

MEMO

To: Mayor Sidney and Council

From: Peter Emon

Date: August 25, 2026

Re: Motion to Act

Recommendation:

Consider and pass the following motion(s):

On behalf of the Community and Council the Mayor is directed to write a letter to Minister Parsa and Premier Ford explaining the community's frustration with the prolonged labor dispute, 15 weeks and counting between Community Living Renfrew County Living South and OPSEU Local 472. The intent is a request they use their influence and authority to facilitate an immediate end to this dispute. The letter will not criticize or offer comment on either side in the dispute.

Council of the Town of Renfrew will request our Comms staff to video record 10 or 15 messages from clients or family associated with CLRCS outlining the impact denial of services is having upon these vulnerable members of our community. The messages can not disparage CLRSC Board Members staff decisions or policy and can not offer comments about the Minister, the Premier, the Provincial Government policy decisions nor Ministry staff.

Additional Information

The intent of the Council actions is to simply and directly highlight the stalemate has gone on far too long. It will allow the opportunity to offer information to the Minister and the Premier about the damage this dispute is inflicting on the people who are supposed to be served. This is info they may not likely receive from other jurisdictions or parties.

As you are no doubt aware the dispute started in May 2026. The issues are well known as approximately 24 service deliverers, about 4000 staff, across Ontario became embroiled in the action. At present three service deliverers have settled located in: Hamilton, Trent Hills (Peterborough) and London. That leaves 21 service providers still in dispute, including in this area.

This is an unusual request in that usually the Town of Renfrew does not often express a public interest in labor disputes. I would suggest to you we are not expressing support for either side in this dispute. There are guard rails by virtue of the tightness built into both motions to not offer comment.

As you can appreciate this client group is prone to negative affects on their development or health when routines vary. An extended absence of workers and long term routine disruption is a major problem for them and their families. Many of the clients can have their routines varied to include some slight introduction of alternatives. But it needs to be introduced gradually or the change followed up with increased supports. Labor disputes prevent that.

Council does not possess any information about what triggered the dispute or what are the causes of dissatisfaction, the issues that led to the dispute. We should not waste resources trying to pick a side or propose a winning side.

In the Road to 2035 we have pledged:

The Town of Renfrew will support an accessible, supportive and age friendly community by advocating for community health and wellness through strategic partnerships.

I believe the proposed actions neatly align with the document and this statement.

Respectfully submitted

Peter