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MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 25, 2023

Highlights from the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville Counties Council Meeting held on Thursday, October 19, 2023 and other announcements are listed below.

Council Adopts Model of Care for G. Tackaberry and Family Home: Counties Council adopted a Model of Care for the G. Tackaberry and Family Home, the new, 192-bed long-term care facility being constructed in Athens. The \$86 million project is the largest capital project in the history of the Counties and the Model of Care provides the philosophy behind operation of the new Home. Council, the Committee of the Whole, and the Maple View Lodge Committee of Management carefully considered multiple approaches and directed a customized Model of Care be developed to support resident-centered care. The approved Model of Care reflects the hours of direct care mandated by the Province while focusing on resident and family satisfaction. For more information, contact Director of Maple View Landings, Jen Powley, at 613-924-2696 ext. 6019 or by email at Jen.Powley@uclg.on.ca.

Council Supports Changes to the Municipal Act: Counties Council passed a resolution to express support of recommendations made by the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) calling for changes to legislation to address acts of violence and harassment committed by municipal elected officials across the Province.

The AMO recommendations are as follows:

1. Update municipal Codes of Conduct requirements to include workplace safety and harassment policies;
2. Create a flexible administrative penalty regime, adapted to the local economic and financial circumstances of municipalities across Ontario;

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3. Ensure that Integrity Commissioners have better, standardized training to improve consistency of decisions across the province;
4. Allow municipalities to apply to a member of the judiciary to remove a sitting member if recommended through the report of a municipal Integrity Commissioner in the most egregious cases, such as harassment or assault; and
5. Prohibit a member so removed from sitting for election in the term of removal and the subsequent term of office.

It is believed that these changes will improve public confidence and restore trust in local governments while ensuring elected officials who commit egregious acts of violence and harassment are held accountable. For more information, contact County Clerk/Manager of Legislative Services, Sheena Earl, at 613-342-3840 ext. 2454 or by email at Sheena.Earl@uclg.on.ca.

Council Extends William (Bill) Thake Memorial Bursary: William (Bill) Thake was a long-time volunteer, business owner and politician. He was first elected to the Village of Westport Council in 1961 and held the position of Mayor from 1969 until his death in 2013. Mr. Thake also served four terms as the Counties' Warden. Upon his passing, Counties Council established the William (Bill) Thake Memorial Bursary in his memory which provides a total of two \$1,000 bursaries annually to two graduating students – one student graduating from Rideau District High School and the other from St. John Catholic High School. The program was set to expire in 2023, however, Council approved extending the bursary for an additional ten years in honour of Mr. Thake and his contributions to the Village of Westport and the Counties as a whole. For more information, contact County Clerk/Manager of Legislative Services, Sheena Earl, at 613-342-3840 ext. 2454 or by email at Sheena.Earl@uclg.on.ca.

Upcoming meetings: On Monday, October 30th, there will be a special Committee of the Whole meeting at 9:00 a.m. to discuss repurposing the existing Maple View Lodge. A Special Committee of the Whole meeting will take place on Monday, November 6, 2023 at 9:30 a.m. at The Cove Inn in Westport, which will focus on strategic initiatives. The next Joint Services Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 7th. The next regular Committee of the Whole meeting will be on Wednesday, November 8th and

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the next Maple View Lodge Committee of Management meeting will be held on Thursday, November 9th. The next Counties Council meeting will be held on November 23rd.

All regular meetings start at 9:00 a.m. in the Council Chambers at 25 Central Avenue West, Brockville. If you require more information, please reach out to County Clerk/Manager of Legislative Services, Sheena Earl, at 613-342-3840, ext. 2454 or by email at Sheena.Earl@uclg.on.ca.

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