

## MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 27, 2023

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Highlights from the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville Counties Council Meeting held on Thursday, November 23, 2023, and other announcements are listed below.

**Council Recognizes the Career of Steve Pinkney, Paramedic Service:** Counties Council recognized the career of Steve Pinkney, a 22-year member of the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville's Paramedic Service. Mr. Pinkney retired in November, during his 40<sup>th</sup> year as a paramedic. Warden Nancy Peckford and Chief of the Paramedic Service, Jeff Carss, presented Mr. Pinkney with certificates of recognition from Premier Doug Ford, MP Michael Barrett, MPP Steve Clark, and the Paramedic Service of Leeds and Grenville. Council thanked Mr. Pinkney for being a dedicated and trusted member of the Paramedic Service team and the community.

For more information, contact Paramedic Service Chief, Jeff Carss, at 613-342-3840 ext. 2404 or by email at [Jeff.Carss@uclg.on.ca](mailto:Jeff.Carss@uclg.on.ca).



(Left to right) Warden Nancy Peckford, Steve Pinkney, Paramedic Service Chief Jeff Carss.

**Council Appoints New County Clerk/Manager of Legislative Services:** Counties Council appointed Christina Conklin as the new County Clerk/Manager of Legislative Services. Ms. Conklin was previously employed with Augusta Township and the Village of Merrickville-Wolford, taking on the role of Deputy Clerk/Legislative Coordinator with the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville in 2021. Of her recent appointment, Ms. Conklin said "I am honoured to have been appointed as the County Clerk and Manager

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of Legislative Services. I am excited to work closely with our progressive and forward-thinking Council as they continue to ensure the best decisions are made to support the interests of the residents and businesses of Leeds and Grenville." For more information, contact Christina Conklin, County Clerk/Manager of Legislative Services at 613-342-3840 ext. 2456 or by email at [Christina.Conklin@uclg.on.ca](mailto:Christina.Conklin@uclg.on.ca).

**Council Approves 2024-2028 Child Care and Early Years (CCEY) Service Plan:**

Counties Council approved the implementation of the Service Plan with ongoing initiatives to support licensed child care growth, the delivery of responsive and accessible EarlyON Child and Family Centres, and ongoing initiatives to support high-quality licensed child care growth. Council recognized the critical role this plan will play in supporting children, parents, and our community. The plan is reflective of needs identified by families, children, child care operators, and various community stakeholders. For more information, contact Manager of Children's Services, Shannon Brown, at 613-342-3840 ext. 2461 or by email at [Shannon.Brown@uclg.on.ca](mailto:Shannon.Brown@uclg.on.ca).

**Maple View Lodge Expansion Project Receives Additional Funding:** The Ministry of Long-Term Care approved the revised Final Estimate Cost for the Maple View Lodge Expansion Project. The total additional funding for the project, based on eligible project costs, is \$10,692,000. Warden Nancy Peckford voiced her sincere appreciation to Minister Calandra and MPP Steve Clark, and acknowledged the work of all staff who were involved in the application process and noted the leveraging of additional dollars comes as a significant relief. For more information, contact Treasurer, Pat Huffman, at 613-342-3840 ext. 2468 or by email at [Pat.Huffman@uclg.on.ca](mailto:Pat.Huffman@uclg.on.ca).

**Joint Services Committee Approves Homeownership Purchase Price Increase:** The Joint Services Committee of Leeds and Grenville approved the increase of the Maximum Home Purchase Price in the Homeownership Program from \$280,000.00 to \$470,000.00. The Homeownership Program provides down-payment assistance to people who are currently renting, of up to 5% to eligible first-time home buyers in the form of an interest-free, forgivable loan registered on title, for the purchase of a home. The home must be the sole and principal residence of the approved purchaser(s), and must be located within the geographic area of Leeds and Grenville. For more information, contact Manager of Social Housing, Chris Morrison, at 613-342-3840 ext. 2328 or by email at [Chris.Morrison@uclg.on.ca](mailto:Chris.Morrison@uclg.on.ca).

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**Committee of the Whole Requests Additional Information Regarding Andrewsville**

**Bridge:** Further conversations regarding the Andrewsville Bridge have been deferred for six months. The Committee of the Whole directed staff to provide an update regarding the Master Transportation Plan and an analysis regarding interim use of the Bridge by ATVs, snowmobiles, and pedestrians in April 2024. For more information, contact Director of Public Works, Rick Kester, at 613-342-3840 ext. 2412 or by email at [Rick.Kester@uclg.on.ca](mailto:Rick.Kester@uclg.on.ca).

**Upcoming meetings:** The next Joint Services Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 5<sup>th</sup>. The next Committee of the Whole meeting will take place on Wednesday, December 6<sup>th</sup>. The Maple View Lodge Committee of Management will meet on Thursday, December 7<sup>th</sup>. A Special Committee of the Whole meeting will take place on Thursday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m., with the final Counties Council meeting of 2023 to follow.

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 contact County Clerk/Manager of Legislative Services, Christina Conklin, at 613-342-3840, ext. 2456 or by email at [Christina.Conklin@uclg.on.ca](mailto:Christina.Conklin@uclg.on.ca).

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