

From: Rita-Marie Hadley

Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 11:01 PM

To: Evelyn Eichenbaum

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Request to appear at Haldimand Council's Feb. 28th meeting/
presentation summary

Evelyn: Thank-you for the opportunity to address Council at its Feb. 28th meeting in Cayuga.

I appreciate the opportunity to present to Council on behalf of Lansdowne Children's Centre regarding how – as this area's Children's Treatment Centre – we meet the needs of Haldimand County infants, children and youth living with physical, communications or developmental disabilities

In the 10 minutes available we will outline the rehabilitation services provided at our service sites in Caledonia and Dunnville, in Haldimand schools and client homes. As well, given specialized services Haldimand families need to access at our largest service site in Brantford, we will conclude with a request for support redeveloping that site.

Such support is pivotal to leveraging provincial government approval to proceed with major capital redevelopment.

Many thanks.

Rita-Marie

Respecting work-life mix, should our work hours differ, I do not expect your reply from outside your work hours.

Lansdowne Children's Centre ...Realizing optimal potential for children and youth.

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LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT: As an expression of gratitude and appreciation to those whose territory we reside on, and to honour the Indigenous people who have lived here from time immemorial, we acknowledge that Lansdowne is on the traditional territory of the Neutral, Anishnawbe and Haudenosaunee peoples, located on the Haldimand Tract, six miles either side of the Grand River along its length as given to the Six Nations of the Grand River and Mississaugas of the Credit. We seek to understand our place within history and build mindfulness of our present solidarity with Indigenous partners through relationships in supporting families so their children reach their potential. Please consider the environment before printing this email

Haldimand County Council Backgrounder on Lansdowne Children's Centre Redevelopment

Thank you for considering a resolution confirming your past support for provincial approval of the redevelopment of [Lansdowne Children's Centre](#) [Lansdowne]. This is critical to resolving crowding delaying services for children and youth with disabilities. Following is an overview:

SERVICES in PARTNERSHIP:

- Lansdowne is one of 21 *Children's Treatment Centres* serving Ontarians with disabilities from birth until they leave school. The next closest Centre for Haldimand is in Hamilton or Niagara.
- Since 1997, *Lansdowne* has provided Haldimand families pediatric rehabilitation services, complimenting *HN REACH's* child development and childcare and maternal/child services Council has provided via the area health and social services partnership with Norfolk.
- *REACH* is a longstanding collaborator and co-location partner as are other member agencies of the *HN Child & Youth Planning Network* including public health and childcare providers.

SPACE LIMITS SERVICES:

- *Lansdowne* serves families with dedicated staff teams in Caledonia, Dunnville and Simcoe, in addition to Brantford sites. This Haldimand presence reflects ongoing adjustment of our local footprint as demand changes with greater awareness generated by referral agents, like family physicians, whom we targeted in 2022 to inform of these services.
- *Lansdowne* cannot expand a landlocked 39 Mt. Pleasant St., Brantford facility. Its 1961 cinderblock school, retrofitted in 1998, was optimized to accommodate three times the annual service volume and twice the staff onsite. It is at 300% of capacity with 2,300 kids waiting. On 2.4 acres, the site is landlocked and we are unable to redevelop onsite.
- Although *Lansdowne* provides Pediatrics, Physiotherapy, Occupational, Speech Therapy and Social Work in Haldimand, some kids must access specialised services/equipment in Brant.
- The Brant building does not meet accessibility standards, its crowding creates safety risks and it is increasingly costly to maintain in good working condition.
- Area kids deserve equitable access to the standard of care in other state-of-the-art *Children's Treatment Centres*, which we expect as the regional infrastructure for our communities.

TIMING:

- *Lansdowne's* updated redevelopment business case to the *Ministry of Children, Community & Social Services* [MCCSS] reflects catchment population growth exceeding Ontario's and COVID economic impacts
- Unaddressed, over 13,500 children will join the waitlist by 2041 if the crowding persists
- The City of Brantford granted *Lansdowne* a *Memorandum of Understanding* [MOU] for a building site in 2021, reflecting community backing for continued expansion to meet needs.
- As *Lansdowne* awaits Stage 1 approval of its Business Case, delays force more children to wait for needed services in increasingly crowded premises. Challenges children face compound as they age without timely access to care.

SUPPORT SOUGHT:

- We respectfully request Haldimand County Council pass a resolution confirming past support for approval of Lansdowne's Stage 1 for redevelopment.