



# The Corporation of The Town of Amherstburg

April 6, 2021

Honourable Patty Hajdu  
Federal Minister of Health  
[hcmister.ministresc@canada.ca](mailto:hcmister.ministresc@canada.ca)

VIA EMAIL

## **Re: Support for National 3-Digit Suicide Prevention Hotline**

Dear Honourable Hajdu,

At its meeting held on March 22, 2021, Council for the Town of Amherstburg passed the following:

Resolution # 20210322-096

***That Administration BE DIRECTED to send the following resolution in support of the request for a National 3-digit suicide prevention hotline:***

***“WHEREAS the Federal government has passed a motion to adopt 988, a National three-digit suicide and crisis hotline;***

***AND WHEREAS the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has increased the demand for suicide prevention services by 200 per cent;***

***AND WHEREAS existing suicide prevention hotlines require the user to remember a 10-digit number and go through directories or be placed on hold;***

***AND WHEREAS in 2022 the United States will have in place a national 988 crisis hotline;***

***AND WHEREAS the Town of Amherstburg recognizes that it is a significant***

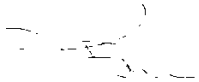
***and important initiative to ensure critical barriers are removed to those in a crisis and seeking help;***

***NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Town of Amherstburg endorses this 988 crisis line initiative;***

***and that Staff be directed to send a letter indicating such support to the local MP, MPP, Federal Minister of Health, the CRTC and local area municipalities to indicate our support.”***

Enclosed is a copy of the correspondence from Chris Lewis, MP, Essex, for convenience and reference purposes.

Regards,



Tammy Fowkes  
Deputy Clerk, Town of Amherstburg  
(519) 736-0012 ext. 2216  
[tfowkes@amherstburg.ca](mailto:tfowkes@amherstburg.ca)

cc:

Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC)  
[response@ccts-cprst.ca](mailto:response@ccts-cprst.ca)

Chris Lewis - MP, Essex  
[Chris.Lewis@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Chris.Lewis@parl.gc.ca)

Taras Natyshak – MPP, Essex  
[tnatyshak-co@ndp.on.ca](mailto:tnatyshak-co@ndp.on.ca)

Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)  
[amo@amo.on.ca](mailto:amo@amo.on.ca)

Local Ontario Municipalities



RECEIVED

MAR 09 2021

City of Amherstburg

February 12, 2021

AMHERSTBURG TOWN COUNCIL  
271 Sandwich St S  
Amherstburg, ON  
N9V 2A5

Dear Members of Amherstburg Town Council,

On December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020, the House of Commons passed a motion introduced by Conservative MP Todd Doherty, through unanimous consent, to bring a national 3-digit suicide prevention hotline line to Canada.

**That, given that the alarming rate of suicide in Canada constitutes a national health crisis, the House call on the government to take immediate action, in collaboration with our provinces, to establish a national suicide prevention hotline that consolidates all suicide crisis numbers into one easy to remember three-digit (988) hot-line that is accessible to all Canadians.**

We're asking all municipalities across Canada to consider passing a motion similar, to the one below. In order to make 988 a reality, we must continue to put pressure on the government and the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC).

Personally, you can support the cause by signing our electronic petition at:

<https://petitions.ourcommons.ca/en/Petition/Details?Petition=e-2772>

The past year has been a challenging year. Lives and livelihoods have been lost. We have begun to see the devastating impacts that COVID has had, through isolation, on the mental health of Canadians. The rates of suicide continue to rise. As elected officials and as leaders, and especially during this period of difficulty as a nation, Canadians are counting on all of us to make a difference.

Please consider passing this motion as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Chris Lewis, MP  
Essex

**Draft motion:**

Support for 988 Crisis Line

WHEREAS the Federal government has passed a motion to adopt 988, a National three-digit suicide and crisis hotline;

AND WHEREAS the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has increased the demand for suicide prevention services by 200 per cent;

AND WHEREAS existing suicide prevention hotlines require the user to remember a 10-digit number and go through directories or be placed on hold;

AND WHEREAS in 2022 the United States will have in place a national 988 crisis hotline;

AND WHEREAS \_\_\_\_\_ Town Council/Municipality/City recognizes that it is a significant and important initiative to ensure critical barriers are removed to those in a crisis and seeking help;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT \_\_\_\_\_ Town Council/Municipality/City endorses this 988 crisis line initiative;

and that Staff be directed to send a letter indicating such support to the local MP, MPP, Federal Minister of Health, the CRTC and local area municipalities to indicate our support.