



May 20, 2021

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau  
Prime Minister of Canada  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

[justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca](mailto:justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca)

Dear Prime Minister:

**Re: Request for Study on Merits of Declaring a National Emergency on Mental Health**

Please be advised Thorold City Council, at its May 18, 2021 meeting, adopted the following motion:

Whereas a number of provinces have declared emergencies on various circumstances over time, and Canada is allowed to declare national emergencies under the Emergencies Act, 1985; and

Whereas approximately 1 in 5 Canadians will experience a mental health problem or illness and whereas the economic burden of mental illness in Canada is estimated at 51 billion dollars per year (including healthcare costs, lost productivity, and reductions in health-related quality of life) (CAMH); and

Whereas not addressing mental health issues/illness is costly in the long-term to Canada's economy; and

Whereas a recent Morneau Shephard poll showed that 50% of Canadians reported that their mental health has worsened with the COVID-19 pandemic, with mental health related hospitalizations, crisis-line use, and addiction rates skyrocketing; and

Whereas locally, 11/12 of Niagara's-area municipalities already supported the request for Niagara Regional Council to declare a state of emergency on mental health, homelessness, and addiction.

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Now there be it resolved that the Council of the Corporation of the City of Thorold call upon the House of Commons to Launch a federal study in the Standing Committee on Health (HESA) on the merits of declaring a national emergency on mental health; and

That the City of Thorold endorse Petition E-3351 calling upon the House of Commons to Launch a federal study in the Standing Committee on Health (HESA) on the merits of declaring a national emergency on mental health; and

That all municipalities within the Niagara Region, all Niagara-area MP's, the Prime Minister of Canada, the federal Minister of Health, Niagara Centre MPP, Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), and all members of the federal HESA (Standing committee on health) be copied on this motion.

**CARRIED**

Yours truly,



Joanne Hyde  
City Clerk

cc: M. Dilwaria, Chief Administrative Officer

Hon. P. Hajdu, Minister of Health, [Patty.Hajdu@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Patty.Hajdu@parl.gc.ca)  
R. McKinnon, Chair, Standing Committee on Health (HESA), [Ron.McKinnon@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Ron.McKinnon@parl.gc.ca)  
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Niagara Area Municipalities