



The Corporation of the Town of Tecumseh

Community Safety

To: Mayor and Members of Council

From: Wade Bondy, Director Community Safety & Fire Chief

Date to Council: March 19, 2024

Report Number: CS-2024-03

Subject: Ontario Naloxone Program – Community Partnership

Recommendations

It is recommended:

That report CS-2024-03 titled Ontario Naloxone Program – Community Partnership **be received**;

And that the Tecumseh Fire and Rescue Service participation in the Ontario Naloxone Program as a Community Partner **be approved**;

And further that a pilot program for deployment of Naloxone kits at various Town facilities **be approved** for the period up to March 30, 2026;

And furthermore that the Fire Chief **be authorized** to sign a service agreement and other supporting documents with the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit, required for participation in the Ontario Naloxone Program as a Community Partner.

Background

Naloxone is an opioid receptor antagonist that helps to reverse the effects of opioids and more importantly opioid overdoses. An overdose of opioids can depress the respiratory system of the user and cause death. Early recognition and treatment of an opioid overdose can help to combat the effects and allow for better outcomes for the patient. Naloxone is a very safe and effective medication and is available at no cost to

the general public in Ontario through participating pharmacies and health units through the Ontario Naloxone Program (ONP).

Since its inception, the ONP has helped reduce deaths from opioid overdose by increasing naloxone availability in communities. The purpose of this report is to request Council's consideration of the application for Tecumseh Fire and Rescue Service to become a Community Partner under the ONP; and to further increase availability of naloxone through its deployment at Town facilities.

Comments

The Windsor-Essex County Health Unit approached Town administration with a proposal that we could become an ONP Community Partner to deploy Naloxone kits on fire apparatus. During those discussions, the benefits of placing Naloxone kits at Town facilities was also discussed as a potential separate program.

In Tecumseh, during the period from 2020 to 2023, there were 20 calls for service for suspected opioid overdose. Naloxone was administered 11 times at those calls by Essex-Windsor EMS crews.

ONP Community Partner – Fire and Rescue Service

In 2017, the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care expanded the ONP to include the option for police and fire services in Ontario to carry and administer Naloxone, subject to entering into an agreement with their local health unit.

The Director of the Southwest Ontario Regional Base Hospital Program recently revised its training curriculum for fire services in Essex County to include overdose recognition and treatment, which includes Naloxone administration. This training will continue to be part of the annual medical certification for our firefighters moving forward.

It is proposed under the ONP that Naloxone kits be placed on all fire apparatus, including command and fire prevention vehicles to provide the most availability in the event of an emergency.

Naloxone at Town Facilities

It is proposed that a pilot program be undertaken, wherein a Naloxone kit would be placed at each Town facility where a public access defibrillator (PAD) exists. These kits would be placed within the PAD cabinet, which activates an alarm when the cabinet door is opened. This alarm would notify first aid trained staff and/or members of the public when someone has accessed the kit and that there is potentially an emergency at that location.

A sign would be mounted adjacent to the PAD cabinets to notify the public that Naloxone is available at that location and these kits would be checked monthly during health and safety inspections of the facility.

Community Safety would administer this trial program and would report back to Council on its effectiveness upon conclusion of the trial, recommended to be in March of 2026. That date has been selected for the trial period as it would coincide with the expiry date of the Naloxone kits if purchased in March of 2024.

In 2023, as part of the First Aid and CPR training provided to Town staff through People & Culture, training for overdose recognition and treatment including Naloxone administration, was added to the training curriculum. This will continue to be part of the training provided going forward.

It should be noted that people who are not healthcare professionals that administer Naloxone to an unconscious person are generally protected under the Good Samaritan Act, 2001.

Consultations

Chief Administrative Officer and People & Culture
Community & Recreation Services
Financial Services
Joint Health & Safety Committee
Windsor Essex County Health Unit
Essex-Windsor EMS

Financial Implications

With respect to deployment of Naloxone on fire apparatus, there would be no additional costs incurred for this program. Training is currently provided as part of the annual medical training and Naloxone kits are provided at no cost under the ONP. It should also be noted that under the existing tiered medical response agreement with Essex-Windsor EMS, Tecumseh Fire and Rescue Service currently attends calls when a patient is or is suspected to be without vital signs.

With respect to deployment of Naloxone at Town facilities, while no additional costs are associated with training for staff, there would be costs for the Naloxone kits and for the required signage. The kits would be the majority of the associated costs and would be purchased through the manufacturer at a cost of \$92 per kit (excluding HST), with replacement required every two years. The total anticipated costs for the pilot program would be approximately \$1,200. Funding of \$1,000 is included in the small equipment allocation for Emergency Measures; with the balance charged to the 2024 Community Safety operating budget for material supplies.

Link to Strategic Priorities

Applicable	2023-2026 Strategic Priorities
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sustainable Growth: Achieve prosperity and a livable community through sustainable growth.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Community Health and Inclusion: Integrate community health and inclusion into our places and spaces and everything we do.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Service Experience: Enhance the experience of Team Tecumseh and our citizens through responsive and respectful service.

Communications

Not applicable ☒

Website ☐ Social Media ☐ News Release ☐ Local Newspaper ☐

This report has been reviewed by Senior Administration as indicated below and recommended for submission by the Chief Administrative Officer.

Prepared by:

Wade Bondy
Director Community Safety & Fire Chief

Reviewed by:

Michelle Drouillard, BA Hons., CHRL
Director People & Culture

Reviewed by:

Beth Gignac, BA Hons
Director Community & Recreation Services

Reviewed by:

Tom Kitsos, CPA, CMA, BComm
Director Financial Services & Chief Financial Officer

Recommended by:

Margaret Misek-Evans, MCIP, RPP
Chief Administrative Officer

Attachment Number	Attachment Name
None	None