



City Council Committee Report

Date: 28 February 2012

To: Mayor & Council

**Fr: Warren F. Brinkman, Emergency Service Manager, City of Kenora
Fire and Emergency Services**

Re: Kenora Safe Grad 2012

Recommendation: THAT Council of the City of Kenora supports the work of the Kenora Safe Grad Committee towards an all-inclusive, drug/alcohol free, safe celebration of graduation from high school; and further THAT a grant in the amount for \$3000.00 be authorized for the use of the Kenora Recreation Centre for this purpose.

Background: Safe Grad is a gift from the community, a gift from businesses, service clubs, interested citizens, parents, grandparents, and parents of the graduates. Safe Grad is an alcohol and drug free graduation party. Safe Grad is an all-night long party that celebrates our 2012 graduating classes from Thomas Aquinas, Beaver Brae, Baibombeh Secondary, and Wabaseemoong Schools. In addition the graduating class from Grassy Narrows Post Secondary School is invited to this celebration. Last year's party was an enormous success. There were over 300 grads and their guests who remained on site until the party ended at 6:00a.m. By comparison, at the inaugural celebration only 50 stayed overnight. The other notable is the number of returning graduates who volunteer to help with this event. This is another sign to the Committee that the message is getting through and carrying over into young adults. Graduation is highly charged with emotion. Often this day is viewed as the rite of passage to adulthood. As we know, combining our emotions of this day of celebration with the deleterious effects of alcohol and or drugs often leads to a night that is not so good to remember. The increased risk of injury and sometimes death is not worth it! The anxiety of parents, family and friends and the community can be minimized and even prevented with a Safe Grad Party. Entirely supported by Corporate Sponsorship, donations, and Volunteers, Safe Grad is thriving and entering its twelfth year with graduates from St. Thomas of Aquinas, Beaver Brae, Baibombeh, and Wabaseemoong as its beneficiaries. We are hopeful that the graduating class from Grassy Narrows will join us in this celebration. The Safe Grad Committee spends the year raising funds in order to provide this exceptional opportunity to high school graduates on one of the most important days in their life.

Budget: As set out in Operating Budget 2012

Communication Plan/Notice By-law Requirements: Municipal Memo, Portal, and Media.