

February 25, 2026

County of Essex  
360 Fairview Ave. W.  
Essex, ON N8M 1Y6

Sent via email to: [clerks@countyofessex.ca](mailto:clerks@countyofessex.ca)

## **RE: Regional Consolidated Municipal Service Manager (CMSM) Model for Social Services**

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At their meeting held February 24, 2026, the Council of the Municipality of Lakeshore passed the following resolution:

### **Resolution #26-02-2026**

Whereas the City of Windsor is the provincially designated Consolidated Municipal Service Manager (CMSM) responsible for the administration and delivery of provincially funded social services across the Windsor-Essex region; and

Whereas the CMSM model was established by the Province of Ontario to promote efficiency, consistency of service delivery, and economies of scale across municipal boundaries; and

Whereas there has been recent discussion and advocacy by some representatives to pursue a separate County-administered social services model, including the establishment of a new County social services department independent of the City of Windsor; and

Whereas there has been no indication from the Province that additional or new provincial funding would accompany the creation of a separate County system; and

Whereas the creation of a parallel social services administration would result in duplication of staffing, governance, infrastructure, systems, and overhead costs; and

Whereas in the absence of new provincial funding, any increased administrative or service costs would necessarily be borne by local municipal taxpayers, including residents of the lower-tier municipalities; and



Whereas such a restructuring presents a material risk of increased property taxes, service disruption during transition, and inefficiencies that may not result in improved outcomes for residents;

Now therefore be it resolved that the Council of the Municipality of Lakeshore formally expresses its opposition to the pursuit or development of a separate County-administered social services delivery system;

And further that Council affirms its support for the existing regional CMSM model and encourages collaborative, evidence-based discussions focused on service improvement within the current framework rather than structural duplication;

And further that Council directs that this resolution be forwarded to the County of Essex, all County of Essex member municipalities, the City of Windsor, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Minister of Children, Community and Social Services, MPP Trevor Jones, MPP Anthony Leardi and MPP Andrew Dowie for information;

And further, request that the County of Essex and the City of Windsor revisit the shared service agreement, looking for areas of mutual agreement, seek out areas for improvement, while also looking to incorporate homelessness into that agreement.

**Carried Unanimously**

Should you require any additional information, please contact the undersigned at [clerk@lakeshore.ca](mailto:clerk@lakeshore.ca).

Sincerely,



Shelley Brown  
Deputy Clerk

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**Lakeshore.ca**



Cc: Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing  
Honourable Michael Parsa, Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services  
MPP Trevor Jones  
MPP Andrew Dowie  
MPP Anthony Leardi  
Town of Kingsville  
Town of LaSalle  
Town of Essex  
Town of Leamington  
Town of Tecumseh  
Town of Amherstburg  
City of Windsor

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