking for your assistance to help patients suffering from chronic pain from becoming addicted to opioids.

Recently, the Ontario College of Physicians and Surgeons has made a decision that will lead more people who suffer from chronic pain to turn to opioids to alleviate their pain. The College is targeting community pain clinics by requiring the use of ultrasound technology in the administration of nerve block injections by licensed physicians. They are not mandating this requirement for physicians in any other capacity, such as epidurals in hospitals. This requirement will increase the time it takes to administer the nerve block and, therefore, reduce the number of patients a physician can see in a day.

Also, the Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP) is proposing to reduce coverage for several vital healthcare services, including a drastic reduction in the number and frequency of nerve block injections a patient can receive. These changes have been proposed without any consultation with pain management medical professionals or with their patients. This cut will force chronic pain clinics to shut down, putting a greater strain on family physicians and emergency rooms.

With the reduction in the number of nerve blocks being administered, many patients, looking for pain relief, will turn to overcrowded emergency rooms, opioid prescriptions from doctors or opioid street drugs.

We are asking that your Council pass a motion requesting that the Government of Ontario maintain OHIP coverage for chronic pain treatments and continue to provide much-needed care for the people of Ontario.

Further if you can please communicate that motion to the Premier, Minister of Health, Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions and your local MPP(s),

Thank you for your kind consideration of this matter. If you have any question, please do not hesitate to contact me at 1-800-252-1837, or by email at info@nationalchronicpainsociety.org. You may also contact me through Elias Diamantopoulos of GTA Strategies at (416) 499-4588 ext. 6, or at elias@gtastrategies.com.

Sincerely,

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of the sender.

Leeann Corbeil, Executive Director
National Chronic Pain Society