



## **Correspondence Items Presented for Information September 22, 2025**

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- 1) Correspondence from the Ministry of Transportation Re: AMO Delegation.
- 2) Correspondence from AMO Re:
  - a) AMO Policy Update – AMO Advocacy on Automated Speed Enforcement, Development Charges Advocacy, Federal Government Pre-Budget Announcements, Federal-Provincial-Territorial Housing Forum Commitments, and Blue Box Amendments.
  - b) AMO Policy Update – Federal Government Launches Build Canada Homes.
- 3) Correspondence from Conservation Ontario Re: 2025 and 2026 Federal Pre-Budget Submission.
- 4) Correspondence from the Manager of Corporate Services/Clerk, Municipality of Bluewater Re: Closure of Before and After School Programs.
- 5) Correspondence from the CAO/Clerk-Treasurer, Township of Larder Lake Re: Resolution Requesting a Moratorium on Aerial Spraying of Glyphosate in the Timiskaming Forest.
- 6) Correspondence from the Mayor, Municipality of St. Charles Re: Natural Gas Expansion – Project Cancellation.

## Ministry of Transportation

Office of the  
Parliamentary Assistant  
777 Bay Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Toronto ON M7A 1Z8

Tel: 416 327-9200

## Ministère des Transports

Bureau de l'adjoint  
parlementaire  
777, rue Bay 5<sup>e</sup> étage  
Toronto ON M7A 1Z8

Tél : 416 327-9200



August 29, 2025

107-2025-1820

Ian Boddy  
Mayor  
City of Owen Sound  
iboddy@owensound.ca

Dear Mayor Boddy:

It was a pleasure to meet with you and your delegation at this year's Association of Municipalities of Ontario conference. I appreciated the opportunity to hear about your community's transportation needs and look forward to working together to strengthen and expand safe and reliable transportation infrastructure across Ontario.

The Ministry of Transportation remains dedicated to supporting municipal priorities through our programs, services and infrastructure investments. These projects are a part of our government's plan to protect Ontario by creating thousands of jobs and driving economic growth. With a historic investment of \$100 billion, we are delivering over 1,200 transit and highway infrastructure projects provincewide, including the largest transit expansion in North America. As we move forward, we continue to collaborate with our municipal partners to build safe, fast and reliable transportation infrastructure that keeps Ontarians moving.

If you have any further questions, please reach out to Cindy Lee, Director of Strategic Planning at [cindy.lee3@ontario.ca](mailto:cindy.lee3@ontario.ca).

Thank you for making the time to meet with me at the conference.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Hardeep Grewal".

Hardeep Grewal  
Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Transportation

## AMO Policy Update – AMO Advocacy on Automated Speed Enforcement, Federal Development Charges Advocacy, Federal Government Pre-Budget Announcements, Federal-Provincial-Territorial Housing Forum Commitments, and Blue Box Amendments

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### Top Insights

- In response to recent comments by Premier Ford about municipal use of **automated speed enforcement**, AMO wrote a letter to the Premier and Minister of Transportation. ASEs are evidence-based and cost-effective tools to support road safety that have broad public support.
- AMO is advocating to the federal government that any **federally mandated reductions to development charges** will need to be replaced with a new, equally predictable, and sufficient revenue source that make Ontario municipalities whole.
- The federal government announced a new **federal industrial strategy** which will include a new “Buy Canadian” procurement policy, including a roadmap for provinces and municipalities to adopt.
- AMO stands ready to work with the provincial government to support conversations with the federal government about commitments agreed to by the **Federal-Provincial-Territorial Forum on Housing**.
- The province finalized amendments to the **Blue Box Regulation**, addressing some municipal concerns.

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### AMO Advocacy on Automated Speed Enforcement

Earlier today, [AMO sent a letter](#) to the Premier and Minister of Transportation highlighting the important evidence-based role that automated speed enforcement (ASE) plays in improving road safety:

- Automated speed enforcement is making roads safer. Automated speed enforcement cameras in Toronto reduced speeding vehicles by 45 per cent.
- ASE is cost effective. ASE allows police officers to focus on other high-impact activities and net ASE revenues are reinvested in community safety improvements.
- ASE is supported by most Ontarians. Nearly three-quarters of Ontario drivers support the use of ASE in targeted areas like school zones or community centres.

Municipalities understand the need to use these tools thoughtfully and can be counted on to do so. AMO has sought to collaborate with the province to ensure that ASE is used effectively and to improve public understanding of their importance.

### **Federal Development Charges Advocacy**

The federal government's election platform pledged \$6 billion federal funding over four years for Development Charge (DC) discounts of 50% for multi-unit residential housing projects. The platform also committed to working with provinces and territories to make municipalities whole.

AMO [has advocated to Minister Robertson](#) and his ministry that DCs are a long-term and relatively stable revenue source, and any federally mandated reductions to DCs will need to be replaced with a new, equally predictable, and sufficient revenue source.

The foregone revenue loss for Ontario municipalities would be significant. Federal funding must fully compensate Ontario municipalities with an increase in direct, stable and multi-year funding to match the full municipal revenue loss from any reduction in DCs. Additional financing tools or short-term funding commitments will not be enough to support Ontario's long-term infrastructure needs.

AMO has also highlighted the broader issue of chronic underinvestment in Ontario's municipal infrastructure and called on the federal government to work with the province and municipalities to establish new and innovative mechanisms that will provide sustainable, predictable and enhanced funding for local infrastructure.

### **Federal Government announces new industrial strategy to combat US tariffs**

Last week, Prime Minister Carney said to expect a fall budget with austerity and investment measures.

Providing more insight into the planned investments, the Prime Minister [announced](#) six new strategic measures. These measures are designed to support workers and businesses most impacted by US tariffs and trade disruptions. They focus on helping workers acquire new skills and businesses retool their production and diversify their products, finding ways to increase their sales nationally through new and existing programs.

One key initiative is the introduction of a new “Buy Canadian Policy” to boost domestic demand for Canadian businesses. As part of this new procurement policy, the federal government will provide a roadmap that provinces and municipalities can adopt for their own procurement practices. AMO will continue to work closely with the province to ensure new procurement measures – including this roadmap - reflect the needs of Ontario municipalities. AMO Policy will review and share insights on the “Buy Canadian Policy” and roadmap for municipalities once its released.

AMO will also monitor its [Major Projects Office](#), which is charged with fast-tracking nation building projects, for announcements that impact Ontario municipalities.

## **Federal-Provincial-Territorial Ministers Forum on Housing and Homelessness**

The forum of federal, provincial and territorial ministers (FPT) across Canada met to discuss solutions to key housing and homelessness issues facing people in Canada. As detailed in a [news release](#), the forum focused on a coordinated approach to advancing housing and homeless priorities and resulted in commitments to working together including to renew intergovernmental partnerships on affordable housing beyond the expiry of the National Housing Strategy (NHS) in 2028.

AMO is pleased to see this commitment for continued FPT collaboration. Continued NHS funding is crucial because of the role it plays in providing access to safe, affordable, and inclusive housing by increasing housing supply, improving housing quality, and supporting vulnerable populations. These contributions are essential to helping to strengthen the social and economic prosperity of communities. AMO stands ready to support the Ontario government in conversations with their federal counterparts through a Team Ontario approach.

## **Blue Box Regulation Amendments**

On September 4th, the province [released](#) finalized Blue Box Regulation (O. Reg 391/21) amendments. The regulation shifts the financial and operational responsibility of the blue box program from municipalities to industry.

In July, [AMO sent a letter to Minister McCarthy](#) outlining municipal concerns about proposed Blue Box Regulation amendments. AMO is pleased to see that the government listened and adjusted some amendments in response. In particular, we are pleased that the province has:

- Delayed enforceable recycling targets by two years instead of five, and
- Delayed, instead of canceling, the expansion of service to multi-residential buildings.

AMO will continue to advocate for a strong recycling system where manufacturers are responsible for their packaging and incentivized to reduce waste.

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*An online version of this Policy Update is also available on the [AMO Website](#).*

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Association of Municipalities of Ontario

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155 University Ave Suite 800 | Toronto, ON M5H 3B7 CA

**Christina McLean**

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**From:** Briana Bloomfield  
**Sent:** September 15, 2025 12:21 PM  
**To:** Christina McLean  
**Subject:** FW: AMO Policy Update – Federal Government Launches Build Canada Homes

Info pack.

Briana Bloomfield  
City Clerk  
Corporate Services Department

City of Owen Sound  
808 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave East, Owen Sound, ON N4K 2H4  
519-376-4440 ext. 1247  
[bbloomfield@owensound.ca](mailto:bbloomfield@owensound.ca)  
[www.owensound.ca](http://www.owensound.ca)



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**From:** AMO Policy <policy@amo.on.ca>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 15, 2025 12:10 PM  
**To:** Briana Bloomfield <bbloomfield@owensound.ca>  
**Subject:** AMO Policy Update – Federal Government Launches Build Canada Homes

**External sender** <policy@amo.on.ca>  
Make sure you trust this sender before taking any actions.



## AMO Policy Update – Federal Government Launches Build Canada Homes

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## Top Insights

- Yesterday, AMO's President and Executive Director were invited to Ottawa for the launch of **Build Canada Homes**. Ontario municipalities are ready to work with the province and federal government to transform the housing landscape and increase affordable, supportive and transitional housing in Ontario.

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## Federal Government Launch of Build Canada Homes

AMO welcomes the Government of Canada's [announcement](#) launching [Build Canada Homes](#), a new Special Operating Agency within Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada (HICC). AMO's President Robin Jones and Executive Director Lindsay Jones attended the announcement with Prime Minister Carney and Minister Robertson (Housing and Infrastructure of Canada).

Responsive to AMO's market sounding guide [submission](#), Build Canada Homes (BCH) will focus primarily on non-market housing, supporting a mix of income needs as part of a national effort to double housing construction, restore affordability, and reduce homelessness. BCH aligns with AMO's recommendations about Ontario's municipal priorities:

- The agency will work with municipalities, provinces, territories and Indigenous Communities to fight homelessness by building supportive and transitional housing with an investment of \$1 billion and will seek to pair these federal investments with employment and health care supports in provinces and territories.
- A new acquisition program to protect existing affordable rental housing, the \$1.5 billion Canada Rental Protection Fund, will help the community housing sector in acquiring at-risk apartment buildings to ensure their affordability over the long term.
- BCH will also work with the private sector to deploy modern methods of construction to create a new Canadian housing industry using Canadian materials. Prioritization initially will be placed on creating 4000 factory-built units in six select Canadian cities, including Toronto and Ottawa, with additional capacity of up to 45,000 units across the portfolio.

BCH will be headed by Ana Bailão as the agency’s Chief Executive Officer. As a former Toronto City Councillor and chair of Toronto Community Housing, Ana will bring her knowledge of housing in Ontario to the leadership position.

AMO will work with both the federal and provincial governments to ensure the conditions for BCH’s success in Ontario given our unique municipal responsibility for community housing and homelessness prevention services. This will include working with the Ontario government to match federal capital dollars with provincial operating funding for the necessary wrap around supports for supportive housing. AMO looks forward to working with the federal government on the potential expansion of the initiative to create new factory-built units on federal lands in more Ontario communities – large urban, small urban, rural, northern and southern.

The federal government will announce additional measures in Budget 2025 to lower costs for builders and to catalyze private capital in homebuilding. AMO asks the federal government to avoid imposing new development charge (DC) exemptions or discounts. DCs have been a key funding source for municipal capital investments for decades. Reductions will be counterproductive unless DCs are fully replaced with another equally predictable and stable revenue source.

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*An online version of this Policy Update is also available on the [AMO Website](#).*

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Conservation  
**ONTARIO**  
*Natural Champions*

## 2025 and 2026 Federal Pre-Budget Submission

*Conservation Ontario's Pre-Budget  
Submission in Advance of the Federal Budget*



# RECOMMENDATIONS

## **1 Safeguard Canada's flood insurance market and reduce disaster recovery costs by continuing to invest in resilient critical infrastructure, businesses, and homes.**

- 1.1** That Natural Resources Canada continues to invest and build on the 4-year commitment (2022/23-2025/26) of \$15 million for Ontario and \$164.2 million across Canada through the Flood Hazard Identification Mapping Program (FHIMP). This will deliver the most up-to-date data to local governments and decision-makers, informing long-term planning and ensuring new and existing development can be insured.
- 1.2** That Natural Resources Canada continues to invest further to the 4-year commitment (2024/25-2027/28) of \$4.1 million for Ontario and \$41 million across Canada into the Climate-Resilient Coastal Communities (CRCC) program and build on the existing investment to co-develop long-term funding solutions with provincial and municipal governments to scale local adaptation actions and reduce insured losses.
- 1.3** That Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada continues to invest and build on the 14-year commitment (2018/19-2031/32) of \$4 billion for the Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund (DMAF) to repair and address aging water and erosion control infrastructure, protecting large capital assets such as dams, dykes, channels, and erosion control structures vital to public safety and to keep flood and erosion hazards from becoming costly disasters.

## **2 Unleash economic opportunities by bolstering local food supply chains through continued investments in resilient agricultural landscapes.**

- 2.1** That Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada continues to invest further to the 5-year commitment (2023/24-2027/28) of \$56.7 million for Ontario through the Resilient Agriculture Lands Program (RALP) to support local farmers in implementing nature-based solutions that strengthen the long-term viability and prosperity of Ontario's farmland and watercourses.

# RECOMMENDATIONS

## 3 Build one Canadian economy by investing in local and entry-level employment through conservation programs that fight climate change.

- 3.1** That Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) partners with Conservation Ontario to deliver the Canadian Nature Protection Fund through a \$12 million investment in 2025-2026. This will build on the \$23.6 million investment that has been made by ECCC since 2021 under the Nature Smart Climate Solutions Fund and Canada Nature Fund where Conservation Authorities leveraged \$35.2 million in matching funds through municipal, local, regional, and watershed partners.
- 3.2** That Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC) continues to partner with Conservation Ontario and Ontario's 36 Conservation Authorities to foster local and entry-level employment through the Canada Summer Job Program.

## 4 Uphold binational and provincial commitments to protect the Great Lakes and Canada's freshwater.

- 4.1** That the Canada Water Agency and ECCC continue to invest, on average, \$50 million annually into local projects under the Great Lakes Freshwater Ecosystem Initiative (GLFEI) to adhere to the commitments made under the Canada-United States Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement (GLWQA) and to strengthen and renew the Canada-Ontario Agreement on Great Lakes Water Quality and Ecosystem Health (COA), protecting our shared boundary waters.

# THE CHALLENGE

## *Flooding is the leading cause of public emergencies in Ontario*

Conservation Ontario and Ontario's 36 Conservation Authorities play a vital role in safeguarding our communities from the devastating impacts of flooding and erosion. By collaborating with municipalities, provincial ministries, federal departments, and agencies, Conservation Authorities deliver local cost-effective programs and services to our watershed residents that are grounded in science and reduce the physical and financial risks that can take years for communities to recover from. Conservation Authorities' proactive approach to flood management ensures that homes, businesses, roads, hospitals, and critical municipal infrastructure are built outside of floodplains and accessible by first responders.

Ontario's strong land use policies have reduced flood hazard risks to existing housing compared to other provinces. The successful collaboration between Conservation Authorities, the province, and local governments in prohibiting development in high-flood risk areas, effectively minimizes flood risks to housing.<sup>1</sup>

# THE OPPORTUNITY

## *Strengthen Canada's Front Line of Flood Defence*

Investments in local flood management delivered through Ontario's 36 Conservation Authorities are a proven, cost-effective strategy that:

- 1 Supports Canada's National Adaptation Strategy and fights climate change.
- 2 Reduces disaster recovery costs, business disruptions, and insurance claims.
- 3 Enhances resilient infrastructure and public safety.
- 4 Advances the implementation of nature-based solutions.

Despite our best efforts, in 2024, extreme flood events across Southern Ontario caused extensive damage to homes, businesses and municipal infrastructure, resulting in \$1 billion in insured losses emphasizing the need for continued local investments.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Canadian Climate Institute. (2025). Close to Home: How to Build More Housing in a Changing Climate. [chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://climateinstitute.ca/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/Close-to-Home-Report-Canadian-Climate-Institute.pdf](https://climateinstitute.ca/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/Close-to-Home-Report-Canadian-Climate-Institute.pdf)

<sup>2</sup>Insurance Bureau of Canada. (2025). Toronto and GTA Flash Flood Anniversary Underscores Urgency of Severe Weather Preparedness. <https://www.IBC.ca/news-insights/news/toronto-and-gta-flash-flood-anniversary-underscores-urgency-of-severe-weather-preparedness>

# ONTARIO'S EXPERTS IN FLOOD MANAGEMENT AND RESILIENCE



Township of Malahide

In 2025 and 2026, Conservation Ontario and Ontario's 36 Conservation Authorities remain committed to advancing our shared priorities that protect communities and local businesses, fueling the fastest-growing economy in the G7. Our ongoing collaborations:


- 1 Reduce risk to people and property from flooding and erosion events through hazard mapping studies.
- 2 Bolster local mitigation, prevention, and adaptation actions against flood and erosion events through cutting-edge hybrid, green and grey infrastructure projects.
- 3 Foster resilient agricultural lands through the implementation of innovative nature-based solutions.
- 4 Safeguard the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River water quality and lead scalable coastal resilience actions.

## ACHIEVING RESULTS THROUGH LOCAL FLOOD MANAGEMENT SOLUTIONS

*Conservation Authorities:*

- 1 **Monitor and model flood conditions across 402 municipalities**, ensuring early detection of flood events for our communities.
- 2 **Issue over 300 flood warning messages each year** to watershed and coastal communities across Ontario, enhancing public safety and minimizing costly disruptions to businesses and essential services.
- 3 **Manage \$4.1 billion of flood control and prevention infrastructure**, including 987 dams, dykes, channels, and erosion control structures.
- 4 **Regulate development in hazardous areas and have mapped 26,800 km of flood-prone areas** delivering the best available data to decision-makers.



 Kawartha Conservation Authority

## Conservation Authorities

Ontario's 36 Conservation Authorities are local, watershed-based, natural resource agencies located throughout the province. They are legislated under Ontario's *Conservation Authorities Act* and serve as Source Protection Authorities under the *Clean Water Act*. **Click here to find your local Conservation Authority.**

## Conservation Ontario

Conservation Ontario is the member organization of Ontario's 36 Conservation Authorities, working with all levels of government to advocate for funding to enhance watershed programs and services.

## Contact

**Angela Coleman, General Manager/CAO**

[acoleman@conservationontario.ca](mailto:acoleman@conservationontario.ca) | 289-763-4807

120 Bayview Parkway, Newmarket, ON L3Y 3W3



September 4, 2025

The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario  
Premier's Office  
Room 281  
Main Legislative Building, Queen's Park  
Toronto, ON M7A 1A5

The Honourable Paul Calandra, Minister of Education  
15<sup>th</sup> Floor  
438 University Avenue  
Toronto, ON M7A 2A5

via email: [premier@ontario.ca](mailto:premier@ontario.ca)  
[minister.edu@ontario.ca](mailto:minister.edu@ontario.ca)

**RE: Closure of Before and After School Programs**

Dear Premier Ford and Minister Calandra,

The Council of the Municipality of Bluewater passed the following resolution at their September 2, 2025 regular meeting:

**MOVED:** Councillor Harris **SECONDED:** Councillor Whetstone

**WHEREAS** on August 19, 2025, London Bridge Child Care Services Inc. advised that they will be closing all London Bridge Huron County Before and After School Programs, which affects Bluewater Coast Elementary School, Exeter Elementary School, and Precious Blood Catholic School; and

**WHEREAS** London Bridge Child Care Services Inc. cites ongoing staffing shortages in Huron County and across the province as the reason for this closure; and

**WHEREAS** the closure of the London Bridge Before and After School Programs, along with the Preschool Program at Bluewater Coast Elementary School, are creating a significant and immediate challenge for families with young children; and

**WHEREAS** the Council of the Municipality of Bluewater recognizes the importance of before and after school programs which provide a trusted, safe, and consistent environment for children outside of regular school hours – support that many working parents and guardians rely on to balance their jobs and family responsibilities; and

**WHEREAS** the Avon Maitland District School Board and the Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board do not operate licensed childcare programs, but partner with childcare providers to make use of school spaces where possible;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Council of the Municipality of Bluewater urges the Province of Ontario to immediately implement other service delivery models that are being successfully modeled elsewhere in the province to address the Early Childhood Educator shortage.

**AND FURTHER THAT** this resolution be forwarded to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, the Honourable Paul Calandra, Minister of Education, and all Ontario Municipalities. **CARRIED.**

Sincerely,

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

Chandra Alexander  
Manager of Corporate Services/Clerk

cc: All Ontario Municipalities



**THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LARDER LAKE**  
**69 FOURTH AVENUE, P. O. BOX 40, LARDER LAKE, ON P0K 1L0**  
**PH: 705-643-2158 FAX: 705-643-2311**  
**LARDERLAKE.CA**

September 10, 2025

To whom it May Concern:

**RE: Resolution #18, September 9, 2025 - Resolution Requesting a Moratorium on Aerial Spraying of Glyphosate in the Timiskaming Forest**

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Please be advised that at the Township of Larder Lake's Regular Council Meeting held on Tuesday, September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025, the following resolution was adopted:

Moved by: Councillor Armstrong

Seconded by: Councillor Kelly

**CARRIED**

**WHEREAS** the Province of Ontario, through the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, plans to begin aerial spraying of glyphosate-based herbicides starting on or before August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025, in the Timiskaming Forest; and

**WHEREAS** the Timiskaming Forest covers a significant portion of the Municipality of Larder Lake, and this activity may impact residents and ecosystems; and

**WHEREAS** new scientific evidence published since Health Canada's last assessment of glyphosate in 2017 has linked glyphosate-based end-use products to cancer, metabolic and neurological diseases, reproductive toxicity, and ecosystem harm; and

**WHEREAS** the Province of Quebec banned the use of glyphosate for forestry purposes in 2001 and replaced aerial herbicide spraying with manual forest thinning as a safer alternative forest management method; and

**WHEREAS** many residents have expressed concern regarding the potential environmental and public health risks associated with aerial spraying of glyphosate-based herbicides;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Council of the Municipality of Larder Lake formally requests that the Honourable Mike Harris Jr., Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry, reconsider the planned use of glyphosate-based herbicides in the Timiskaming Forest and suspend the aerial spraying initiative until further independent research and updated risk assessments are completed and reviewed; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** this resolution be forwarded to:

The Honourable Mike Harris Jr., Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry

The Honourable Sylvia Jones, Minister of Health

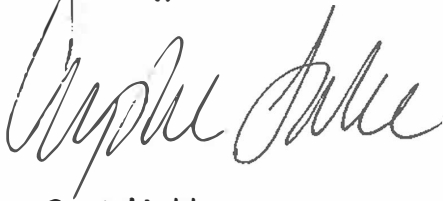
MPP John Vanthof, Timiskaming–Cochrane

AMO (Association of Municipalities of Ontario)

FONOM (Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities)

All municipalities within Northeastern Ontario

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Crystal Labbe', written in a cursive style.

**Crystal Labbe**

**CAO/ Clerk Treasurer**

The Corporation of the Municipality of St. Charles  
RESOLUTION PAGE



Committee of the Whole

**Agenda Number:** 3.2.3.  
**Resolution Number** 2025-214  
**Title:** Report to Council - Natural Gas Expansion - Project Cancellation  
**Date:** September 3, 2025

**Moved by:** Councillor Laframboise  
**Seconded by:** Councillor Lachance

**WHEREAS** the Municipality of St.-Charles benefited from the Natural Gas Expansion Program Phase 2 expansion funding announced on June 9, 2021;

**AND WHEREAS** on August 13, 2025, the Municipality of St.-Charles was notified that the expansion project was cancelled due to mounting costs associated with inflation and difficult terrain;

**AND WHEREAS** Northern Ontario is on the cusp of substantial growth largely related to accessing critical minerals that will drive expansion in the mining sector;

**AND WHEREAS** with this economic expansion comes the need to support growth in traditional sectors such as farming, healthcare, forestry, and education;

**AND WHEREAS** employment growth will create increased demand for new housing developments to ensure that workers have a place to live, work, and play, all of which are closely tied to accessing natural gas as an affordable energy source and essential infrastructure for future residential, commercial, and industrial development;

**AND WHEREAS** current energy challenges force developers to explore alternatives such as oil and propane, which, while serving as temporary solutions, come with high costs and raise environmental concerns;

**AND WHEREAS** there is an urgent need for investment in sustainable energy solutions that are affordable, reliable, and environmentally responsible to support both current and future development;

**AND WHEREAS** natural gas is recognized as a clean, economical, and domestically sourced energy option that will lower energy costs for residents, farms, and businesses, while also enhancing opportunities for northern communities to grow by attracting new housing developments and commercial investment;

**AND WHEREAS** natural gas serves as a critical transition fuel that reduces reliance on higher-emission sources such as oil and propane, while enabling time and capacity for future investments in renewable and low-carbon energy;

**BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED** that Council for the Corporation of the Municipality of St.-Charles respectfully requests the Government of Ontario to support and approve the expansion of natural gas infrastructure to rural municipalities such as St.-Charles by undertaking a review of the Ontario Energy Board's Profitability Index model to incorporate a Northern Cost Adjustment that fairly accounts for the higher costs of construction in Northern Ontario caused by terrain challenges such as bedrock and wetlands, as well as the realities of distance, climate, and lower population density, to ensure that rural and northern communities are not disadvantaged in accessing natural gas infrastructure;

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Municipality of St.-Charles requests the Province to embed northern natural gas expansion as a priority in Ontario's Integrated Energy Plan and regional economic growth strategies;

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this Resolution be forwarded to FONOM, ROMA, AMO and all northern municipalities to build collective support for equitable natural gas expansion in Northern Ontario.

**CARRIED**

  
MAYOR