



## **DURHAM REGIONAL POLICE SERVICES BOARD**

**S. Collier, Chair \* G. Cubitt, Vice-Chair**  
**S. Bhatia, Member \* D. Carter, Member**  
**K. Fisher, Member \* M. Welch, Member \* W. Woo, Member**

---

October 20, 2023

The Honourable Sylvia Jones  
Deputy Premier and Minister of Health  
Government of Ontario

The Honourable Michael Tibollo  
Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions  
Government of Ontario

### **BY EMAIL**

### **RE: Support for Ontario Shores – EmPath Model**

Dear Minister Jones and Associate Minister Tibollo,

I am writing to follow up on a letter I wrote to you on January 31, 2023, regarding the adoption of EmPATH as a new model for urgent mental health care in Durham Region. We sent a further email to you in August 2023 and have yet to receive a response.

The conditions that existed at the time of my original correspondence persist. Our Board received a report from the Police Service at our October meeting which indicated that the DRPS continues to apprehend an unacceptable number of citizens under the *Mental Health Act*. A significant number of these apprehensions involve the same individuals. For the last annual reporting period, there were more than 2,600 apprehensions, and almost 400 of these individuals were apprehended more than once. You can appreciate the frustration our of members when there is no improvement in the outcomes for these people suffering from illness and the same inefficient and ineffective approaches are repeated. It is clear that so many in our community not receiving the health care that they need and deserve.

As you know, the EmPATH model embraces the immediate psychiatric assessment and treatment of mental health patients at a dedicated facility. We believe that the implementation of this model would result in better health outcomes for our citizens and improved community safety and wellbeing in our communities, while alleviating the pressures on our police services and emergency rooms. We again request that you consider adopting this model at Ontario Shores.



Shaun Collier  
Chair

c.c.: Chief Moreira  
Mr. Karim Mandami, President and CEO, Ontario Shores  
Local MPPs  
Regional Chair John Henry, Durham Region

Attachment: letter to Ministers on EmPATH – January 2023