

Norfolk County Council Backgrounder on Lansdowne Children's Centre Redevelopment

Thank you for considering a resolution to support [Lansdowne Children's Centre](#) [Lansdowne] receiving provincial approval for its next redevelopment stage. This is critical to resolving the 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* collectively serving Ontarians with disabilities from birth until they leave school. Our presentation will detail the growth of access for Norfolk kids, as we assess the suitability of our local space as referrals increase.
- Since 1997, Lansdowne's provided Norfolk families pediatric rehab services, complimenting *HN REACH's* early child development supports, and the licensed childcare, maternal/child health as Council oversees within its health and social services responsibilities.
- *REACH* is a longstanding collaborator and co-location partner as are other fellow member agencies of the HN Child & Youth Planning Network including public health and childcare.

SPACE:

- In addition to the original Brantford site, Lansdowne serves families with dedicated staff teams at 2 Simcoe sites and in Caledonia and Dunnville, enhancing service closer to home.
- It is not feasible for Lansdowne to build up nor out on our landlocked building on 2.4 acres at 39 Mt. Pleasant St. Brantford. At this 1960 cinderblock school, retrofitted in 1998, we've tripled annual service and doubled staff onsite by optimizing it to serve >300% of capacity.
- Although Lansdowne provides Developmental Pediatrics, Physiotherapy, Occupational and Speech Therapy in Norfolk, Norfolk kids must access some specialised services in Brantford.
- Lansdowne seeks equity for our area kids who deserve the standard of care available in other state-of-the-art facilities *Children's Treatment Centres*, which we expect as the regional infrastructure for our communities, in line with necessary health and education care.

TIMING:

- After many years of effort, *Ministry of Children, Community & Social Services [MCCSS]* funded Lansdowne to update a facility design accommodating population and service growth. This redevelopment compliments the agency priority to expanding our H-N presence, which we undertook in consultation with and support from H-N Health & Social Services leadership.
- At a Dec. 2019 open house, we consulted attendees, including then HNHSS G.M., on options the Btfd. Planning Dept. recommended in the remediated *Mohawk Lake District [MLD]* as the building site in the updated *Major Capital Business Case* submitted to MCCSS in spring 2020.
- A spring 2021 Brantford City Council motion granted Lansdowne a *Memorandum of Understanding [MOU]* for 6.5 acres at 66 Mohawk St. to build a new Centre. Respecting the emotional impact on Indigenous community members of the adjacent residential school investigation, Lansdowne remains sensitive in communicating this development and continues conversations with elected and traditional Indigenous leaders.
- As MCCSS continues to review Lansdowne's Business Case, ongoing delays force more children to wait for needed services in our increasingly crowded premises.

OTHER SUPPORTS:

- As elected councils from the City of Brantford and the counties of Haldimand and Brant have passed resolutions/issued letters of support for Lansdowne, we respectfully request Norfolk County Council consider adopting the following proposed resolution:

Whereas Lansdowne Children's Centre [Lansdowne] provides local specialized services to >3,000 children and youth living with physical, communications, and/or developmental disabilities; and

Whereas growth of population and corresponding pediatric services has caused severe crowding of Lansdowne's main site, causing delays for 2,000 children and youth, including Norfolk County residents, who are waiting for services; and

Whereas the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services (MCCSS) has acknowledged these pressures by the 2019 approval of functional planning support to allow Lansdowne to submit an updated Major Capital Business Case in 2020; and

Whereas Lansdowne's principal building cannot meet the future needs of the City of Brantford, the counties of Norfolk, Haldimand and Brant, the Six Nations of the Grand River and the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nations; and,

Whereas Lansdowne has undertaken lengthy and considerable work pursuing alternative premises and added service sites to prevent families from facing delays accessing critical service but, the longer it must wait for a commitment of major capital approval, the longer children wait; and

Whereas there is strong community support for Lansdowne operating in appropriate sized premises;

Therefore, be it resolved that Council request that the Government of Ontario immediately grant Stage 1 Planning approval for Lansdowne to progress through plans for new premises, inclusive of the necessary funding to enable it to move forward with this critical infrastructure.