

Jan. 9, 2020

Warden Paul McQueen
County of Grey
595 9th Ave East
Owen Sound, ON N4K 3E3

Dear Warden McQueen:

I want to express my appreciation for the unwavering support Georgian has received from Grey County to request, in partnership with Colleges Ontario, the provincial government to authorize Ontario colleges to grant a stand-alone nursing degree.

I am particularly grateful to the Grey County delegation for bringing this issue before the Honourable Ross Romano, Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities, at the 2019 Association of Municipalities of Ontario Conference in Ottawa. I understand the county will advocate on this issue at the 2020 Rural Ontario Municipal Association Conference this month and was delighted to hear your delegation request with the minister was granted for Jan. 20. We've already provided Kim Wingrove with a briefing note outlining our key messages; should you require anything else in advance of these meetings, please let me know.

Kim also shared an email from Jason D. Ashby at the Registered Nurses Association of Ontario (RNAO); the RNAO is picking up advocacy on its side and aligning its efforts with those already underway by your office. I can't tell you how much your continued leadership on this issue means to both Georgian and our students. Grey County has helped pave the way to fruitful discussions and certainly broadened the scope of our support.

As you are aware, the nursing labour shortage in Central Ontario is very real. Health-care partners in Simcoe, Grey and Bruce counties provided resource projections and estimated a need to hire 4,302 new nurses over the next decade to accommodate growth and replace retiring nurses. Of that total, Grey Bruce Health Services and South Bruce Grey Health Centre estimated a need for 500 new nurses. It is essential to provide a nursing education model that is student, employer and patient centred – and Georgian is prepared to offer all four years of a nursing degree program right here in Central Ontario.

Working together, we can prepare more people to become skilled Registered Nurses who will stay in the region – creating opportunities for qualified students and ensuring better health care for years to come.

Thank you for continuing to advocate on Georgian's behalf. We appreciate your ongoing support of the college, the Owen Sound Campus and our students. I look forward to connecting with you soon and wish you much success in 2020.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "MaryLynn". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "M" and a long, sweeping underline.

MaryLynn West-Moynes
President and CEO

c: Brian Davenport, Chair, Board of Governors