

Christian C. Provenzano, Mayor
B.A., LL.B., LL.M.



Corporation of the City of
Sault Ste. Marie

March 15th, 2017

North East Local Health Integration Network
55 Oak Street East, 3rd Floor
North Bay, ON
P1B 8E3

Dear NELHIN,

I am pleased to offer this letter in support for the Sault Area Hospital's proposal to replace their aging Residential Withdrawal Management Service (WMS) facility and their application for full funding for a Level 111 WMS medical model of enhanced services.

With the increased complexities of Substance Use Disorder withdrawal, evidenced-based withdrawal management practices have changed significantly, requiring a more specialized facility and medically trained care providers. I support expanding services to accept youth under the age of 16 (with parental consent) requiring detoxification.

With enhanced funding, the SSM WMS program would be able to monitor withdrawal symptoms with the addition of medically trained staff (RN's) and physician and psychiatric oversight. This would allow for compassionate, timely and appropriate medical and psychiatric consultation, symptomatic medication as required, assessment, treatment planning, referrals and treatment initiation.

For individuals who presently require hospitalization, having a medical WMS service available in the community, will reduce the number of hospital days and allow for successful care in the community for addictions problems, whether mild or severe.

As with many places, addiction and substance abuse are issues in our City. The Sault Area Hospital's Withdrawal Management team is doing important work for the betterment of our community. I look forward to working collaboratively with the Withdrawal Management Services in the future to ensure excellent care for our community members.

Sincerely,

Christian Provenzano