From: clerk@arran-elderslie.ca
To: Julie Reid
Subject: FW: 988 motion for municipalities
Date: May 7, 2021 7:44:33 AM

Christine Fraser-McDonald
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From: Ruff, Alex - M.P. <Alex.Ruff@parl.gc.ca>
Sent: May 6, 2021 2:52 PM
To: Undisclosed recipients:
Subject: 988 motion for municipalities

Good afternoon,

On December 11th, 2020, the House of Commons passed a motion introduced by Conservative MP Todd Doherty, through unanimous consent, to bring a national 3-digit suicide prevention hotline line to Canada.

That, given that the alarming rate of suicide in Canada constitutes a national health crisis, the House call on the government to take immediate action, in collaboration with our provinces, to establish a national suicide prevention hotline that consolidates all suicide crisis numbers into one easy to remember three-digit (988) hot- line that is accessible to all Canadians.

We're asking all municipalities across Canada to consider passing a motion similar, to the one below. In order to make 988 a reality, we must continue to put pressure on the government and the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC).

The past year has been a challenging year. Lives and livelihoods have been lost. We have begun to see the devastating impacts that COVID has had, through isolation, on the mental health of Canadians. The rates of suicide continue to rise. As elected officials and as leaders, and especially during this period of difficulty as a nation, Canadians are counting on all of us to

make a difference.

Please consider passing this motion as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Alex Ruff, MSC, CD
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Draft motion:

Support for 988 Crisis Line

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 2O22 the United States will have in place a national 988 crisis hotline;

AND WHEREAS _____ Town Council/Municipality/City 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 lT RESOLVED THAT _____Town Council/Municipality/City

endorses this 988 crisis line initiative;

and that Staff be directed to send a letter indicating such support to the local MP, MPP, Federal Minister of Health, the CRTC and local area municipalities to indicate our support.