

**From:** True Politics with Steven Soos  
**To:** Angie Desmarais: City Clerk  
**Subject:** Request for item to be added to Port Colborne Agenda  
**Date:** May 21, 2021 2:17:48 PM

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Hello Councillor Desmarais and Madame Clerk,

I would like to request the following to be added to the Port Colborne agenda:

<https://petitions.ourcommons.ca/en/Petition/Details?Petition=e-3351>

Whereas:

Several provinces have declared emergencies on various circumstances over time, and whereas Canada is allowed to declare national emergencies under the Emergencies Act, 1985

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

According to a recent Morneau Shephard poll, 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

We, the undersigned, Citizens of Canada, 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.

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

Be it Resolved That the City of Port Colborne 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.

That all Niagara-area MP's/MPP's, the Prime Minister of Canada, the federal Minister of Health, and all members of the federal HESA (Standing committee on health), Premier of Ontario, and the President of AMO be copied on this motion.

*Madame Clerk, as discussed on the phone, you would like to know how this motion differs from the motion passed by Port Colborne to request Niagara Region declare a state of emergency on mental health, homelessness, and addiction. For this motion, it is a federal study I am requesting on a national emergency through the federal emergencies act. It is also through the federal standing committee on health, and the request requires signatures from Canadians for the request. It also looks at the impacts on the Canadian economy, and focuses on the lost revenue. A federal study is different from the original request because we are trying to get national experts the health committee uses to look at the issue in the national spotlight. The original motion (request to the Region) was attempting to have Regional Council directly declare an emergency, allowed by provincial legislation. City of Thorold and Town of Pelham Councils have already supported this current motion unanimously, in addition to them supporting the original motion as well. Niagara Falls and St Catharines will also be considering the item next month.*

Kindest regards- SOOS

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**Steven Soos,**