



MEDIA RELEASE

February 3, 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Petawawa, ON – Petawawa received their accessible vehicle, a RAM Promaster 3500 EXT with capacity to accommodate a wheelchair and seven passengers. This vehicle will ensure Carefor Health and Community Services can fulfill a contracted partnership with the Town of Petawawa to provide accessible local transportation services to meet the daily living needs for seniors, persons with disabilities, on low income and vulnerable youth. This service is possible thanks to an Ontario Community Transportation (CT) Grant awarded to Petawawa from the Ministry of Transportation.

“On behalf of myself and Council, we thank MPP John Yakabuski for advocating for this important funding. It is through collaboration and support on initiatives such as this, that communities can provide needed services,” said Bob Sweet, Mayor of Petawawa. “I also want to acknowledge our local project partner Carefor who will deliver and administer this program in our community. Carefor is the natural partner with the resources, operational capacity and integrated systems to meet all of the program deliverables. Finally, we recognize the efforts of our staff and in particular, Christine Mitchell who advocated for and who continues to coordinate this project for our community.”

John Yakabuski, MPP for Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke, in attendance at the event, stated, “I was very pleased to see the Town of Petawawa was successful in receiving \$483,000 in funding from the Community Transportation Grant Program. This is another example of our government working with municipalities to support programs that help Ontarians stay connected to their communities. Petawawa has a growing population and this fund will assist their citizens in so many ways.”

Background

The Town of Petawawa was one of thirty nine (39) communities across the province of Ontario who received funding from the CT Grant, an envelope of \$30 million, dispensed over five years to support local transit or intercommunity bus services to areas with limited or no public transit service.

Affordable, accessible community transportation was identified as a need, under the Age Friendly Community Needs Assessment process. This transportation service is

designed to respond and accommodate for those who require this local transportation to meet the needs of their daily lives. The transportation is a door to door service model, within and for, the residents in the geographical boundaries of the Town of Petawawa. Along with opportunities to use this service to attend appointments at the Petawawa Centennial Family Health Centre, residents can also use some scheduled programs, such as the grocery service, and also be able to use the transportation for individual service requests, such as a trip to the bank or the hair salon. The established fee for service rate is a \$5 flat rate or \$10 return. There are also opportunities for partner organizations to assume the client portion of the transportation fee.

As part of the funding program all service users must be registered with Carefor. Eligible residents who have not already done so can call 613-732-9993 ext. 3700 to complete the intake process.

More information is available on this program through the municipal website at www.petawawa.ca through the Petawawa Local Community Transportation page.

- 30 -

For further information, contact:

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