

**From:** True Politics with Steven Soos

**Sent:** May 30, 2022 1:03 PM

**To:** Joanne Scime <[jscime@westlincoln.ca](mailto:jscime@westlincoln.ca)>; Dave Bylsma <[dbylsma@westlincoln.ca](mailto:dbylsma@westlincoln.ca)>

**Subject:** State of Emergency for mental health, homelessness and addiction

Hello Joanne,

Hope all is well. I would like to ask for a delegation for the next meeting of West Lincoln Town Council to discuss a motion which would direct West Lincoln Mayor, Dave Bylsma as Head of Council to declare a state of emergency on mental health, homelessness and addiction.

This is a different item of discussion because the previous motion was a request to Niagara Regional Council to declare a state of emergency in the Region, this is an actual declaration of emergency in the Township.

I ask that this motion be included as correspondence to Council and am requesting a mover and seconder on the item.

Thank you Joanne,

Steve Soos

**The motion is available here:**

**WHEREAS** According to the Province of Ontario Emergency Response Plan (2008), Canadian municipalities are free to declare states of emergencies in response to "any situation or impending situation caused by the forces of nature, an accident, an intentional act or otherwise that constitutes a danger of major proportions to life or property."

**WHEREAS** 11/12 of Niagara-area municipalities have unanimously requested that Niagara Region declare a state of emergency on mental health, homelessness, and addiction, West Lincoln previously unanimously supported a motion requesting the Niagara Region declare a state of emergency on mental health, homelessness, and addiction

**WHEREAS** Niagara EMS reported 1001 suspected opioid overdoses (2021) and 210 suspected opioid overdoses already this year (April 2022)

**WHEREAS** Niagara's suicide rate of 9.8 deaths per 100,000 is higher than the provincial average of 7.7 deaths per 1000,000 in Ontario (Stats Can)

**BE IT RESOLVED** That West Lincoln Town Council direct Mayor Dave Bylsma as the Head of Council to declare a state of emergency on mental health and addiction in the Township of West Lincoln.

**FURTHERMORE**, that the Ontario Minister of the Solicitor General, Emergency Management Ontario, the Premier of Ontario, the Ontario Ministry of Community and Social Services, the Ontario Associate Minister for Mental Health, all Niagara-area MPP's, and all Niagara-area Municipalities be copied on the resolution.

Steven Soos,

**TRUE**   
**POLITICS**  
with Steven Soos

Hello Joanne, here is the letter that I would like on the agenda as well with the two links.  
Thank-you. Steven

From: True Politics with Steven Soos

Date: Sat, 28 May 2022 at 21:10

Subject: Complaint- State of Emergency Mental Health, Homelessness and Addiction

To: Lisa Fuser <lfuser@ombudsman.on.ca>, Norio, Ann-Marie <Ann-Marie.Norio@niagararegion.ca>, Bradley, Jim <jim.bradley@niagararegion.ca>, <Mike Britton

Good evening Ms. Fuser, Madame Clerk, Chair Bradley, and Councillor Britton,

I am writing this email to file a complaint regarding events that occurred at the October 21, 2021 meeting of Niagara Regional Council. Today, I phoned Councillor Mike Britton of St. Catharines to express my concerns about what occurred at the meeting in relation the motion for a state of emergency on mental health, homelessness and addiction.

The meeting I was referring to can be found here:

<https://www.youtube.com/embed/PBXc9dCQpCQ?rel=0&autoplay=1>

I believe that there were several violations to the Niagara Regional By-law during that meeting of Council a few months ago.

The procedural by-law can be found here:

<https://www.niagararegion.ca/government/bylaws/pdf/procedural-by-law.pdf>

In that meeting of Regional Council, the following events occurred:

Regional Councillors Rob Foster and Tom Insinna, who in my estimation pulled “political stunts” to shut down debate on Mayor Bylsma’s motion before council, which sought a declaration of a state of emergency with regard to mental health, homelessness, and addiction in

Council members were divided on the motion, having already acknowledged that a “significant crisis” exists in the region, in an alternative motion put forward previously by Insinna, which had been approved by council. Foster spoke on a point of order against revisiting the issue, and a council vote failed to obtain the two thirds majority needed to address it.

Delegates he had arranged to speak to his motion would not be able to address council, and also due to his view (supported by the council clerk) that the matter was not a “reconsideration,” having never been actually debated due to Insinna’s alternative motion being adopted. Delegates were not given the ability to speak despite being permitted to speak previously in the October 21, 2021 meeting.

How can it be a reconsideration if it was never voted on in the first place?

I request that the Clerk include this email in the correspondence for the next meeting of Niagara Regional Council.

I thank-you for your reviewing my complaint, and look forward to hearing back on the matter.



Thank-you,  
Steven Soos,  
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