



TOWNSHIP OF EDWARDSBURGH CARDINAL ACTION ITEM

Committee: Regular Council Meeting

Date: May 26, 2025

Department: CAO

Topic: Support Agreement – Prescott Family Medical Associates

Purpose: To review and comment on the draft agreement with Prescott Family Medical Associates (PFMA) and the Tri-councils of Prescott, Augusta and Edwardsburgh Cardinal.

Background: On December 9, 2024, council approved a resolution for a three-year commitment of \$7,333 per year to the Prescott Family Medical Associates to lower their overhead costs. It was also directed by council that staff work with the staff of Prescott and Augusta to draft an agreement.

Augusta led this project and retained Warren Leroy from Ault & Ault to draft the agreement that is attached to this report.

As this request is outside of the mandate of a lower-tier municipality, two clauses were inserted into the Agreement to protect the municipality and show transparency with use of public funds. Both clauses are highlighted in the attached agreement.

Clause 2.3 refers to a concern that multiple requests for support could come forward that were outside the original agreed amount. This protects the municipality from multiple requests for funding. This is especially important as this agreement will be in effect for the first year of a new council term.

Clause 4.1 refers to reasonable efforts for recruitment. As the request was to lower rental costs for the PFMA, the hiring of a new doctor is critical. The legal opinion was that if this clause was not included it could be considered bonusing, which would be in violation of Section 106 of the Ontario Municipal Act.

Originally, this agreement was to be brought to the next Tri-council meeting and then to individual council meetings for approval. However, on May 20, 2025, this was brought to the Town of Prescott council for discussion, so it is now before each council for review and comment individually prior to the next Tri-council meeting.

Notably, at the May 20, 2025, meeting for the Town of Prescott, there was discussion of removing clauses 2.3 and 4.1.

Policy Implications: The removal of clauses 2.3 and 4.1 could be considered as bonusing, which is in violation of Section 106 of the Ontario Municipal Act.

Strategic Plan Implications: N/A

Financial Considerations: Amount has been budgeted for 2025 and will affect the 2026 and 2027 budget.

Recommendation: THAT Municipal Council approves the Support Agreement for Prescott Family Medical Associates as presented and authorizes the Mayor and CAO to execute the Agreement.



CAO