

MEDIA RELEASE

OWEN SOUND JAIL/CORRECTIONAL FACILITY CLOSURE

It has been confirmed that the Liberal government will follow through with their pre-election announcement to close the Owen Sound and Walkerton Correctional Facilities effective December 4, 2011. Mayor Haswell was given this unfortunate news earlier today by an official from the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services.

Over the past several months Mayor Haswell and Warden Wright, representing Owen Sound & Grey County, together with various community partners and Owen Sound Correctional Facility employees have been lobbying Ministry officials to postpone the closure of the Owen Sound Facility until a time that a new facility could be built in Grey County.

"I am very disappointed with today's announcement of the facility closures, and I am very worried about the impact that this is going to have on the employees, and their families. I am also highly concerned about the overall social, economic and justice inequalities that will result from today's announcement" says Mayor Haswell.

The Mayor and Chief of Police will be meeting early next week to discuss any potential impact on the local police service, and ultimately the local taxpayers. Officials from the Ministry indicated to Mayor Haswell that they do not intend any financial downloading in terms of costs to the local police.

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