



COUNCIL INFORMATION PACKAGE

Friday, July 4, 2025

	Pages
1. Memorandum from the City of Welland re: Welland Fire and Emergency Services Inspection Fees - Vulnerable Occupancies.	2 - 3
2. Memorandum from the City of Welland re: Clarifying the City's Role in Addressing Homelessness, Mental Health and Addiction.	4 - 6
3. Letter from the Town of Port Colborne re: Advocacy for Increased Income Support Thresholds for Canadian Veterans.	7 - 9
4. Letter from Habitat for Humanity Niagara re: Donation of Lot 172 at Lincoln Street and Empress Avenue.	10 - 10
5. Niagara Region News Release re: Niagara Region approves new Community Safety and Well-Being Plan.	11 - 13
6. Letter from the Municipality of West Nipissing re: Resolution Opposing Strong Mayor Powers.	14 - 16
7. Letter from the City of Pickering re: Opposition to Bill 5 and Request to Repeal.	17 - 20
8. Letter from the Town of Cobourg re: Bill 5 and its Impact on the Local Food System.	21 - 22

MEMORANDUM

TO: Welland City Council

FROM: Matt Richardson, Deputy Fire Chief

DATE: June 25, 2025

SUBJECT: Welland Fire and Emergency Services Inspection Fees – Vulnerable Occupancies

The purpose of this memo is to provide clarification to Council re: Fire Inspections for “vulnerable occupancies” following a recent presentation from Community Living. The province enacted Ontario Regulation (O.Reg) 364/13 in December of 2013 under the Fire Protection and Prevention Act (FPPA) to address significant fire safety concerns in buildings designated as “vulnerable occupancies”. This FPPA regulation amended the Fire Code to include provisions for “vulnerable occupancies”. By definition in the Fire Code, these buildings include retirement homes, care occupancies, and care and treatment occupancies (long-term care homes).

This piece of public safety regulation included, among other things, comprehensive staff training, increased fire safety planning, phased in fire safety construction retrofits in existing buildings (monitored fire alarm systems, automatic sprinkler systems), and a mandatory annual fire inspection and witnessed fire drill by the fire department in every building deemed under the vulnerable occupancy designation. Welland Fire and Emergency Services (WFES) has completed these inspections and drills since the onset of this regulation. The city of Welland has thirty (30) vulnerable occupancies in the municipality.

WFES established a fee structure at the time of the introduction of the regulation, to recover fees for staff time to complete these inspections and drills, in addition to the associated administrative work. These fees have been captured in the annual user fee schedule for the fire department since the inception of the regulation.

WFES intends to complete a review of this fee structure for vulnerable occupancies, examining regional comparators to ensure our fees reflect market rates, but also act as some measure of cost recovery for staff time. The regulation compels WFES to complete these inspections and drills every year. Should updates to our fee structure be identified through this review, these will be presented for consideration as part of the budget process for 2026.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Welland City Council

FROM: Jessica Ruddell, M.P.A., M.B.A., B.S.
Director of Community Services

DATE: July 4, 2025

SUBJECT: Clarifying the City's Role in Addressing Homelessness, Mental Health and Addiction

On June 17, 2025, Welland City Council considered a Notice of Motion proposing the establishment of a new ad hoc committee involving individuals with lived experience in the areas of mental health, homelessness, and addiction.

Following Council's decision not to proceed with the proposed committee, the City received several pieces of correspondence from members of the public that included inaccurate or misleading claims. Some of these communications questioned Council's integrity and its commitment to addressing complex social challenges in our community. These claims have since circulated in the public realm, prompting concern about the broader impact of misinformation and disinformation on public confidence in municipal governance.

This memorandum is intended to reaffirm the City's significant and ongoing work to support vulnerable residents and to clarify the rationale behind Council's recent decision. It also serves as a reminder of the importance of upholding the integrity of Council decisions and ensuring that information shared with the public is accurate and reflective of Council's full context and responsibilities.

To provide some broader context, City Council did not reject the importance of lived experience or the issues at hand. Rather, Council recognized the considerable work already underway and chose to avoid creating additional structures that could result in overlap, confusion, and unnecessary costs.

Specifically, Council acknowledged:

Avoiding Duplication of Services and Structures

The Niagara Region has operated a Lived Experience Advisory Committee since 2018, which includes members from Welland and informs regional strategies related to housing, homelessness, mental health, and addiction. Residents are encouraged to engage with this body, which is specifically resourced and designed for that purpose.

Locally, the City of Welland is actively involved in a range of coordinated, cross-sector initiatives, including:

- The Encampment Task Force
- The Homelessness Working Group
- The Ontario Rd. Emergency Shelter Neighbourhood Relations Committee
- The Affordable Housing Committee

These forums provide space for meaningful collaboration and action while complementing, rather than duplicating, regional efforts.

Jurisdictional Responsibility

Mental health and addictions fall within provincial and regional responsibility and are locally delivered by health system partners, such as the Niagara Health System. Housing and homelessness are services coordinated and funded by the Niagara Region. As a lower-tier municipality, Welland's appropriate role is to collaborate and advocate, ensuring alignment with system-wide approaches and funding streams already in place.

Staff Capacity and Expertise

The City of Welland does not have the specialized clinical or social service expertise to lead a committee focused on these complex health and social issues.

Rather, our focus is on supporting existing service providers and referring individuals to the appropriate agencies. This ensures consistent, coordinated service and avoids creating parallel processes that could dilute impact or cause confusion.

Council's Record on Health, Housing, and Homelessness

This term of Council has made considerable strides in supporting vulnerable populations, including:

- Providing direct funding to local service providers such as The Hope Centre, Open Arms Mission, Holy Trinity Anglican Church, Faith Welland Outreach, Habitat for Humanity, St. David's Anglican Church, and others.
- Donating land for the Region's new emergency shelter which includes supervision and wraparound services.
- Launching an Encampment Task Force with service-based organizations, regional and police partners, and City staff.
- Supporting inter-agency committees such as the Homelessness Working Group.
- Creating a citizen-led Affordable Housing Committee and Hospital Committee.
- Incentivizing doctor recruitment to address family medicine shortages.

These represent just a short list of meaningful actions that demonstrate a thoughtful and coordinated approach, one that respects jurisdictional boundaries while still driving local impact through strategic partnerships and advocacy.

The City of Welland is unwavering in its commitment to supporting its most vulnerable residents. We are actively strengthening partnerships with system agencies, the Region, and the province to deliver coordinated solutions that address the root causes of homelessness, mental health challenges, and addiction. This is not just a priority — it is a responsibility we are determined to meet with urgency and compassion.



PORT COLBORNE

Legislative Services

Municipal Offices: 66 Charlotte Street
Port Colborne, Ontario L3K 3C8 • www.portcolborne.ca

T 905.228.8031 F 905.834.5746

E charlotte.madden@portcolborne.ca

June 27, 2025

Email: pm@pm.gc.ca

The Honourable Mark Carney
Prime Minister of Canada
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister Carney:

**Re: City of Port Colborne Supports the Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury –
Advocacy for Increased Income Support Thresholds for Canadian Veterans**

Please be advised that, at its meeting of June 24, 2025 the Council of The Corporation of the City of Port Colborne supported the resolution received from the Town of Gwillimbury regarding Advocacy for Increased Income Support Thresholds for Canadian Veterans.

The correspondence is attached for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Charlotte Madden
City Clerk

ec: The Honourable Jill McKnight, Minister of Veterans Affairs;
The Honourable Andrew Scheer, Acting Leader of the Official Opposition
Fred Davies, Member of Parliament for New Tecumseth-Gwillimbury;
The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)
The Association of Municipalities (AMO)
All Ontario Municipalities

June 17, 2025

VIA EMAIL

Re: Advocacy for Increased Income Support Thresholds for Canadian Veterans

At its Regular Meeting of Council held on Tuesday, June 3, 2025, the Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury Council ratified the following motion:

Resolution 2025-185

Moved by: Councillor Harper

Seconded by: Councillor Scott

WHEREAS the Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury recognizes the selfless service and enduring sacrifices made by Canadian Armed Forces veterans in the defence of our country and values;

WHEREAS the 2021 Census, conducted by Statistics Canada, identified more than 460,000 veterans residing across Canada, a significant population segment deserving of comprehensive, accessible, and modernized federal support;

WHEREAS Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) currently administers income support programs to assist veterans in need, including the Income Replacement Benefit (IRB) program;

WHEREAS the eligibility threshold for the Income Replacement Benefit (IRB) program which was created in 2019—set at \$20,000 annually for a single-person household—fails to reflect today's economic reality, particularly in light of inflation, soaring housing costs, and the general increase in cost of living;

WHEREAS such low eligibility thresholds may disincentivize employment and community participation by penalizing veterans for earning beyond an outdated benchmark, thereby discouraging reintegration and contribution to civic life;

WHEREAS it is the duty of all levels of government to stand in unified support of our veterans and to advocate for policy changes that enable them to live with dignity and financial stability;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED That the Council of the Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury formally calls on the Government of Canada and all federal parties to increase the eligibility threshold for the Income Replacement Benefit (IRB) program from \$20,000 to no less than \$40,000 annually for a single-person household; and

THAT Council urges Veterans Affairs Canada to review all income support programs with the intent to modernize eligibility criteria in line with the current cost of living across Canada;

THAT this motion be formally endorsed and sent to:

- The Right Honourable Mark Carney, Prime Minister of Canada;
- The Honourable Jill McKnight, Minister of Veterans Affairs;
- The Honourable Andrew Scheer, Acting Leader of the Official Opposition
- Scot Davidson, Member of Parliament for New Tecumseth-Gwillimbury;
- All 444 municipalities across the Province of Ontario;
- The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) for broader distribution and endorsement; and

THAT a copy of this resolution be published on the Town's official website and communicated through the Town's official channels to raise awareness and gather public support.

Regards,



Tara Reynolds
Clerk, Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury
(905) 775-5366 Ext 1104
treynolds@townofbwg.com

CC: Hon. Mark Carney, Prime Minister of Canada
Hon. Jill McKnight, Minister of Veterans Affairs
Hon. Andrew Scheer, Acting Leader of the Official Opposition
Scot Davidson, MP New Tecumseth-Gwillimbury
All Ontario Municipalities
The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)

June 26, 2025

Mayor Frank Campion and Members of Welland City Council

City of Welland
60 East Main Street
Welland, ON L3B 3X4

Dear Mayor Campion and Members of Council,

On behalf of Habitat for Humanity Niagara, we extend our heartfelt thanks for your recent decision to approve the donation of Lot 172 on Lincoln Street and Empress Avenue to our organization.

Together, we build vibrant neighbourhoods, because a resilient community starts with a home. Your commitment to affordable housing makes a meaningful difference in the lives of local families, providing the stability they need to grow and thrive.

Families in Habitat for Humanity's affordable homeownership program get more than a home. They gain social and financial benefits that strengthen their lives, put their children on a path to success and build inclusive communities.

This land donation brings us one step closer to our vision: *a world where everyone has a decent place to live*. We look forward to working alongside community volunteers, local businesses and future Habitat homeowners to bring this project to life.

Thank you again for your leadership and continued support.

Warm regards,



Mark Carl
CEO, Habitat for Humanity Niagara



Sarah Pritula
Philanthropy and Major Gifts Director, Habitat for Humanity Niagara

News Release

Niagara Region approves new Community Safety and Well-Being Plan

June 27, 2025

Niagara Region has approved its new plan that will guide the focus and community priorities for our community safety and well-being over the next five years. The Community Safety and Well-Being Plan (the Plan), endorsed by Regional Council at its June 26 meeting, was developed in partnership with the Niagara Regional Police Service and over 75 community organizations, with input from more than 2,000 individuals across Niagara.

Grounded in collaboration, the Plan aims to address the root causes of complex social issues through a multi-sectoral approach. It identifies four priority areas for action:

- Mental Health and Addictions
- Homelessness and Basic Needs
- Gender-based Violence
- Community Safety

Under the Police Services Act, all municipalities in Ontario are required to develop and adopt a community safety and well-being plan, and to update it every five years.

“Creating a plan to advance safety and well-being in Niagara requires a thoughtful, united effort and input that has been shaped by the voices and

insights of our community,” said Regional Chair Jim Bradley. “The strength of our new Community Safety and Well-Being Plan lies in that collaboration. It reflects our shared commitment to building a Niagara where everyone feels safe, supported, and has the opportunity to thrive. I want to thank all those who contributed to this important work, helping to shape a plan that will guide and unite us in this goal over the next five years.”

The new plan builds on the foundation of Niagara’s first Community Safety and Well-Being Plan, launched in 2021. The updated plan reflects the progress made and lessons learned over the past four years, while responding to the evolving needs of the community. It emphasizes the importance of continued collaboration, evidence-based action and community voice in shaping a safer, healthier Niagara.

“The Niagara Regional Police Service is proud to stand alongside our community partners in advancing this important work,” said Niagara Regional Police Service Chief Bill Fordy “This plan provides a foundation for addressing some of Niagara’s most pressing challenges. These are not issues any one organization can solve alone, it will take all of us working together. While there is still much work ahead, I am confident that through continued partnership, we can work towards a safer and healthier Niagara for everyone.”

Since the introduction of its first plan, Niagara has made measurable progress toward its goals, including:

- Expanding Niagara’s [Situation Tables](#) to respond to individuals with complex needs
- Investing over \$24 million in community-based supports
- Launching the [Niagara Well-Being Tool](#) to highlight local data and inform planning
- Establishing the youth [Gun and Gang Prevention Strategy](#) funding nine local youth serving agencies

Media contact

For more information about the Plan and how to get involved, visit the [Community Safety and Well-Being Plan](#) on Niagara Region's website.



Niagara Region
1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way
Thorold, ON L2V 4T7
905-980-6000
niagararegion.ca

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Council - Committee of the Whole

Resolution # 2025-214
Title: Authorize Resolution & Letter to the Minister - Strong Mayor Powers
Date: June 17, 2025

Moved by: Councillor Roland Larabie
Seconded by: Councillor Georges Pharand

WHEREAS the Government of Ontario has expanded Strong Mayor Powers to an additional 169 municipalities across the province;
AND WHEREAS the Municipality of West Nipissing values a democratic, collaborative approach to municipal governance in which all members of Council are equal participants in the decision-making process;
AND WHEREAS Council believes that the Strong Mayor Powers undermine democratic accountability, diminish transparency and centralizes excessive power in a single elected official;
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Municipality of West Nipissing does not support the implementation of Strong Mayor Powers within its jurisdiction;
AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Council directs the Mayor to send a letter to Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing communicating this position;
AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA), the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM), and the local Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP) for their information and support.

CARRIED



West Nipissing Ovest

Joie de vivre

The Corporation of the Municipality of West Nipissing
La Corporation de la Municipalité de Nipissing Ovest
101-225, rue Holditch Street, Sturgeon Falls, ON P2B 1T1

P/T (705) 753-2250 (1-800-263-5359)
F/TC (705) 753-3950

June 17, 2025

The Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building
Queens Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A4
Via email: premier@ontario.ca

Attn: The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario

Dear Mr. Ford,

Subject: Strong Mayor Powers – Municipality of West Nipissing

At its meeting of June 17, 2025, the Council for the Municipality of West Nipissing considered the recently expanded Strong Mayor Powers granted to an additional 169 municipalities across Ontario.

Following a review of the legislation and a discussion of its potential impacts, Council wishes to express its opposition to this legislative framework. West Nipissing, along with many other municipalities, believes that the Strong Mayor Powers undermine the fundamental principles of local democracy, transparency, and collaborative decision-making, which are essential to effective municipal governance.

The Municipality of West Nipissing takes pride in its inclusive, community-driven approach to leadership, where all members of Council contribute meaningfully in shaping the municipality's future. The legislated concentration of executive powers in the office of the Mayor runs counter to these values and traditions.

While Council acknowledges that the legislation is currently in force, we respectfully urge the Province to reconsider its implementation. We further recommend that any structural changes of this magnitude be preceded by robust consultations with municipalities, residents, and key stakeholders to ensure that local governance continues to reflect the democratic will of the communities it serves.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Council remains available for further dialogue and would welcome the opportunity to discuss these concerns in greater detail.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Thorne-Rochon
Mayor, Municipality of West Nipissing

cc: AMO, ROMA, FONOM, Local MPP



West Nipissing Ovest

Joie de vivre

The Corporation of the Municipality of West Nipissing
La Corporation de la Municipalité de Nipissing Ovest
101-225, rue Holditch Street, Sturgeon Falls, ON P2B 1T1

P/T (705) 753-2250 (1-800-263-5359)
F/TC (705) 753-3950

June 17, 2025

Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
17th Floor – 777 Bay Street
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3
Via email: rob.flack@pc.ola.org

Attn: The Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

Dear Mr. Flack,

Subject: Strong Mayor Powers – Municipality of West Nipissing

At its meeting of June 17, 2025, the Council for the Municipality of West Nipissing considered the recently expanded Strong Mayor Powers granted to an additional 169 municipalities across Ontario.

Following a review of the legislation and a discussion of its potential impacts, Council wishes to express its opposition to this legislative framework. West Nipissing, along with many other municipalities, believes that the Strong Mayor Powers undermine the fundamental principles of local democracy, transparency, and collaborative decision-making, which are essential to effective municipal governance.

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While Council acknowledges that the legislation is currently in force, we respectfully urge the Province to reconsider its implementation. We further recommend that any structural changes of this magnitude be preceded by robust consultations with municipalities, residents, and key stakeholders to ensure that local governance continues to reflect the democratic will of the communities it serves.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Council remains available for further dialogue and would welcome the opportunity to discuss these concerns in greater detail.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Thorne-Rochon
Mayor, Municipality of West Nipissing

cc: AMO, ROMA, FONOM, Local MPP

Sent by Email

June 30, 2025

The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building, Queen's Park Room 281
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1
premier@ontario.ca

Subject: Opposition to Bill 5 and Request to Repeal

The Council of The Corporation of the City of Pickering considered the above matter at a Meeting held on June 23, 2025 and adopted the following resolution:

WHEREAS, on April 17, 2025, the Government of Ontario brought forth Bill 5: *Protect Ontario by Unleashing Our Economy Act*, 2025, a broad omnibus legislation that proposes to make various changes to existing planning, consultation, approval, authority, and protection frameworks found in Provincial statutes in relation to major infrastructure, mining and resource development projects;

And Whereas, on June 4, 2025, Bill 5 passed its third and final reading in the Ontario legislature, but has not yet come into force;

And Whereas, Bill 5 granted broad powers by creating provincial “authority to designate special economic zones”, which allows for the suspension of constitutionally protected rights of Indigenous peoples and the suspension of powers of municipal governments and environmental authorities;

And Whereas, Bill 5 provides powers for the Province that First Nations governments in Ontario have stated would be contrary to Treaty agreements with the Crown;

And Whereas, amendments to the Ontario Heritage Act, 1990, fail to address systemic issues in archaeological resource management, such as delayed consultation with Indigenous communities and unilateral provincial control over Indigenous artifacts and cultural heritage. Additionally, the amendments exacerbate already weakened heritage protections brought in Report #2025-CG-7 Page 2 of 10 through Bill 23. Any exemptions under the Ontario Heritage Act could result in negative impacts, including the destruction of Indigenous artifacts and burial sites;

And Whereas, Bill 5 repeals the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and degrades protections for the environment and circumvents policies that have kept Ontarians safe

and healthy for decades, including regulations that prevent the contamination of Ontario's water and the means by which water contamination is identified;

And Whereas, the new regime for endangered species and at-risk species is designed for more flexible permitting and registry-based approvals, rather than automatic prohibitions on activities that harm listed species or their habitats. Additionally, narrowing the definition of habitat in the ESA to just the immediate area surrounding dwelling sites excludes protection of broader ecosystems that endangered and at-risk species rely on for survival. There are more than 230 species at risk in Ontario, many of which are in Durham, including numerous birds, fish, insects, reptiles and plant species. These species have experienced population declines over the past several decades and are at risk of being lost completely. While these changes could expedite development approvals, they may also reduce environmental oversight resulting in devastation to populations of endangered species;

And Whereas, the 'trusted proponent' model under the Special Economic Zones Act, 2025, may create a two-tier development system, favouring select private businesses with fewer regulations, thereby undermining labour standards and enabling potentially exploitative and unsafe working conditions;

And Whereas, Bill 5 enables the Province to override municipal authorities and planning activities without consultation or warning, including the ability to upend planning processes already long underway and future planning processes being considered or yet to be contemplated;

And Whereas, Bill 5 undermines the practice and spirit of democracy and a rights- based system in the Province of Ontario, and to date has garnered the public opposition of the Chiefs of Ontario, Nishnawbe Aski Nation, Anishinabek Nation, Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians, Sandy Lake First Nation, Neskantaga First Nation, Grassy Narrows First Nation, the Canadian Civil Liberties Association, Amnesty International Canada, the Canadian Environmental Law Association, World Wildlife Fund – Canada, David Suzuki Foundation, The Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, Ontario Biodiversity Council, Ontario Nature, Legal Advocates for Nature's Defence, Environmental Defense, Wildlands League, Wildlife Preservation Canada, Ecojustice, the Toronto Zoo, Mining Watch Canada, Democracy Watch, municipalities in Ontario, and numerous other pan-regional and local organizations across Ontario;

Now therefore be it resolved that the Council of The Corporation for the City of Pickering:

1. Opposes the Government of Ontario's Bill 5 due to its infringement on Indigenous rights, assignment of powers to arbitrarily override and ignore long-established areas of municipal government authorities, risks to the long- term health of important ecosystems and the environment generally,

and circumvention of numerous democratic rights and oversight responsibilities;

2. Calls upon the Government of Ontario to immediately repeal Bill 5;
3. Urges the Government of Ontario, in accordance with the recommendation of Grand Chief Joel Abram of the Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians, to “engage in a comprehensive redrafting process with full First Nations participation” and to likewise engage with municipalities and other affected stakeholders in the same comprehensive redrafting process, maintaining a rights-based foundation, inclusive of an evidence-based approach to environmental protections;
4. Supports efforts to streamline the approvals process for mining projects in Ontario when it does not come at the expense of safeguarding against environmental and community impacts, nor negate or remove the duty to consult with our Indigenous stakeholders such as the Mississauga’s of Scugog Island First nation (MSIFN), and those Indigenous Nations adjacent to the designated “Ring of Fire” mining zone;
5. Is supportive of mechanisms that would result in increased local procurement in the electricity sector; however, we wish it to be noted that limiting competition could increase costs if local or preferred suppliers are more expensive than international alternatives, which may result in increased electricity prices for ratepayers; and,
6. Directs that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario; the Honourable Stephen Lecce, Minister of Energy and Mines; the Honourable Todd McCarthy, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks; the Honourable Vic Fedeli, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade; the Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing; the Honourable George Pirie, Minister of Northern Economic Development and Growth; the Honourable Greg Rickford, Minister of Indigenous Affairs and First Nations Economic Reconciliation and Minister Responsible for Ring of Fire Economic and Community Partnerships; Chief Kelly LaRocca of the Mississauga’s of Scugog Island First Nations; all treaty members of the William Treaties signatories; the Association of Municipalities of Ontario; the Region of

Durham; and all municipalities in Ontario.

Should you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned at 905.420.4660, extension 2019.

Yours truly



Susan Cassel
City Clerk

SC:am

Copy:

- The Hon. Stephen Lecce, Minister of Energy and Mines
- The Hon. Todd McCarthy, Minister of Environment, Conservation, and Parks
- The Hon. Vic Fedeli, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade
- The Hon. Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
- The Hon. George Pirie, Minister of Northern Economic Development and Growth
- The Hon. Greg Rickford, Minister of Indigenous Affairs and First Nations Economic Reconciliation and Minister Responsible for Ring of Fire economic and Community Partnerships
- Chief Kelly LaRocca, Mississauga's of Scugog Island First Nations
- Chief Joanne P. Sandy, Beausoleil First Nation
- Chief Ted Williams, Rama First Nation
- Chief Donna Big Canoe, Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation
- Chief Keith Knott, Curve Lake First Nation
- Chief Laurie Carr, Hiawatha First Nation
- Chief Taynar Simpson, Alderville First Nation
- Alexander Harras, Director of Legislative Services and Regional Clerk
- The Regional Municipality of Durham
- Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
- All Ontario Municipalities

Chief Administrative Officer



The Corporation of the Town of Cobourg

Resolution

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

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

Delivered via email

Doug.fordco@pc.ola.org
premier@ontario.ca

July 4, 2025

RE: Ontario's Bill 5 and its Impact on the Local Food System and the Environment

Please be advised that the Town of Cobourg Council, at its meeting held on June 25, 2025, passed the following resolution:

WHEREAS a significant amount of farmland is already lost each year to development pressures; and

WHEREAS food systems depend on healthy ecosystems, which are already under significant threat in Ontario due to a host of human-caused threats to wildlife and habitat; and

WHEREAS Ontario Bill 5 significantly undermines ecological protections and local decision making, both of which are essential to local food systems and food security; and

WHEREAS the existing Provincial Planning Statement emphasizes the need for agricultural impact and environmental assessments; supports broad community consultation; and encourages municipalities to explore alternative areas before developing prime agricultural land; and

WHEREAS development of housing and important resources are possible without sacrificing the long-term health of our food systems, environment, and democratic norms.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Cobourg opposes Bill 5 in its current form, and calls upon the Government of Ontario to



The Corporation of the Town of Cobourg

Resolution

strive to uphold the long-term health of our food systems, environment, and democracy in any future version of this bill; and

FURTHER RESOLVED that this motion be circulated to Premier Doug Ford and all Ontario municipalities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kristina Lepik".

Kristina Lepik
Deputy Clerk/Manager, Legislative Services

cc. All Ontario Municipalities