

MANAGEMENT REPORT

Date: June 24, 2024
To: Mayor and Council
From: Joan Thomson, Chief Administrative Officer
Report Number: COU24-066
Attachments: None

Title: Spruce Lodge Apportionment Agreement Renewal

Objective: To consider renewal of the Cost Apportionment Agreement with area municipalities for the payment of services received from Spruce Lodge.

Background: Commencing in 1896, the City of Stratford and County of Perth agreed to operate what is now known as Spruce Lodge Home for the Aged situated at 643 West Gore Street in the City of Stratford, Province of Ontario, ("Spruce Lodge"), which is a long-term care home pursuant to the provisions of the *Fixing Long-Term Care Act, 2021*, S.O. 2021, c. 39, Sched. 1 (the "Act").

In 1978, Stratford and Perth County agreed to the request from St. Marys to join in the operation of Spruce Lodge Home for the Aged and purchase an interest in the capital assets of Spruce Lodge Home for the Aged at that time.

Spruce Lodge is an approved long term care home now jointly operated by Perth County, Stratford and St. Marys that provides twenty-four hour nursing and personal care and consists of private and semi-private rooms and standard/basic beds.

Although funded by the partner municipalities, Spruce Lodge is operated by a Board of Management consisting of appointees from Stratford, Perth County and St. Marys, appointed in accordance with, and subject to, the provisions of the Act. The Board is responsible for fulfilling the services set out in the Act and regulations, including but not limited to, residents rights, care and services; care plans and plans of care; programs; nursing and personal support services; required programs; responsive behaviours; restorative care; recreational and social activities; nutrition care and hydration programs; and medical services.

The last iteration of the cost apportionment agreement between the parties was entered into in 2017, with costs being shared on a weighted assessment basis. The

current cost apportionment agreement is set to expire on December 31, 2024. Pursuant to the terms of the agreement, the parties have agreed to automatically renew the agreement for the 2025 calendar year while negotiations and Ministerial approval take place.

It is noted that no agreement may be entered into by Perth, Stratford, and St. Marys to establish a municipal joint home without the approval in writing of the Minister of Health and Long Term Care, or if the responsibility for the administration of the Act has been assigned to another Minister under the *Executive Council Act*, to the assigned Minister.

Subject to Ministerial approval, the Parties wish to enter into this renewal agreement.

Analysis: This report presents a revised agreement that includes minor changes and a new term through to December 31, 2028. The changes to the agreement are minor in nature, with the primary revisions being:

- Updated references to legislation to reflect amendments to long term care legislation in recent years;
- Revised the term of the agreement to January 1, 2026 through to December 31, 2028;
- Updated all relevant dates to reflect the new term of 2028;
- Removal of a clause agreeing that all shared services agreements (ie: land ambulance, Ontario Works, housing services, childcare and early years services, Spruce Lodge, Health Unit and Municipal Shared Services Committee) will be brought to Council as one package.
- Provision that if Ministerial approval is not granted by December 31, 2025, that the 2017 agreement will remain in effect.

Staff have reviewed the revisions to the agreement and recommend approval of the revisions as they are minor in nature. Please note that by entering into this agreement, the City is waiving its ability to issue a negotiation notice in 2025, while awaiting Ministerial approval.

Financial Implications:

Financial impact to current year operating budget:

There is no impact to the 2024 operating budget as a result of this renewal of the cost sharing arrangement.

Financial impact on future year operating budget:

The costs for funding the municipal portion of the Spruce Lodge annual budget will be shared proportionally among Stratford, Perth and St. Marys on a weighted assessment basis as provided for in the renewal agreement.

Alignment with Strategic Priorities:

Not applicable: This report relates to the City's requirement to fund local long term care services and the cost sharing arrangement with partner municipalities.

Alignment with One Planet Principles:**Health and Happiness**

Encouraging active, social, meaningful lives to promote good health and wellbeing.

Culture and Community

Nurturing local identity and heritage, empowering communities and promoting a culture of sustainable living.

Staff Recommendation: THAT the Spruce Lodge Cost Apportionment Agreement between The Corporation of the City of Stratford, The Corporation of the Town of St. Marys and The Corporation of the County of Perth effective January 1, 2026 to December 31, 2028 be approved;

AND THAT the Mayor and Clerk, or their respective delegates, be authorized to sign the agreement on behalf of The Corporation of the City of Stratford.

Prepared by: Joan Thomson, Chief Administrative Officer

Recommended by: Joan Thomson, Chief Administrative Officer