



Town of
SOUTH BRUCE PENINSULA

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May 18, 2021

Alex Ruff, MSC, CD
Member of Parliament (MP)
Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound
1101 2nd Avenue East, Suite 208
Owen Sound ON N4K 2J1
Alex.ruff@parl.gc.ca

Dear MP Ruff:

Re: Support for a 988 Helpline

At their meeting held on May 18, 2021, Council considered your request for support for a Canada wide 988 Suicide and Crisis Hotline.

Council feels that this initiative is extremely important and wish to encourage the government to continue to work toward the implementation of this much needed service.

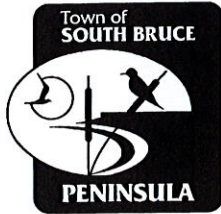
Attached, please find a copy of the excerpt from the Council minutes which includes Council's resolution of support. We ask that you circulate our correspondence and attachment as you see fit and as would assist in making this important service a reality.

Yours very truly,

Angie Cathrae
Director of Legislative Services/Clerk
Town of South Bruce Peninsula
519-534-1400 ext 122
angie.cathrae@southbrucepeninsula.com

Enclosure

cc: MPP Bill Walker; Federal Minister of Health, Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC), municipalities in Grey and Bruce



Excerpt from Council Meeting Minutes – May 18, 2021

12. LS72-2021 MP Alex Ruff, Request for Support for 988 Helpline

Discussion included the increase in the suicide rate and the importance of supporting this initiative.

R-288-2021

It was **Moved** by T. Bell, **Seconded** by P. McKenzie and **Carried**

Whereas the Federal government has passed a motion to adopt 988, a National three-digit suicide and crisis hotline;

And whereas the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has increased the demand for suicide prevention services by 200 per cent;

And whereas existing suicide prevention hotlines require the user to remember a 10-digit number and go through directories or be placed on hold;

And whereas in 2022 the United States will have in place a national 988 crisis hotline;

And whereas the Town of South Bruce Peninsula recognizes that it is a significant and important initiative to ensure critical barriers are removed to those in a crisis and seeking help;

Now therefore be it resolved that the Town of South Bruce Peninsula endorses this 988 crisis line initiative;

And that staff are directed to send a letter indicating such support to the local MP, MPP, Federal Minister of Health, the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) and local area municipalities to indicate our support.