



Correspondence Items Presented for Information December 18, 2023

- 1) Correspondence from the Clerk, Township of Puslinch re:
 - a) Illegal land use enforcement.
 - b) Amendment to the *Legislation Act, 2006*.
 - c) Amendments to the *Income Tax Act*.
- 2) Correspondence from the following municipalities re: Bill 21 *Fixing Long-Term Care Amendment Act (Till Death Do Us Part Act)*.
 - a) Township of Puslinch
 - b) Municipality of Shuniah
- 3) Correspondence from the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) re: Policy update – community housing, housing forum, Ontario – Toronto new deal, locate fees, on-site and excess soil.
- 4) Correspondence from the Deputy Clerk, Township of Cramahe re: “Catch and Release” Justice in Ontario.
- 5) Correspondence from the Clerk, Loyalist Township re: Stop the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) proposal to expand the use of the permit-by-rule.
- 6) Correspondence from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry re: Release of decision regarding technical bulletin – data survey and mapping specifications.
- 7) Correspondence from the Deputy Clerk, Town of Plympton-Wyoming re:
 - a) Strong mayor powers and leave to construct threshold.
 - b) Increasing the amount of tax credits for volunteer firefighting and search and rescue volunteer services.
- 8) Correspondence from the following municipalities re: Leave to construct threshold.
 - a) Municipality of Grey Highlands
 - b) Municipality of West Grey
- 9) Correspondence from the Clerk/Director of Legislative Services, Clearview Township re: Cemetery transfer/abandonment administration & management support.



Hon. Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building,
Queen's Park, Toronto,
ON M7A 1A1
VIA EMAIL:
doug.fordco@pc.ola.org

Township of Puslinch
7404 Wellington Road 34
Puslinch, ON N0B 2J0
www.puslinch.ca

November 27, 2023

RE 6.7 Town of Cobourg - Illegal Land Use Enforcement

Please be advised that Township of Puslinch Council, at its meeting held on November 8, 2023 considered the aforementioned topic and subsequent to discussion, the following was resolved:

Resolution No. 2023-358:

Moved by Councillor Hurst and
Seconded by Councillor Bailey

That the Consent Agenda items 6.6, 6.7, and 6.8 listed for NOVEMBER 8, 2023 Council meeting be received; and

Whereas Council has previously passed a resolution regarding illegal land use enforcement;

That Council direct staff to connect with the Town of Cobourg and other municipalities with similar concerns on the possibility of a joint delegation to AMO lead by the Town of Cobourg and report back to Council.

CARRIED

As per the above resolution, please accept a copy of this correspondence for your information and consideration.



Sincerely,

Justine Brotherston,
Municipal Clerk

Cc: The Honourable Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing,
The Honourable Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier, Minister of Health and MPP Dufferin-Caledon,
The Honourable Doug Downey, Attorney General of Ontario,
Association of Municipalities of Ontario,
Rural Ontario Municipal Association,
Ontario Municipalities



The Corporation of the Town of Cobourg

Resolution

Hon. Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building,
Queen's Park, Toronto,
ON M7A 1A1
VIA EMAIL:
doug.fordco@pc.ola.org

Town of Cobourg
55 King Street West,
Cobourg, ON, K9A 2M2
clerk@cobourg.ca

October 11, 2023

RE: Correspondence from the Township of Puslinch regarding Illegal Land Use Enforcement

Please be advised that the Town of Cobourg Council, at its meeting held on October 2, 2023, passed the following resolution:

Moved by Councillor Miriam Mutton
Seconded by Councillor Brian Darling

Resolution No: 314-2023
October 2, 2023

THAT Council receive the correspondence from the Township of Puslinch regarding Illegal Land Use Enforcement for information purposes; and

FURTHER THAT Council endorse and support the resolution from the Township of Puslinch and Council direct staff to send a duplicate resolution to associated ministries and Ontario Municipalities.

The resolution reads as follows:

That the Illegal Land Use Enforcement Taskforce's mandate be expanded to include other types of illegal land uses and not solely on illegal trucking land uses; and

That the Province be requested to strengthen municipal enforcement powers by:

- Amending the Municipal Act to enable municipalities to physically bar entry to properties where illegal land uses that have significant detrimental impacts on adjacent residential properties, the environment or create unsafe situations;
- Increasing the maximum penalty amounts in the Planning Act to \$50,000 for an individual upon conviction and on a subsequent conviction, not more than \$25,000 for each day in which the contravention has continued after the day in which the person was initially convicted; and



The Corporation of the Town of Cobourg

Resolution

- Including provisions to ensure a corporation is liable to fines of not more \$100,000 upon first conviction and not more than \$50,000 for each day in which the contravention has continued after the day in which the corporation was initially convicted.

That a copy of this report be provided to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, the Honourable Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Honourable Sylvia Jones, MPP, Dufferin-Caledon; the Honourable Doug Downey, Attorney General of Ontario; and

That a copy of this report be provided to the municipalities within the Greater Golden Horseshoe area seeking support in the request for strengthened enforcement powers to combat significant illegal land uses negatively impacting communities across Ontario and to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA).

Sincerely,



Kristina Lepik
Deputy Clerk/Manager, Legislative Services

Cc: The Honourable Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing,
The Honourable Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier, Minister of Health and MPP Dufferin-Caledon,
The Honourable Doug Downey, Attorney General of Ontario,
Association of Municipalities of Ontario,
Rural Ontario Municipal Association,
Ontario Municipalities



Hon. Doug Downey
Attorney General
McMurtry-Scott Bldg 11th
Flr, 720 Bay St.
Toronto, ON M7A 2S9
VIA EMAIL:
doug.downey@ontario.ca

Township of Puslinch
7404 Wellington Road 34
Puslinch, ON N0B 2J0
www.puslinch.ca

November 22, 2023

RE 6.10 Call for an Amendment to the Legislation Act, 2006

Please be advised that Township of Puslinch Council, at its meeting held on November 8, 2023 considered the aforementioned topic and subsequent to discussion, the following was resolved:

Resolution No. 2023-246:

Moved by Councillor Sepulis and
Seconded by Councillor Goyda

That the Consent Agenda items 6.9, 6.10, and 6.11 listed for NOVEMBER 8, 2023 Council meeting be received; and

Whereas Council supports the resolutions from Township of Plympton-Wyoming and the Township of McKeller regarding an Amendment to the Legislation Act, 2006 to permit digital notice;

That Council direct staff to send a support resolution accordingly.

CARRIED

As per the above resolution, please accept a copy of this correspondence for your information and consideration.



Sincerely,

Justine Brotherston,
Municipal Clerk

Cc: Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Graydon Smith, MPP Parry Sound-Muskoka
The Association of Ontario Municipalities (AMO)
Neil Oliver, CEO & President, Metroland Media Group
All Ontario Municipalities



Hon. Doug Downey
Attorney General
McMurtry-Scott Bldg 11th Flr, 720 Bay St.
Toronto, ON M7A 2S9

October 26th 2023

Sent via e-mail: doug.downey@ontario.ca

Re: Call for an Amendment to the Legislation Act, 2006

Dear Mr. Downey,

Please be advised that at the Regular Council Meeting on October 25th 2023, the Town of Plympton-Wyoming Council passed the following motion, supporting the attached resolution from the Township of McKellar regarding a Call for an Amendment to the Legislation Act, 2006.

Motion 10

Moved by Councillor Kristen Rodrigues


Seconded by Councillor John van Klaveren

That Council support item 'L' of correspondence from the Township of McKellar regarding a Call for an Amendment to the Legislation Act, 2006.

Carried.

If you have any questions regarding the above motion, please do not hesitate to contact me by phone or email at ekwarciak@plympton-wyoming.ca.

Sincerely,


Erin Kwarciak
Clerk
Town of Plympton-Wyoming

cc: Sent via e-mail
Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Bob Bailey, MPP Sarnia-Lambton
The Association of Ontario Municipalities (AMO)
Neil Oliver, CEO & President, Metroland Media Group
All Ontario Municipalities



Township of McKellar

701 Hwy #124, P.O. Box 69, McKellar, Ontario POG 1C0

Phone: (705) 389-2842

Fax: (705) 389-1244

October 19, 2023

Hon. Doug Downey
Attorney General
McMurtry-Scott Bldg 11th Flr, 720 Bay St.
Toronto, ON M7A 2S9

Sent via email: Doug.Downey@ontario.ca

RE: Call for an Amendment to the *Legislation Act, 2006*

Dear Mr. Downey,

At the Regular Meeting of Council held on October 17, 2023, the Council of the Corporation of the Township of McKellar carried the following resolution:

Resolution No. 23-671

Moved by: Councillor Kekkonen

Seconded by: Councillor Zulak

WHEREAS Metroland Media Group has sought bankruptcy protection and will cease the print publication of its weekly community newspapers across Ontario, moving to an online-only model; and

WHEREAS Neil Oliver, Chief Executive Officer and President of Metroland Media Group, said the 71 Metroland community publications will be digital only going forward; and

WHEREAS the *Legislation Act, 2006* provides a definition of “newspaper” which applies to every Ontario Act and Regulation, as in a provision requiring publication, means a document that, (a) **is printed in sheet form**, published at regular intervals of a week or less and circulated to the general public, and (b) consists primarily of news of current events of general interest; (“journal”); and

WHEREAS Ontario Municipalities are required to follow publication and notice requirements for Provincial Acts and Regulations; and

WHEREAS communities such as the West Parry Sound Area cannot comply with publication requirements in Provincial Acts and Regulations as the Parry Sound North Star news publication is no longer being printed in sheet form and there are no other local news publications fitting the definition of “newspaper”; and

WHEREAS some small, rural, Ontario Municipalities may not have the means to bring an application to the Court to ask for directions and approval of an alternate manner of providing notice;


NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Township of McKellar does hereby request the Provincial government to make an amendment to the *Legislation Act, 2006* to include digital publications as an acceptable means of publication and notice requirements for Provincial Acts and Regulations; and

FURTHER request the support of all Ontario Municipalities; and

FURTHER THAT this resolution be forwarded to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Paul Calandra; Parry Sound-Muskoka MPP, Graydon Smith; The Association of Ontario Municipalities (AMO); CEO and President of Metroland Media Group, Neil Oliver and all Ontario Municipalities.

Carried

Regards,



Karlee Britton
Deputy Clerk
Township of McKellar
deputyclerk@mckellar.ca
(705) 389-2842 x5

cc:

Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Graydon Smith, MPP Parry Sound-Muskoka
The Association of Ontario Municipalities (AMO)
Neil Oliver, CEO & President, Metroland Media Group
All Ontario Municipalities



Municipality of Wawa
40 Broadway Ave,
Wawa Ontario,
POS 1K0
VIA EMAIL:
info@wawa.ca

Township of Puslinch
7404 Wellington Road 34
Puslinch, ON N0B 2J0
www.puslinch.ca

December 4, 2023

RE 6.13 Municipality of Wawa Resolution regarding Amendments to the Income Tax Act

Please be advised that Township of Puslinch Council, at its meeting held on November 29, 2023 considered the aforementioned topic and subsequent to discussion, the following was resolved:

Resolution No. 2023-382:

Moved by Councillor Sepulis and
Seconded by Councillor Goyda

That the Consent Agenda item 6.13 listed for NOVEMBER 29, 2023 Council meeting be received; and

Whereas the Township of Puslinch Council supports the Municipality of Wawa Resolution Regarding Bill C-310, Amendments to Income Tax Act;

Therefore, that Council directs staff to send a support resolution accordingly.

CARRIED

As per the above resolution, please accept a copy of this correspondence for your information and consideration.

Sincerely,



Justine Brotherston,
Municipal Clerk

Cc: Association of Fire Chiefs of Ontario,
Algoma Mutual Aid Association,
Association of Municipalities of Ontario,
Ontario Municipalities



The Corporation of the Municipality of Wawa

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

RESOLUTION

Tuesday, November 7, 2023

Resolution # RC23265	Meeting Order: 10
Moved by: [REDACTED]	Seconded by: [REDACTED]

WHEREAS Canada has 90,000 volunteer firefighters who provide fire and all hazard emergency services to their communities; in addition, approximately 8,000 essential search and rescue volunteers respond to thousands of incidents every year; and

WHEREAS many of these individuals receive some form of pay on call, an honorarium, or are given some funding to cover expenses, but they do not draw a living wage from firefighting; and;

WHEREAS without volunteer firefighters and search and rescue volunteers, thousands of communities in Canada would have no fire and emergency response coverage; and;

WHEREAS in 2013, the federal government initiated a tax credit recognizing these individuals, and calling on the federal government to increase this tax credit from \$3,000 to \$10,000; and;

WHEREAS volunteer firefighters account for 71% of Canada's total firefighting essential first responders;

- The tax code of Canada currently allows volunteer firefighters and search and rescue volunteers to claim a \$3,000 tax credit if 200 hours of volunteer services were completed in a calendar year;
- This works out to a mere \$450 per year, which we allow these essential volunteers to keep of their own income from their regular jobs, \$2.25 an hour;
- If they volunteer more than 200 hours, which many do, this tax credit becomes even less;
- These essential volunteers not only put their lives on the line and give their time, training and efforts to Canadians, but they also allow cities and municipalities to keep property taxes lower than if paid services were required;

p.2...



The Corporation of the Municipality of Wawa

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

RESOLUTION

- It would also help retain these volunteers in a time when volunteerism is decreasing.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Municipality of Wawa call upon the Government of Canada to support Bill C-310 and enact amendments to subsections 118.06 (2) and 118.07 (2) of the Income Tax Act in order to increase the amount of the tax credits for volunteer firefighting and search and rescue volunteer services from \$3,000 to \$10,000; and;

FURTHERMORE THAT a copy of the resolution be shared with the Association of Fire Chiefs of Ontario, Algoma Mutual Aid Association, Association of Municipalities of Ontario and all Ontario municipalities.

RESOLUTION RESULT		RECORDED VOTE		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CARRIED	MAYOR AND COUNCIL	YES	NO
<input type="checkbox"/>	DEFEATED	Mitch Hatfield		
<input type="checkbox"/>	TABLED	Cathy Cannon		
<input type="checkbox"/>	RECORDED VOTE (SEE RIGHT)	Melanie Pilon		
<input type="checkbox"/>	PECUNIARY INTEREST DECLARED	Jim Hoffmann		
<input type="checkbox"/>	WITHDRAWN	Joseph Opato		

Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and the general nature thereof.

- ☐ Disclosed the pecuniary interest and general name thereof and abstained from the discussion, vote and influence.

Clerk: _____

MAYOR – MELANIE PILON	CLERK – MAURY O'NEILL
	



Katherine Fife
MPP, Waterloo
Constituency Office, 100
Regina St. S., Suite 220,
Waterloo, ON N2J 4P9
VIA EMAIL:
cfife-co@ndp.on.ca

Township of Puslinch
7404 Wellington Road 34
Puslinch, ON N0B 2J0
www.puslinch.ca

November 28, 2023

RE 6.12 Town of East Hawkesbury Fixing the Long-Term Care Amendment Act (Till Death Do Us Part)

Please be advised that Township of Puslinch Council, at its meeting held on November 8, 2023 considered the aforementioned topic and subsequent to discussion, the following was resolved:

Resolution No. 2023-360:

Moved by Councillor Bailey and
Seconded by Councillor Hurst

That the Consent Agenda items 6.12, and 6.13 listed for NOVEMBER 8, 2023 Council meeting be received; and

Whereas Council supports the resolutions from the Township of East Hawkesbury regarding Bill 21, Fixing the Long-Term Care Amendment Act (Till Death Do Us Part); and

That Council direct staff to send a support resolution accordingly.

CARRIED

As per the above resolution, please accept a copy of this correspondence for your information and consideration.



Sincerely,

Justine Brotherston,
Municipal Clerk

Cc: Catherine Fife, Waterloo MPP
All Ontario Municipalities

**Township of East Hawkesbury
Regular Meeting**



Agenda Number: 16.
Resolution # 2023-50
Title: Correspondence
Date: October 10, 2023

Moved by: Monique Desjardins
Seconded by: Stéphanie Sabourin

Be it resolved that Council support Bill 21 amends the Residents' Bill of Rights set out in section 3 of Fixing Long-Term Care Act, 2021 by adding the right of residents not to be separated from their spouse upon admission but to have accommodation made available for both spouses so they may continue to live together.

Carried


Hemi Villeneuve, Clerk,

**Canton de Hawkesbury Est
Réunion Extraordinaire**




No. du point à l'ordre du jour: 16.
Résolution # 2023-50
Titre: Correspondance
Date: le 10 octobre 2023

Proposé par: Monique Desjardins
Appuyé par: Stéphanie Sabourin

Qu'il soit résolu que le Conseil soutien le projet de loi 21 qui modifie la Charte des droits des résidents énoncée à l'article 3 de la loi de 2021 sur les soins de longue durée en ajoutant le droit des résidents de ne pas être séparés de leur conjoint au moment de leur admission, mais de disposer d'un logement pour les deux conjoints afin qu'ils puissent continuer à vivre ensemble.

Adoptée


Hemi Villeneuve, Greffière,



MUNICIPALITY OF

North Perth

www.northperth.ca

A Community of Character

330 Wallace Ave. N., Listowel, ON N4W 1L3

Phone: 519-291-2950

Toll Free: 888-714-1993

October 26th, 2023

Minister of Long-Term Care
438 University Avenue, 8th Floor
Toronto, ON M5G 2K8

To Whom It May Concern,

Please be advised that the Council of the Municipality of North Perth passed the following resolution at their regular meeting held on October 16th, 2023 regarding a request for support for Bill 21, Fixing Long-Term Care Amendment Act (Till Death Do Us Part), 2022 from Catherine Fife, Waterloo MPP.

Moved By: Lee Anne Andriessen **Seconded By:** Sarah Blazek

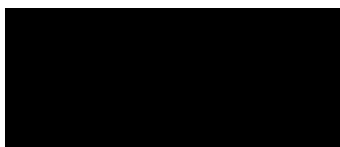
THAT: The Council of the Municipality of North Perth supports Consent Agenda Item 7.11 *Catherine Fife, Waterloo MPP – Request for Support for Bill 21, Fixing Long-Term Care Amendment Act (Till Death Do Us Part), 2022.*

AND THAT: Staff be directed to forward the resolution to other provincial entities and other Council counterparts across Ontario.

CARRIED

If you have any questions regarding the above resolution, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Regards,



Sarah Carter
Acting Clerk/Legislative Services Supervisor
Municipality of North Perth
330 Wallace Ave. N., Listowel ON N4W 1L3
519-292-2062
scarter@northperth.ca

Cc: Catherine Fife, Waterloo MPP
Perth Wellington MPP, Matthew Rae
All Ontario Municipalities



Catherine Fife

MPP Waterloo

Todd Kasenberg
Mayor of Municipality of North Perth

RE: Requesting your support for Bill 21, Fixing Long-Term Care Amendment Act (Till Death Do Us Part), 2022

September 25, 2023

Dear Mayor Kasenberg,

I am writing to you today to share an update on Bill 21, Fixing Long-Term Care Amendment Act (Till Death Do Us Part), 2022, and to request your support for this important legislation.

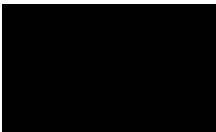
Bill 21 amends the Residents' Bill of Rights set out in section 3 of Fixing Long-Term Care Act, 2021 by adding the right of residents not to be separated from their spouse upon admission but to have accommodation made available for both spouses so they may continue to live together.

The Act was inspired by Cambridge resident Jim McLeod, who will have been separated from his wife of 65 years Joan, on September 17, 2023. Nearly 6 years later, Jim continues to champion spousal reunification. He often says that he will talk to anyone and has two giant binders full of his advocacy work on the Bill. Last week, he told me that his heart is breaking because of his separation from Joan. He has brought other seniors who are separated from their spouses into the advocacy – you cannot sit with these folks for any amount of time and not care deeply about this legislation.

I know that you value the many contributions that older adults have made to Waterloo Region, and care deeply that they can live their final years with dignity and love. **I am hoping you will consider bringing a motion forward to your Council, in support of the Till Death Do Us Part Act.** Your support will help us to keep attention on this important legislation, so that it can finally be called to the Standing Committee on Social Policy – one step closer to Royal Assent.

I would be happy to discuss the Bill with you further, via phone call or an in-person meeting at your convenience. Thanks in advance for considering my request.

Sincerely,



Catherine Fife, Waterloo MPP
Finance & Treasury Board Critic

Constituency Office
100 Regina St. S., Suite 220
Waterloo, ON N2J 4A8
Ph: 519-725-3477 | Fax: 519-725-3667
Email: cfife-co@ndp.on.ca

Queen's Park Office
Room 154, Main Legislative Bldg.
Queen's Park, Toronto ON M7A 1A5
Ph: 416-325-6913 | Fax: 416-325-6942
Email: cfife-qp@ndp.on.ca

BACKGROUND:

On November 15, 2022, the Till Death Do Us Part Act, passed second reading in the Ontario legislature after being [introduced for the third time in September 2022](#). The bill was then referred to the Ontario Legislature's Social Policy Committee. You can view highlights of the second reading debate here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mYRIgQgDe2k>

I have been pushing for the Standing Committee on Social Policy to schedule a time to begin the work of reviewing Bill 21 since November 2022. **Today marks 286 days since the Act passed second reading at the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.** Unfortunately, the Bill has yet to be called to committee.

Bill 21, which was formerly Bill 153 and 95, respectively, had passed second reading and was sent to the Justice Committee in December 2019, but was wiped off the order paper when Premier Ford prorogued the house in 2021. It was reintroduced early 2022 but did not have time to progress before the election.

Since I first introduced this Bill in 2019, the number of people who've reached out to my offices with heartbreaking stories of couples entering long-term care who are torn apart has skyrocketed. Simply put, Ontario seniors deserve dignity in care and should have the right to live with their partner as they age. Of note, Nova Scotia passed similar legislation, titled the [Life Partners in Long-Term Care Act](#) in 2021.

Following many meetings with stakeholders, it's clear that "care campuses" which offer different levels of care (independent, assisted living and long-term care) are the progressive model for investing in quality care for Ontario's aging population. Care campuses are an essential element to keeping couples together as they often age at different rates. This level of choice has been brought to my attention as especially important to rural and northern municipal leaders across Ontario. The care campus model for seniors housing that builds different levels of care has unique financial savings that will be critical as we grapple with a rapidly aging province.

We need the Bill to be called to the Standing Committee on Social Policy as soon as possible. We know that couples who are separated across Ontario cannot wait any longer for this legislative change to be made.

Here are the links to recent media coverage of the Till Death Do Us Part Act, which provide more specific insights into the lived experiences of older adults who are separated from their spouses:

- [CTV News Kitchener: Ontario seniors separated in long-term care pushing for the right to remain together](#)
- [CityNews Kitchener: Waterloo MPP appeals for seniors bill to be brought forward](#)
- [Waterloo Region Record: Cambridge senior calls for end to separating couples in long-term care](#)

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Room 154, Main Legislative Bldg.
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COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Resolution No.: 440-23

Date: Nov 28, 2023

Moved By: _____

Seconded By: _____

THAT Council hereby receives the resolution from North Perth supporting Catherine Fife, Waterloo MPP - Request for support for Bill 21, Fixing Long Term Care Amendment Act (Till Death Do Us Part), 2022 and same be filed in the Clerk's Office;

AND THAT Council directs the clerk to forward a copy of this resolution to Premier Doug Ford, Minister of Long Term Care Stan Cho, MP Marcus Powlowski, MP Patty Hajdu, MPP Kevin Holland and MPP Lise Vaugeois, and all Ontario Municipalities.

☒ **Carried**

☐ **Defeated**

☐ **Amended**

☐ **Deferred**

Signature

Municipality of Shuniah, 420 Leslie Avenue, Thunder Bay, Ontario, P7A 1X8

November 28, 2023

Community Housing, Housing Forum, Ontario – Toronto New Deal, Locate Fees, On-Site and Excess Soil

New Study Shows Economic Benefits of Community Housing

AMO, the Canadian Housing Renewal Association, and other partners released a [new study](#) by Deloitte demonstrating the strong return on investment of community housing.

More investment in community is needed to boost supply and kickstart productivity in the province. This is supported by the study's findings about Ontario including:

- An additional 143,225 units of deeply affordable community housing is required by 2030 to meet the OECD average.
- Investments would result in a projected 5.8% to 9.5% increase in productivity.
- This would also result in a 23.3 to \$50.3 billion increase in GDP.

Investing in community housing is just that, an investment that pays returns in the form of economic productivity. When more people live in housing they can afford, they have more money to spend on goods and services, boosting businesses and our economy. AMO continues to call upon the provincial and federal governments to increase investments with long-term, stable, and predictable funding to create more deeply affordable community housing.

Housing Forum

On November 27, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing hosted cross-sector Housing Forum to provide the government with advice on

what's needed to build more homes faster. The province remains focused on achieving the goal of building 1.5 million new homes by 2031.

Municipal political leaders and officials from upper and lower municipal governments participated alongside non-profit organizations and building sector representatives. Municipal associations were also in attendance, including AMO.

The Minister shared his focus for the next Housing Supply Action Plan, including:

- A new 'use it or lose it' approach to hold developers accountable for getting shovels in ground for approved housing development permits;
- An intent to release the finalized Provincial Policy Statement soon; and,
- A strategy to leverage modular housing to create more housing supply quickly.

The Minister also highlighted the need for ongoing provincial-federal advocacy to secure more funding for housing-enabling infrastructure.

The day was structured around roundtable discussions across four themes:

1. Housing-enabling infrastructure
2. Activating the 'missing middle'
3. Inclusive housing
4. Modular housing.

Sectors advised the government on finance, governance, barriers, and solutions. AMO and its members were strong on the critical need for provincial and federal funding to build housing-enabling infrastructure and non-market housing.

Ontario and Toronto Reach a New Deal

Yesterday, the province announced that it had struck a new agreement with Toronto to help achieve long-term financial stability and sustainability for the city. Ontario has agreed to provide the city with up to \$1.2 billion in provincial operating supports over three years and significant capital relief.

The Toronto agreement is an important milestone for all municipalities as it recognizes that the current provincial-municipal fiscal framework is failing our communities. That is why AMO has been calling on the province for a [social and economic prosperity review](#) that can keep municipal finances on a sustainable path that supports social and economic growth.

While the announcement targets financial challenges that are most acute in Toronto, other municipalities face similar concerns, including transit, homelessness, and support for asylum seekers. Municipalities with similar challenges are expecting assistance in these important areas as well. Yesterday's new deal commitments are a promising step toward provincial readiness to rebalance the scales with municipalities.

Locate Fee Changes Proposed in New Legislation

On November 22, the Minister of Public and Business Service Delivery introduced the *Building Infrastructure Safely Act*, 2023 which, if passed, will change the way underground infrastructure locates are delivered in Ontario.

The Act will amend the Ontario *Underground Infrastructure Notification System Act*, and notably:

- Prohibit infrastructure owners and operators from charging for locate provision, and
- Streamline the penalty process, by removing the ability for excavators to recoup costs through the Ontario Land Tribunal. Instead, Ontario One Call can levy administrative monetary penalties for late locates.

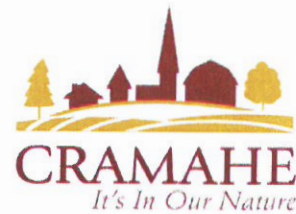
These changes respond to AMO recommendations against fees for locates in the context of significant municipal fiscal pressures. The locate system in Ontario is important to ensure safety of excavators and protection of underground infrastructure.

On-Site and Excess Soil Management Regulation Proposals

The province is [proposing to amend](#) the O.Reg 406/19 under the *Environmental Protection Act* and the Rules for Soil Management and Excess Soil Quality Standards to create opportunities to redirect more usable excess soil from landfills.

The amendments would replace the need to obtain an environmental compliance assessment for low-risk soil management operations with regulations to ensure the safe storage and reuse of these materials. Regulations would include requiring proactive disclosure regarding the quality and source of soil, and registration of any soil being stored on the Excess Soil Registry. Salt-impacted soil would only be permitted where it would not impact drinking or surface water.

AMO has submitted [comments](#) to the Environmental Registry with advice to support drafting the amended regulations. While AMO is supportive of increased management and opportunities for reuse of low-risk excess soils, it is vital to ensure that the proposed changes do not have unintended consequences for municipalities or the environment. Soil reuse must be done with care and be balanced with adequate oversight and enforcement, particularly in relation to large volumes of excess soil, the expanded use of salt-impacted soil, and storage of soil adjacent to water bodies.



November 29, 2023

The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Premier's Office, Room 281
Legislative Building
Queen's Park, Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

Dear Premier Ford,

Please be advised that at the November 28, 2023, Township of Cramahe Council Meeting the following resolution was passed regarding Catch and Release Justice

Resolution No. 2023-319

Moved By: COUNCILLOR SCHRIVER
Seconded By: DEPUTY MAYOR ARTHUR

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council receive for information the correspondence from the Town of Midland respecting catch and release justice; and

THAT Council direct staff to send a letter of support for the resolution passed by the Town of Midland to the Premier of Ontario, MPP Breese, and all Ontario municipalities

Sincerely,

Nicole Hamilton
Municipal Deputy Clerk
Township of Cramahe
nhamilton@cramahe.ca

cc. Hon. Ric Breese, MPP, Hastings-Lennox & Addington
All Ontario municipalities

THE CORPORATION OF THE
TOWN OF MIDLAND



575 Dominion Ave
Midland, ON L4R 1A1
Phone: 705-526-4100
Fax: 705-526-9100
info@midland.ca

September 8, 2023

The Senate of Canada
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0A4

Via Email: sencom@sen.parl.gc.ca

Premier Doug Ford
Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto ON
M7A 1A1

Via Email: premier@ontario.ca

Dear Premier Ford:

Re: "Catch and Release" Justice is Ontario

At its September 6, 2023, Regular Council Meeting with Closed Session the Council for the Town of Midland passed the following Resolution:

That the Town of Midland send a letter to the Federal and Provincial Governments requesting meaningful improvements to the current state of "catch and release" justice in the Ontario legal system. Police Services across Ontario are exhausting precious time and resources having to manage the repeated arrests of the same offenders, which in turn, is impacting their morale, and ultimately law-abiding citizens who are paying the often significant financial and emotional toll of this broken system; and

That this resolution be sent to other Municipalities throughout Ontario for their endorsement consideration.

Thank you.

Yours very
truly,

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF MIDLAND

Sherri Edgar

Sherri Edgar, AMCT
Municipal Clerk
575-526-4100



December 1, 2023

SENT VIA EMAIL

Re: Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) proposal to expand the use of the permit-by-rule

Please be advised that during the regular Council meeting of Monday, November 27, 2023, Council of Loyalist Township passed the following resolution:

Resolution 2023.21.17

Moved by Deputy Mayor Townend

Seconded by Councillor Proderick

That Council receive and support Prince Edward County's resolution dated November 14, 2023 urging the Province to stop the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) proposal to expand the use of the permit-by-rule to waste management systems, stormwater management systems, and certain water taking activities.

Motion carried.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anne Kantharajah".

Anne Kantharajah

Township Clerk

akantharajah@loyalist.ca

613-386-7351 Ext. 121

Att: Prince Edward County resolution, November 14, 2023

cc: Mayor Jim Hegadorn, Deputy Mayor Townend, Councillor Proderick, Rebecca Murphy, CAO

November 17, 2023

Please be advised that during the regular Council meeting of November 14, 2023 the following motion regarding support for the Province to stop the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) proposal to expand the use of the permit-by-rule to waste management systems, storm water management systems, and certain water taking activities was carried:

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-569

DATE: November 14, 2023

MOVED BY: Councillor Maynard

SECONDED BY: Councillor Roberts

WHEREAS the Municipality, in support of the Quinte Conservation Authority, actively supports the Source Water Protection Program, as part of local efforts to implement the Clean Water Act, 2006 and its regulations to protect local municipal drinking water sources;

AND WHEREAS the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) is proposing to expand the use of the permit-by-rule to waste management systems, stormwater management systems, and certain water taking activities;

AND WHEREAS In 2018, Bill 68, the Open for Business Act was passed, whereby it legislated that less complex activities that pose low-risk to the environment should not be required to go through the approval process and instead, should self-register on the Environmental Activity and Sector Registry (EASR);

AND WHEREAS Quinte Conservation Authority has outlined in their October 24, 2023 report to their Board, that the activities proposed to move to the EASR may pose too much risk to drinking water, and can pose threats to human health and the environment;

AND WHEREAS Quinte Conservation Authority noted the source water protection concern generally lies in the fact the Ministry will no longer undertake an up-front detailed review of applications related to the specified activities, thereby potentially weakening regulatory oversight;

AND WHEREAS the specified activities, which have the potential to cause significant adverse impacts to the natural environment and human health will no

longer be subject to public and site-specific scrutiny prior to commencing operation in Ontario;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of Prince Edward County supports the concerns outlined by Quinte Conservation Authority and urges the Provincial government to stop the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) proposal to expand the use of the permit-by-rule to waste management systems, stormwater management systems, and certain water taking activities; and

THAT this resolution be sent to Premier Doug Ford, Todd Smith, Bay of Quinte M.P.P. and Andrea Khanjin, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks; and

THAT this resolution be shared with all 444 municipalities in Ontario, The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), The Association of Municipalities Ontario (AMO), The Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus (EOWC) and all Ontario Conservation Authorities.

CARRIED

Yours truly,



Catalina Blumenberg, **CLERK**

cc: Mayor Steve Ferguson, Councillor Roberts, Councillor Maynard and Marcia Wallace, CAO



Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry

Resources Planning and Development
Policy Branch
Policy Division
300 Water Street
Peterborough, ON K9J 3C7

Ministère des Richesses naturelles et des Forêts

Direction des politiques de planification et d'exploitation des ressources
Division de l'élaboration des politiques
300, rue Water
Peterborough (Ontario) K9J 3C7

Good Morning,

Today, the government posted a decision notice to the [Environmental Registry of Ontario](#) finalizing the “[Technical bulletin - Flooding hazards: data survey and mapping specifications](#)”.

This new technical bulletin is to be applied when delineating the flooding hazard through mapping new, or updating existing, maps. It is intended to assist technical personnel experienced in mapping and geomatics in undertaking flood hazard surveying and mapping in Ontario and to serve as the definitive source of flood hazard data, survey and mapping guidance for use in Ontario.

Feedback on the draft technical bulletin was accepted from July 4th until September 5th, 2023. Feedback was for the most part supportive of the criteria and guidance provided in the Technical Bulletin. Comments received supported the additional clarity with regards to the necessary data considerations and mapping specifications to support flood hazard identification in Ontario. There was broad support for the Technical Bulletin providing flood hazard mapping recommendations, but not being a set of mandatory instructions to be applied in all circumstances.

Expanded guidance and clarification was provided for using surveyed and remotely sensed channel bathymetry and floodplain surface topography, to support the use of different types of models. Clarification and guidance related to vertical and horizontal datum transformations to the CGVD2013 datum (see Section 3.0 of Technical Bulletin), and associated limitations on the conversion process were sought however, MNRF endeavours to update this Technical Bulletin in the future to align with and reference pending Government of Ontario Information and Technology Standards.

Other additional comments received will be revisited in future revisions of this Technical Bulletin as future associated Technical Bulletins (e.g., hydrology and hydraulics methods) are released and new content can be added. The Ministry intends to keep this and other future natural hazard technical bulletins in an ‘evergreen’ state and update as new science and methods emerge.

As committed to in Ontario's Flooding Strategy, MNRF is in the process of updating other natural hazard technical guidance and anticipates additional documents to be released for public comment over the coming months and years.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Keyes
Director, Resources Planning and Development Policy Branch
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry



Premier Ford
Premier of Ontario
premier@ontario.ca

The Honourable Paul Calandra
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
minister.mah@ontario.ca

The Honourable Todd A. Smith
Minister of Energy, Ontario
MinisterEnergy@ontario.ca

SENT VIA EMAIL

December 1st, 2023

Re: Support to Revoke Strong Mayor Powers and Increase in the Leave to Construct Threshold

Dear Premier Ford, Minister Calandra, and Minister Smith,

Please be advised that at the Regular Council Meeting on November 29th 2023, the Town of Plympton-Wyoming Council passed the following motion, supporting the attached resolutions from the Western Ontario Wardens Caucus regarding Support to Revoke Strong Mayor Powers and Increase in the Leave to Construct Threshold.

Motion 14 Moved by Councillor Kristen Rodrigues
Seconded by Councillor John van Klaveren
That Council support item 'S' Strong Mayor Powers & 'T' Leave to Construct Threshold from the Western Ontario Warden's Caucus.

Carried.

If you have any questions regarding the above motion, please do not hesitate to contact me by phone or email at eflynn@plympton-wyoming.ca.

Sincerely,

Ella Flynn
Deputy Clerk
Town of Plympton-Wyoming

cc: Sent via e-mail
Western Ontario Wardens' Caucus
Hon. Rob Flack, Associate Minister of Housing – Rob.Flack@pc.ola.org
Matthew Rae, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing – Matthew.Rae@pc.ola.org
All Ontario Municipalities



October 24, 2023

Premier R. Ford
Premier of Ontario
premier@ontario.ca

and

The Honourable Paul Calandra
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Send electronically via email
minister.mah@ontario.ca

Re: Strong Mayor Powers

Dear Premier Ford and Minister Calandra

Please be advised at the regular meeting of the Western Ontario Wardens' Caucus held on October 13, 2023, the following resolution was passed:

Moved by M. Ryan, seconded by B. Milne:

THAT item of correspondence 7-1(b) be received; and

WHEREAS the Western Ontario Wardens Caucus Inc. (WOWC) is a not-for-profit organization representing 15 upper and single tier municipalities in Southwestern Ontario with more than one and a half million residents;

AND WHEREAS the purpose of WOWC is to enhance the prosperity and overall wellbeing of rural and small urban communities across the region;

AND WHEREAS the Strong Mayors, Building Homes Act, 2022, S.O. 2022, c. 18, for select municipalities, transfers legislative responsibility from the deliberative body of the Council to the Head of Council;

AND WHEREAS the Better Municipal Governance Act, 2022, S.O. 2022, c. 24 provides for provincially appointed facilitators to assess the regional governments to determine the mix of roles and responsibilities between the upper and lower-tier municipalities;

AND WHEREAS the Building Faster Fund arbitrarily ties housing supportive funding to municipalities that establish a housing target based solely on population size;

AND WHEREAS "responsible and accountable governments with respect to matters within their jurisdiction;

AND WHEREAS overcoming the housing and affordability crisis in Ontario requires sustained, strategic, and focused efforts from all levels of government, informed from the expertise of all levels of government.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT WOWC calls on the provincial government to work with municipalities in Ontario, as a responsible and accountable level of government, to focus all efforts on tackling the housing and affordability crisis in Ontario by:

Revoking existing 'strong mayor powers' and not implementing legislation that transfers legislative responsibility from the body of Council to the Head of Council.

Respecting spheres of jurisdiction, recognizing that municipalities are best positioned to determine the mix of roles and responsibilities between upper and lower-tier municipalities and only conduct structural and service delivery reviews of municipalities or regions where a majority of municipalities included within the region, request the same.

Recognizing rural and small urban municipalities are critical to overcoming the housing and affordability crisis in Ontario and not allocating the majority of scarce provincial housing supportive funding to a limited subset of large urban municipalities in Ontario.

AND THAT WOWC calls upon the provincial government to provide all municipalities with the financial resources to tackle the housing and affordability crisis in Ontario that is pricing too many people, especially young families and newcomers, out of home ownership, while amplifying socio-economic disparities and reliance on municipally provided human services;

AND THAT this resolution be forwarded to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario for support so that the future governance of our communities is in the hands of its constituents;

AND THAT this resolution be forwarded to: the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing and the Premier of Ontario; WOWC Members; the EOWC, and all WOWC area MPs and MPPs. - **CARRIED**

Please contact Kate Burns Gallagher, Executive Director, Western Ontario Warden' Caucus, kate@wowc.ca should you have any questions regarding this matter.

Sincerely,



Glen McNeil
Chair, Western Ontario Wardens' Caucus



cc.

Hon. Rob Flack, Associate Minister of Housing

Rob.Flack@pc.ola.org

Matthew Rae, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

Matthew.Rae@pc.ola.org

WOWC MPPs

WOWC MPs

Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus



October 24, 2023

The Honourable Todd A. Smith,
Minister of Energy, Ontario
Send electronically via email
MinisterEnergy@ontario.ca

Re: Leave to Construct Threshold

Dear Minister Smith,

On October 13, 2023, the WOWC passed a resolution in favour of the Government of Ontario updating the LTC cost threshold from \$2M to \$20M for hydrocarbon lines (by amending Ontario Regulation O.Reg.328/03) while maintaining current requirements and expectations for Indigenous consultation and environmental review for projects greater than \$2M and less than \$10M.

Western Ontario has seen significant growth in the past decade with pressures to build out the gas pipeline network. Many municipalities in our region have lost major investment opportunities because of the delays in getting natural gas to development sites. Any person or company planning to construct hydrocarbon transmission facilities within Ontario, must apply to the OEB for authorization, if the projected cost to build the pipeline is over \$2 million, a threshold that was set in 1998.

Industry proposes updating the LTC cost threshold from \$2M to \$10M for hydrocarbon lines (by amending Ontario Regulation O.Reg.328/03) while maintaining current requirements and expectations for Indigenous consultation and environmental review for projects greater than \$2M and less than \$10M. Increasing the cost threshold to \$10M would closer align Ontario with other Canadian jurisdictions (e.g., in B.C., these thresholds are \$15M for electricity and \$20M for natural gas). The WOWC is recommending a \$20M threshold for our Province to be competitive with other Canadian jurisdictions.

Ontario's outdated regulations are causing the LTC to apply far more broadly than intended when it was established over 20 years ago. Due to increased regulatory and cost pressures, as well as inflation, virtually all gas pipeline projects are now greater than \$2M rendering the threshold meaningless. Roughly 0.5 KM pipe in urban settings now often exceed the \$2M threshold.

Examples of businesses lost in the region due to the regulation include;

- EV Battery Manufacturer, investment of \$1 Billion
- New Distillery
- 2 New Agricultural processing plants - \$140 million total investment
- New Agricultural plant - \$225 million USD investment

Modernizing these outdated regulations would reduce delays and costs for economic development initiatives including new industries seeking to locate in Ontario and create jobs (or existing seeking to expand), transit projects, community expansion projects, housing developments, connections for low carbon fuel blending (e.g. renewable natural gas, hydrogen) as well as residential and business customer connections.

The WOWC supports an increase in the Leave to Construct threshold to \$20M.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Glen McNeil". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Glen McNeil
Chair, Western Ontario Wardens' Caucus

cc.

Western Ontario MPPs
WOWC Members
WOWC Local Municipalities



Lianne Rood
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

December 1st 2023

Sent via e-mail: Lianne.Rood@parl.gc.ca

Re: Support of Bill C-310 and Amendments to Subsections 118.06 (2) & 118.07 (2) of the *Income Tax Act* (Tax Credit for Volunteer Firefighters)

Dear Ms. Rood,

Please be advised that at the Regular Council Meeting on November 29th 2023, the Town of Plympton-Wyoming Council passed the following motion, supporting the attached resolution from the Municipality of Wawa regarding Support of Bill C-310 and Amendments to Subsections 118.06 (2) & 118.07 (2) of the *Income Tax Act* (Tax Credit for Volunteer Firefighters).

Motion 13

Moved by Councillor Mike Vasey

Seconded by Councillor Bob Woolvett

That Council support item 'R' of correspondence from the Municipality of Wawa regarding Tax Credit for Volunteer Fire Fighters.

Carried.

If you have any questions regarding the above motion, please do not hesitate to contact me by phone or email at eflynn@plympton-wyoming.ca.

Sincerely,

Ella Flynn
Deputy Clerk
Town of Plympton-Wyoming

cc: Sent via e-mail
Association of Fire Chiefs of Ontario – info@oafc.on.ca
The Association of Ontario Municipalities (AMO) – resolutions@amo.on.ca
All Ontario Municipalities



The Corporation of the Municipality of Wawa

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

RESOLUTION

Tuesday, November 7, 2023

Resolution # RC23265	Meeting Order: 10
Moved by: <i>Cathy Fannon</i>	Seconded by: <i>J. M. Al</i>

WHEREAS Canada has 90,000 volunteer firefighters who provide fire and all hazard emergency services to their communities; in addition, approximately 8,000 essential search and rescue volunteers respond to thousands of incidents every year; and

WHEREAS many of these individuals receive some form of pay on call, an honorarium, or are given some funding to cover expenses, but they do not draw a living wage from firefighting; and;

WHEREAS without volunteer firefighters and search and rescue volunteers, thousands of communities in Canada would have no fire and emergency response coverage; and;

WHEREAS in 2013, the federal government initiated a tax credit recognizing these individuals, and calling on the federal government to increase this tax credit from \$3,000 to \$10,000; and;

WHEREAS volunteer firefighters account for 71% of Canada's total firefighting essential first responders;

- The tax code of Canada currently allows volunteer firefighters and search and rescue volunteers to claim a \$3,000 tax credit if 200 hours of volunteer services were completed in a calendar year;
- This works out to a mere \$450 per year, which we allow these essential volunteers to keep of their own income from their regular jobs, \$2.25 an hour;
- If they volunteer more than 200 hours, which many do, this tax credit becomes even less;
- These essential volunteers not only put their lives on the line and give their time, training and efforts to Canadians, but they also allow cities and municipalities to keep property taxes lower than if paid services were required;

p.2...



The Corporation of the Municipality of Wawa

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

RESOLUTION

- It would also help retain these volunteers in a time when volunteerism is decreasing.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Municipality of Wawa call upon the Government of Canada to support Bill C-310 and enact amendments to subsections 118.06 (2) and 118.07 (2) of the Income Tax Act in order to increase the amount of the tax credits for volunteer firefighting and search and rescue volunteer services from \$3,000 to \$10,000; and;

FURTHERMORE THAT a copy of the resolution be shared with the Association of Fire Chiefs of Ontario, Algoma Mutual Aid Association, Association of Municipalities of Ontario and all Ontario municipalities.

RESOLUTION RESULT		RECORDED VOTE		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CARRIED	MAYOR AND COUNCIL	YES	NO
<input type="checkbox"/>	DEFEATED	Mitch Hatfield		
<input type="checkbox"/>	TABLED	Cathy Cannon		
<input type="checkbox"/>	RECORDED VOTE (SEE RIGHT)	Melanie Pilon		
<input type="checkbox"/>	PECUNIARY INTEREST DECLARED	Jim Hoffmann		
<input type="checkbox"/>	WITHDRAWN	Joseph Opato		

Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and the general nature thereof.

- ☐ Disclosed the pecuniary interest and general name thereof and abstained from the discussion, vote and influence.

Clerk: _____

MAYOR – MELANIE PILON	CLERK – MAURY O'NEILL



December 06, 2023

The Association of Municipalities of Ontario
200 University Ave., Suite 801
Toronto, Ontario M5H 3C6

Sent via email: resolutions@amo.on.ca

Attention: Colin Best, President

Dear Mr. Best

Re: Grey Highlands Resolution #2023-964

Please be advised that the following resolution was passed at the December 06, 2023 meeting of the Council of the Municipality of Grey Highlands.

2023-964

Whereas the Enbridge Gas has shared with Grey Highlands key messages regarding the Ontario Energy Board's Leave to Construct (LTC) process, entitled "reducing red tape for more cost-effective, timely energy connections in Ontario"; and

Whereas Grey Highlands supports and wishes to endorse the recommendations put forward by Enbridge Gas in order to expedite the installation of natural gas to rural, remote or underserved communities such as Grey Highlands; now Therefor be it resolved that the Municipality of Grey Highlands petition the Ontario Government to expedite the implementation of the following recommendations:

- i) THAT the Government of Ontario move to modernize the Ontario Energy Board's (OEB) Leave to Construct (LTC) process for smaller pipeline projects in order to bring reliable, affordable energy options to communities, homes and businesses in a more cost-effective and timely manner.**
- ii) THAT the LTC cost threshold be updated from \$2M to \$10M for hydrocarbon lines (by amending Ontario Regulation O.Reg.328/03) while maintaining current requirements and expectations for Indigenous consultation and environmental review for projects greater than \$2M and less than \$10M.**
- iii) THAT these outdated regulations are causing the LTC to apply far more broadly than intended when it was established over 20 years ago due to**

The Municipality of Grey Highlands

206 Toronto Street South, Unit One - P.O. Box 409 Markdale, Ontario N0C 1H0
519-986-2811 Toll-Free 1-888-342-4059 Fax 519-986-3643
www.greyhighlands.ca info@greyhighlands.ca

increased regulatory and cost pressures, as well as inflation, virtually all gas pipeline projects are now greater than \$2M rendering the threshold meaningless.

iv) THAT roughly 0.5 KM pipe in urban settings now often exceeds the \$2M threshold.

v) THAT modernizing these outdated regulations would reduce delays and costs for economic development initiatives including transit projects, community expansion projects, housing developments, connections for low carbon fuel blending (e.g., renewable natural gas, hydrogen) as well as residential and business customer connections.

vi) THAT based on OEB's performance standards, this proposal would save approx. 5-7 months of regulatory process which is in addition to the time needed to undertake Indigenous consultation and environmental review and prepare an application to the OEB.

vii) THAT the cost of preparing and having a LTC application heard ranges from approx. ~\$50,000 to ~\$200,000, which is passed on to customers.

viii) THAT while no cost-based threshold exists for electricity lines, there are a range of exemptions ensuring that LTC is only required for significant electricity projects and the proposed changes would help ensure that, consistent with electricity projects, LTC for hydrocarbon lines would only be required for significant projects.

ix) THAT increasing the cost threshold to \$10M would closer align Ontario with other Canadian jurisdictions (e.g., in B.C., these thresholds are \$15M for electricity and \$20M for natural gas); and

That this resolution be circulated to the President of AMO, Colin Best, Premier Doug Ford, the Minister of Energy, Todd Smith, The Minister of Finance, Peter Bethlenfalvy and all regional municipalities requesting support of the proposed changes regarding reducing red tape for more cost-effective, timely energy connections in Ontario.

CARRIED.

If you require anything further, please contact this office.

Sincerely,

Amanda Fines-Vanalstine

Amanda Fines-VanAlstine
Manager of Corporate Services/Deputy-Clerk
Municipality of Grey Highlands

cc. Premier Doug Ford
Minister of Energy Todd Smith,
Minister of Finance, Peter Bethlenfalvy
All municipalities in Ontario

The Municipality of Grey Highlands

206 Toronto Street South, Unit One - P.O. Box 409 Markdale, Ontario N0C 1H0
519-986-2811 Toll-Free 1-888-342-4059 Fax 519-986-3643
www.greyhighlands.ca info@greyhighlands.ca



**Corporation of the
Municipality of West Grey**

402813 Grey Road 4, RR 2 Durham, ON N0G 1R0
519 369 2200

December 11, 2023

RE: Consultation on the future of natural gas expansion and home heating affordability

To whom it may concern,

Please be advised that at its meeting held on December 5, 2023, the council of the Municipality of West Grey considered the above-noted matter and passed Resolution No. R-231205-007 as follows:

"WHEREAS the Enbridge Gas has shared with Municipality of West Grey key messages regarding the Ontario Energy Board's Leave to Construct (LTC) process, entitled "reducing red tape for more cost-effective, timely energy connections in Ontario:"

AND WHEREAS Municipality of West Grey supports and wishes to endorse the recommendations put forward by Enbridge Gas in order to expedite the installation of natural gas to rural, remote or underserved communities such Municipality of West Grey;

NOW THEREBE IT RESOLVED:

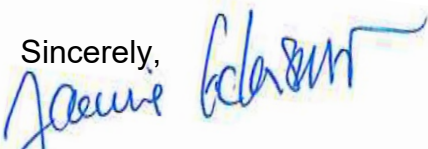
- 1. THAT the Municipality of West Grey petition the Ontario Government to expedite the implementation of the following recommendations:**
 - i. THAT the Government of Ontario move to modernize the Ontario Energy Board's (OEB) Leave to Construct (LTC) process for smaller pipeline projects in order to bring reliable, affordable energy options to communities, homes and businesses in a more cost-effective and timely manner;**
 - ii. AND THAT the LTC cost threshold be updated from \$2M to \$10M for hydrocarbon lines (by amending Ontario Regulation O.Reg.328/03) while maintaining current requirements and expectations for Indigenous consultation and environmental review for projects greater than \$2M and less than \$10M;**

- iii. **AND THAT** these outdated regulations are causing the LTC to apply far more broadly than intended when it was established over 20 years ago due to increased regulatory and cost pressures, as well as inflation, virtually all gas pipeline projects are now greater than \$2M rendering the threshold meaningless;
- iv. **AND THAT** roughly 5 KM pipe in urban settings now often exceeds the \$2M threshold;
- v. **AND THAT** modernizing these outdated regulations would reduce delays and costs for economic development initiatives including transit projects, community expansion projects, housing developments, connections for low carbon fuel blending (e.g., renewable natural gas, hydrogen) as well as residential and business customer connections;
- vi. **AND THAT** based on OEB's performance standards, this proposal would save approx. 5-7 months of regulatory process which is in addition to the time needed to undertake Indigenous consultation and environmental review and prepare an application to the OEB;
- vii. **AND THAT** the cost of preparing and having a LTC application heard ranges from approx. ~\$50,000 to ~\$200,000, which is passed on to customers;
- viii. **AND THAT** while no cost-based threshold exists for electricity lines, there are a range of exemptions ensuring that LTC is only required for significant electricity projects and the proposed changes would help ensure that, consistent with electricity projects, LTC for hydrocarbon lines would only be required for significant projects;
- ix. **AND THAT** increasing the cost threshold to \$10M would closer align Ontario with other Canadian jurisdictions (e.g., in C., these thresholds are \$15M for electricity and \$20M for natural gas);

2. AND THAT this resolution be circulated to the President of AMO, Colin Best, Premier Doug Ford, the Minister of Energy, Todd Smith, The Minister of Finance, Peter Bethlenfalvy and all regional municipalities requesting support of the proposed changes regarding reducing red tape for more cost-effective, timely energy connections in Ontario."

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Jamie Eckenswiller, AMP (he/him)
Director of Legislative Services/Clerk
Municipality of West Grey

Cc. Colin Best, President of AMO
Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
Todd Smith, Minister of Energy
Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance
All Regional Municipalities



Clerk's Department
 Township of Clearview
 Box 200, 217 Gideon Street
 Stayner, Ontario L0M 1S0
clerks@clearview.ca | www.clearview.ca
 Phone: 705-428-6230

December 12, 2023

File: C00.2023

Hon. Todd McCarthy
 Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery
 777 Bay Street, 5th Floor
 Toronto ON M5B 2H7

Sent by Email

RE: Cemetery Transfer/Abandonment Administration & Management Support

Please be advised that Council of the Township of Clearview, at its meeting held on December 11, 2023, passed a resolution regarding Cemetery Transfer/Abandonment Administration & Management Support as follows:

Moved by Councillor Walker, Seconded by Councillor Broderick, Whereas under the Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act, 2002 (FBCSA), when a cemetery is declared abandoned by a judge of the Superior Court Justice, the local municipality within whose geographic boundaries the land of the cemetery is located, becomes the owner of the cemetery with all the rights and obligations in respect of the cemetery and the assets, trust funds and trust accounts related to it that the previous owner or operator possessed;

And Whereas over the last decade, there has been an increase in the number of churches and local cemetery boards initiating processes to transfer ownership or abandon their owned and operated cemeteries to the local municipality due to such issues as high maintenance costs, inaccuracy of records, lack of financial and human resources to effectively operate and maintain the cemetery, increased regulatory processes regarding training, selling of interment rights, financial operation of the care and maintenance fund, etc.;

And Whereas municipalities experience the same issues and pressures that churches and local boards experience with the operation and maintenance of cemeteries within its jurisdiction, and additional transfers of cemetery lands only compound the burden on municipal taxpayers;

And Whereas cemeteries are important infrastructure where the reasonable costs for interment rights, burials, monument foundations, corner stones and administration charges do not sufficiently support the general operation of cemeteries;

And Whereas the interest earned from the care and maintenance fund(s) of a cemetery do not provide adequate funding to maintain the cemetery with the rising costs of lawn and turf maintenance contracts and monument restoration;

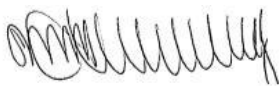
Now Therefore Be It Resolved that Council of the Township of Clearview requests that the Province through the Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery and the Bereavement Authority of Ontario (BAO) consider the following to assist municipalities in this growing concern of cemetery transfers:

- Amend the Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act, 2002 (FBCSA), to have the Province, through the BAO, identified as the default owner and operator of a cemetery when it is abandoned;
- Provide annual funding (based on the number of cemeteries a municipality owns and operates) to municipalities to assist with the maintenance of inactive and active cemeteries; Page 6 of 7
- Provide free training opportunities for municipalities regarding cemetery administration; and,
- Investigate and support the design of universal cemetery software for use by municipal cemetery operators that can be offered at an affordable cost.

And that this resolution be circulated to the Hon. Todd McCarthy, Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery, Jim Cassimatis, BAO Interim CEO/Registrar, MPP Brian Saunderson and all Ontario municipalities. Motion Carried.

For reference, please find attached the Staff Report LS-032-2023 that provides background for the above resolution. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Regards,



Sasha HelmKay-Playter, B.A., Dipl. M.A., AOMC
Clerk/Director of Legislative Services

cc: Jim Cassimatis, BAO Interim CEO/Registrar
MPP Simcoe Grey, Brian Saunderson
Ontario Municipalities

To: Mayor and Council

From: Sasha Helmkey, Clerk/Director of Legislative Services

Date: December 11, 2023

Subject: Report # LS-032-2023 – Cemetery Transfer/Abandonment Administration & Management Support

Recommendation

Be It Resolved that Council of the Township of Clearview hereby receives Report LS-032-2023 (Cemetery Transfer/Abandonment Administration & Management Support) dated December 11, 2023; and,

Whereas under the Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act, 2002 (FBCSA), when a cemetery is declared abandoned by a judge of the Superior Court Justice, the local municipality within whose geographic boundaries the land of the cemetery is located, becomes the owner of the cemetery with all the rights and obligations in respect of the cemetery and the assets, trust funds and trust accounts related to it that the previous owner or operator possessed;

And Whereas over the last decade, there has been an increase in the number of churches and local cemetery boards initiating processes to transfer ownership or abandon their owned and operated cemeteries to the local municipality due to such issues as high maintenance costs, inaccuracy of records, lack of financial and human resources to effectively operate and maintain the cemetery, increased regulatory processes regarding training, selling of interment rights, financial operation of the care and maintenance fund, etc.;

And Whereas municipalities experience the same issues and pressures that churches and local boards experience with the operation and maintenance of cemeteries within its jurisdiction, and additional transfers of cemetery lands only compound the burden on municipal taxpayers;

And Whereas cemeteries are important infrastructure where the reasonable costs for interment rights, burials, monument foundations, corner stones and administration charges do not sufficiently support the general operation of cemeteries;

And Whereas the interest earned from the care and maintenance fund(s) of a cemetery do not provide adequate funding to maintain the cemetery with the rising costs of lawn and turf maintenance contracts and monument restoration;

Now Therefore Be It Resolved that Council of the Township of Clearview requests that the Province through the Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery and the Bereavement Authority of Ontario (BAO) consider the following to assist municipalities in this growing concern of cemetery transfers:

- Amend the Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act, 2002 (FBCSA), to have the Province, through the BAO, identified as the default owner and operator of a cemetery when it is abandoned;
- Provide annual funding (based on the number of cemeteries a municipality owns and operates) to municipalities to assist with the maintenance of inactive and active cemeteries;
- Provide free training opportunities for municipalities regarding cemetery administration; and,
- Investigate and support the design of universal cemetery software for use by municipal cemetery operators that can be offered at an affordable cost.

And that this resolution be circulated to the Hon. Todd McCarthy, Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery, Jim Cassimatis, BAO Interim CEO/Registrar, MPP Brian Saunderson and all Ontario municipalities.

Background

Under the Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act, 2002 (FBCSA), when a cemetery is declared abandoned by a judge of the Superior Court Justice, the local municipality within whose geographic boundaries the land of the cemetery is located, becomes the owner of the cemetery with all the rights and obligations in respect of the cemetery and the assets, trust funds and trust accounts related to it that the previous owner or operator possessed.

Over the last decade there appears to be a trend where cemeteries in Ontario are being transferred, whether through abandonment or a mutually agreed upon transfer, to the care and control of municipalities. This is often seen when there is a breakdown in existing cemetery boards and/or when churches cease operations. For many existing private cemetery boards their board members and volunteers are aging and are unable to assist with the operations and maintenance of the cemetery any longer. Finding new members proves to be difficult for these boards to continue. In addition to aging board members, there are other issues that are contributing to the increase in cemetery transfers:

- high maintenance costs
- inaccuracy of records
- lack of financial and human resources to effectively operate and maintain the cemetery

- increased regulatory processes that require ongoing training for selling of interment rights, and the financial operation of the care and maintenance fund, etc.

Township Owned Cemeteries

The Township of Clearview currently owns and operates nine (9) cemeteries within its geographic boundaries. Out of these nine cemeteries, four (4) are considered active meaning that there are still interment rights to be sold, or burials to take place. Below is a chart outlining these cemeteries and their status:

Cemetery Name	Address	Status
Batteau Hill Cemetery	2670 County Road 124, Duntroon	Inactive
Bethel Union Cemetery	2249 Creemore Avenue, New Lowell	Inactive
Dunedin Union Cemetery	9 Turkeyroost Lane, Dunedin	Active
Duntroon Pioneer Cemetery	2870 County Road 124, Duntroon	Inactive
Lavender Cemetery	827103 Mulmur/Nottawasaga Townline, Creemore	Active
Old Zion Presbyterian Church Cemetery	6130 Highway 26, Sunnidale Corners	Inactive
Second Line Nottawasaga Cemetery	2279 County Road 42, Stayner	Active
Stayner Union Cemetery	7661 Highway 26, Stayner	Active
Zion Presbyterian Church Cemetery	12358 County Road 10, Sunnidale Corners	Inactive

For the Dunedin and Stayner Union Cemetery, the Township looks after the maintenance and burials through a third-party contractor. The maintenance and burials for the Lavender Cemetery are conducted through the Board. For the Second Line Nottawasaga Cemetery all the interment rights have been sold, but there remains one burial to be completed. The cost to maintain an active cemetery is expensive. Although burial costs and the installation of markers, etc. are cost recovery through the purchaser, grounds maintenance is not.

Inactive cemeteries still require consistent grounds maintenance, which includes any monument restoration for health and safety, and record searches for the public register.

Comments and Analysis

When analyzing the number of cemeteries that Clearview Township currently owns and operates, maintenance and administration is a large undertaking. To add any additional cemeteries by way of transfer or abandonment will only compound the issues the Township is already facing. In the past year, the Township has been approached by two separate entities regarding possible cemetery transfers. When a board or cemetery transfers ownership to the municipality, the issues are transferred with it. Municipalities are not immune to the same concerns. It becomes a strain on municipal resources, financially, administratively, and operationally.

Administrative Impact

From an administrative perspective the management of four active cemeteries is both time consuming and complex. No interment is the same, and providing good customer service takes time especially for those making arrangements while also dealing with grief. Administrative tasks include but are not limited to: interment right sales and mapping, burial contracts and scheduling, monument placement, historical record searches, plot and monument staking, fees and charges review, family transfers of interment rights and annual reporting to the Bereavement Authority of Ontario (BAO).

- **Incomplete records**

Often the records accepted by the Township from a dissolved cemetery board or church are incomplete and disorganized. This is no fault of the previous board members, as they are also often operating with limited resources. However, it does make it difficult to manage the cemetery post-transfer when records are sparse. Understanding which plots are occupied and by who is critical to the sound management of a cemetery. Unfortunately, this is not made possible in all cases because of incomplete records. In addition, records received during a transfer usually are maintained under different records management standards and are often organized and named inconsistently. Adaptation to Township records keeping practices takes time.

- **Lack of human resources**

Cemetery management is a highly regulated professional field, with the responsibility of which is often placed on public sector employees who may have limited knowledge of cemeteries in general. With reduced resources within municipalities especially rural ones, the management of cemeteries often becomes a secondary responsibility to another position. There is also a lack of affordable training available for municipal employees who are required to abide by regulations set out by the FBCSA and the BAO.

- **Increased regulatory processes**

Annual reporting requirements of the BAO can be extensive and complex. This includes monitoring the number of interments, the transfers to the Care and Maintenance Fund (C&M), and how the C&M fund can be used. There are also regulations pertaining to maintaining a public register, how sales are to be conducted and strict guidelines on Cemetery By-law approvals, and expansions including the erection of columbaria structures.

- **Inconsistent cemetery regulations**

Cemeteries can have many different regulations related to plot size, number of burials allowed in a given plot, monument size, what types of flowers/shrubs are allowed to be installed near a headstone etc. The transfer of different cemeteries having inconsistent regulations can make it difficult to adapt management practices in order to maintain original cemetery operational standards.

Operational Impact

Similarly, from an operational perspective the grounds maintenance of cemeteries, whether active or inactive, is both time consuming and complex. A key issue when analyzing the maintenance component of cemetery management is the lack of financial resources to support the operation. Cemetery maintenance includes, but is not limited to: grass cutting (whipper snipping around monuments), tree and shrub maintenance, monument and corner stone maintenance, water pipe and washroom monitoring, and general upkeep of cemetery grounds (removal of debris, etc.).

- **High maintenance costs**

As with many services, there are rising costs to contend with. Municipalities have adopted different models to address the maintenance of such, with third party contractors being commonly used or it becomes the responsibility of an internal department such as Parks & Recreation. Regardless the model, the costs have increased significantly over the last decade with equipment purchases/upgrades, insurance requirements for third-party contractors, and the time it takes to cut the grass and whipper snip around monuments. To put it into perspective, the Stayner Union Cemetery with the expansion is 25 acres with monuments to manoeuvre around during ground care. Other considerations for maintenance includes monument restoration and ensuring that they are not deteriorated to the point where they are unsafe. This is important for older cemeteries where restoration hasn't been provided in the past and there are many deteriorating monuments.

- **Cost of cemetery management software**

Cemetery Management Software can help municipalities manage cemetery records, including plot sale contracts, interment rights certificates, and regulatory reporting.

However, these software solutions are often expensive and require a large amount of staff time to implement especially with incomplete data and records. These software solutions range in price from \$5,000 to \$100,000 with annual maintenance costs. This investment in software can be a large budget request and one that would need to be supported from taxation with the limited funds in cemetery general accounts.

- **Inadequate Care and Maintenance funds**

When the Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act, 2002 (FBCSA) was enacted, it stipulated that a care and maintenance fund for a cemetery shall be established. A cemetery operator is required to make contributions to the fund from the sale of in-ground graves, crypts, tombs, niches, scattering rights and monument installation. The contribution is prescribed under the FBCSA and differs dependant on the interment type. The idea is that the fund (income earned from the fund - interest) pays for maintenance costs after a cemetery has stopped making sales. In reality, this concept does not produce enough funds to maintain a cemetery. Looking at the Stayner Union Cemetery as an example, for the very basics (grass cutting and whipper snipping) the interest from the care and maintenance fund does not provide enough monies to maintain the cemetery for the 7 months it's required. In addition, the care and maintenance fund is also to be utilized for the stabilization, maintenance and security of markers. Cemeteries are not self funding, and maintenance of such is becoming a larger budget concern.

Support Request

Cemetery transfers and abandonments have been an ongoing concern for Clearview Township for many years. When you look at the large geography of the Township there are many cemeteries within the boundaries that have the potential to be transferred. To gauge the concern of other municipalities on this issue, staff addressed it at a Simcoe County Clerks group discussion. Many neighbouring municipalities expressed that they were dealing with the same issues and have also been approached by different external entities on possible transfers.

As result of the discussion, it was agreed that to assist with the real concerns with transfers and abandonments of cemeteries, it's vital that the Province provide assistance to adequately support this infrastructure. Support can be provided in many different forms, with staff making the following recommendations for the Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery and the BAO:

- Amend the Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act, 2002 (FBCSA), to have the Province, through the BAO, identified as the default owner and operator of a cemetery when it is abandoned;

- Provide annual funding (based on the number of cemeteries a municipality owns and operates) to municipalities to assist with the maintenance of inactive and active cemeteries;
- Provide free training opportunities for municipalities regarding cemetery administration; and,
- Investigate and support the design of universal cemetery software for use by municipal cemetery operators that can be offered at an affordable cost.

There is not one solution to solve all the issues, but at the very least it's important to identify the concerns and have open and real discussions at the provincial level on what support can be provided.

Clearview's Strategic Plan

The above initiative supports the following strategic pillars:

- Governance

Financial Implications

It is difficult to identify an exact dollar amount that can be attributed to a cemetery transfer/abandonment to the municipality. Every transfer is different and depends on a multitude of factors beginning with the cemetery status (active/inactive), acreage, care and maintenance fund (if any), maintenance of records, etc. What is being recommended by staff by way of support from the province is not meant to erase the costs entirely, but rather, to alleviate the financial burden in some capacity.

Report Appendices

Not applicable.

Approvals

Submitted by:	Sasha HelmKay, B.A., Dipl. M.A., AOMC, Clerk/Director of Legislative Services
Reviewed by:	Krista Pascoe, Deputy Clerk
Financial Implications Reviewed by:	Kelly McDonald, Treasurer
Approved by:	John Ferguson, CAO