



## COUNCIL INFORMATION PACKAGE

Friday, August 22, 2025

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## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Welland City Council

**FROM:** Marc MacDonald, Chief Communications & Engagement Officer

**DATE:** August 22, 2025

**SUBJECT:** Welland's Participation - AMO Conference 2025

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This memo provides a recap of the City of Welland's participation at the 2025 Association of Municipalities of Ontario ([AMO](#)) Conference, highlighting advocacy meetings with provincial officials and the additional professional development and learning opportunities available to delegates. Led by Mayor Campion and CAO Axiak, this year the City's delegation had a record setting number of meetings (11) with Provincial Ministers and their staff. These meetings are critical for Welland as they provide direct opportunities to advocate for local priorities, shape provincial decision-making, and advance funding and policy support that directly benefit our City.

### Key Advocacy Meetings

#### 1. Infrastructure & Growth

- Meeting with Amarjot Sandhu, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Infrastructure.
- Emphasized that growth is more than housing; it requires \$431M in infrastructure investments (roads, water, sewer, sidewalks).
- Highlighted Welland's track record of meeting housing targets while advocating for intergovernmental collaboration to support growth.
- Expressed the City's interest in the submission of additional projects into the expanded [Municipal Infrastructure Fund](#) to support infrastructure needs such as Quaker Road.

#### 2. Francophone Affairs & Inclusion

- Meeting with the Ministry of Francophone Affairs.

- Discussed expanding bilingual services, signage, and cultural programming.
- Reinforced that French language and culture are central to Welland's identity, inclusion, and community-building.

### **3. Economic Development & Industry**

- Meeting with Brian Saunderson, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation, and Trade.
- Addressed challenges facing Welland's industries (steel, EV parts, engines) impacted by tariffs.
- Emphasized appreciation for the current grant program (Protect Ontario Financing Program), for industries in Welland to partake in during these turbulent times.
- Stressed the need for provincial support to protect jobs and strengthen local economic resilience.

### **4. Health & Quality of Life**

- Meeting with the Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Health.
- Raised the Welland hospital and the local share as key issues.
- Reinforced proactive advocacy to ensure the community's health needs are addressed.
- Spoke about upstream programs and services to help prevent health issues before they arise and the need to further leverage this concept.

### **5. Sports & Recreation Investment**

- Meeting with Neil Lumsden, Minister of Sport.
- Discussed the [Recreation & Community Complex](#), with feasibility study and land already secured.
- Positioned the project as shovel-ready pending provincial partnership to deliver modern facilities for athletes and families.
- Expressed the City's interest in reapplying to the Community Sport and Recreation Infrastructure fund.

### **Other meetings included:**

- Ministry of Colleges, Universities, Research Excellence and Security, Minister Nolan Quinn, in partnerships with senior staff from Niagara College in attendance.
- Ministry of Education, Parliamentary Assistant Jess Dixon

- Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade, Associate Minister Nina Tangri
- Ministry of Red Tape Reduction, Minister Andrea Khanjin
- Ministry of Infrastructure, Parliamentary Assistant Amarjot Sandhu
- Ministry of Long-Term Care, Minister Kusendova-Bashta

In addition to ministerial meetings, staff also met with staff from the ByWard Market District Authority to explore ideas for Welland's downtown and market. This meeting allowed staff to understand and learn how downtown markets and spaces can revitalize core areas within a city. The learnings gained from this additional meeting, will be incorporated in the [Downtown revitalization plan](#).

### **Learning Opportunities at AMO**

In addition to advocacy meetings, delegates benefited from a range of workshops, keynotes, and training sessions:

#### **Pre-Conference Workshops (Saturday, August 16):**

- *Health & Safety on Construction Projects*: Understanding responsibilities and liabilities.
- *Countering Hate and Social Polarization*: Addressing extremism and fostering inclusion.

#### **Concurrent Workshops (Sunday, August 17):**

- *Growing Wisely*: Aligning growth and asset management planning.
- *Civility & Anti-Harassment Strategy*: Building respectful municipal environments.
- *Corporate Partnerships*: Exploring sponsorship and naming rights opportunities.
- *Emergency Preparedness*: Leveraging provincial supports for municipal resilience.

#### **Conference Highlights:**

- Keynote by Andrew Coyne on political and economic trends.
- More than 60 workshops and sessions covering housing, infrastructure, AI, Indigenous relations, trade, and the launch of AMO's Indigenous Reconciliation Action Plan.

### **Board Supports at AMO**

Councillor Sharmila Setaram represented Welland at the AMO 2025 Conference not only as part of the city's delegation, but also in her elected role on the Association of AMO Board of Directors and the Ontario Small Urban Municipalities (OSUM) Executive Committee.

These leadership positions give Welland a direct seat at the provincial table, allowing our city to influence decisions that affect our day-to-day lives. From housing and healthcare to infrastructure and municipal finances, Councillor Setaram ensures that Welland's unique challenges and priorities are heard and considered in provincial policy-making.

Before the conference, Councillor Setaram participated in two days of AMO board meetings and an OSUM executive session. At the OSUM meeting, she participated in discussions with Minister Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, to raise urgent issues such as housing affordability, homelessness, and the rising costs of infrastructure — all of which directly impact Welland's ability to grow sustainably and support residents.

As an AMO board member, Councillor Setaram also chaired a session with Minister Stephen Lecce, Minister of Energy and Mines, and the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO), focusing on Ontario's long-term Integrated Energy Plan. These conversations are critical to ensuring Welland's future energy needs are considered in provincial planning.

Welland's presence in these leadership roles means we're not just reacting to provincial decisions — we're helping shape them. It raises our city's visibility, strengthens our advocacy, and ensures that provincial policies reflect the realities of communities like ours. This kind of representation helps secure funding, influence legislation, and build partnerships that benefit Welland directly

### **Summary**

Through targeted meetings, Council and staff advanced Welland's priorities in infrastructure, inclusion, industry, health, and recreation, and more. The AMO Conference also provided meaningful professional development and networking opportunities that will strengthen municipal leadership and inform future decision-making.

Through our meetings, both informal and formal, delegates from the province and other municipalities had extremely high praise for the work the City of Welland is doing.

PENDING MOTION REFERRAL/DEFERRAL SUMMARY AS OF AUGUST 12, 2025					
CLERKS REF. NO.	DIVISION RESPONSIBLE FOR ITEM	DATE APPROVED BY COUNCIL	SUBJECT/ACTION	STATUS OF THE ITEM	COMMENTS/ COMPLETION INFORMATION
02-85 16-26	Infrastructure Services	July 19, 2016	Draft Sidewalk Policy that focuses on the creation of new sidewalks and the improvement and maintenance of existing sidewalks.	<b>Status:</b> In progress  <b>To Complete:</b> Quarter 4, 2024	
99-99	Community Services	May 3, 2016	Report regarding potential alternatives to expand the use of waterway by the general public. Defers Report R&C-2017-08: Public Consultation Process - 'Go Quiet By-law' & Alternative Uses of the Waterway to the General Committee meeting on September 26, 2017.	<b>Status:</b> In progress  <b>To Complete:</b> R&C-2017-06 - October 4, 2017 was received for information.	
17-2	Planning & Development Services Traffic & By-laws	September 19, 2017	Refers back to staff for report regarding Section 8 Schedule 3 Food Vehicle, Section 7 Schedule 2 Food Premises and Exemption Section 10 Schedule 4 Hawker and Peddler from By-law 2011-173. Went to the May 15th Council Meeting to be deferred to staff for a report to a General Committee meeting.	<b>Status:</b> In progress  <b>To Complete:</b> Report coming back July 2024.	
09-152 18-2	Planning & Development Services and Fire Department	June 5, 2018	Report on an education strategy to the public, tenants and landlords regarding rental housing.	<b>Status:</b> In progress  <b>To Complete:</b> Fire and Planning to provide an update report in 2024.	

CLERKS REF. NO.	DIVISION RESPONSIBLE FOR ITEM	DATE APPROVED BY COUNCIL	SUBJECT/ACTION	STATUS OF THE ITEM	COMMENTS/ COMPLETION INFORMATION
19-28	Planning & Development Services	March 5, 2019	Request for a Community Teaching Garden to staff for study and review.	<b><u>Status:</u></b> In progress  <b><u>To Complete:</u></b> To be brought to the Green Advisory Committee for consideration in 2024.	
19-88	CAO	July 9, 2019	Create a "Downtown Vacancy Mitigation Action Plan" between the City, Business, Community and applicable stakeholders that addresses vacancy rates in our downtown areas.	<b><u>Status:</u></b> In progress  <b><u>To Complete:</u></b> To be included in the upcoming Downtown Revitalization Strategy 2024 work.	

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17-19	Planning & Development Services	September 17, 2019	Staff to consult with public, agencies and other stakeholders regarding tree preservation.	<b>Status:</b> Staff in process of drafting the guidelines.  <b>To Complete:</b>	
19-103	Planning & Development Services	September 17, 2019	Report on possible enhancements to the public notification process for Committee of Adjustment hearings. Went to the October 1, 2019 Council meeting requesting that subsequent report be provided outlining costs for the two options provided.	<b>Status:</b> In progress  <b>To Complete:</b> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter in 2024	
08-48	Planning & Development Services	February 18, 2020	Refers back to staff a report regarding an Occupancy Standards By-law.	<b>Status:</b> In progress  <b>To Complete:</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2024.	
19-94	Planning & Development Services	February 18, 2020	Refers back to staff matter regarding the petition from residents from 155 Gadsby Avenue, there be no change to the zoning, which is currently zoned as open space, in order to protect wild life.	<b>Status:</b> In progress  <b>To Complete:</b> Ontario Land Tribunal matter at this time.	



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20-77	Infrastructure Services	June 16, 2020	WHEREAS due to the recent pandemic the City of Welland is not able to provide services that they normally would perform do to the safety of its employees; and further WHEREAS if residents did in fact require a service that is normally provided by the City, in this case being a sewer related service and had to act immediately and contact an outside contractor and in resolving the issue a fee was paid. NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WELLAND directs staff to create a report to reimburse part or all of the fee paid by the owner (with guidelines similar to the rodent control program to be adhered to) and the amount be capped and for a certain period to time.	<b>Status:</b> In progress  <b>To Complete:</b>	
20-106	Planning & Development Services	October 6, 2020	Signed petition from the residents of Caithness Drive regarding turning an established residential area from a single family homes to duplexes and refers this petition to Planning staff for review.	<b>Status:</b> In progress  <b>To Complete:</b> Will be considered as part of update to City's Official Plan in 2024.	
20-19	Planning & Development Services	October 20, 2020	Refers to staff for report the notice of motion regarding 113 Michael Drive, redesignates this area as Open Space and proceed with an RFP to have a park with playground equipment be installed at this location.	<b>Status:</b> In progress  <b>To Complete:</b> Approval for Park Development and will be amended to Open Space in the updated to the City's Official Plan.	

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20-82	Planning & Development Services	March 2, 2021	Report regarding a Municipal Comprehensive Review, under section 4.3.3.1 of the Official Plan, for the property outlined in Report P&B-2021-08 for an Employment Land conversion from Gateway Economic Centre to Agriculture.	<b>Status:</b> In progress  <b>To Complete:</b> To be considered as part of the update to the Official Plan in 2024.	
21-58	CAO & Planning & Development Services	March 2, 2021	Report regarding Brownfield Employment Lands that are non-employment producing within the city limits.	<b>Status:</b> In progress  <b>To Complete:</b> Will be included in 2024 update to the Brownfield CIP.	
21-59	CAO & Economic Development	March 2, 2021	Report on a strategy to aggressively pursue the acquisition of seaway lands from the Federal government, to discuss with them an accelerated process to declare such lands surplus and enter into discussions for the acquisition of identified properties and review options for "lease to own" such lands until such time as they become available. Staff identify Seaway lands of interest and develop servicing plans and other strategies as may be required and further staff identify other lands within and/or adjacent to employment lands identified in Welland's official plan that would be strategic acquisitions for the purpose of industrial/employment use and see if owners are interested in selling those lands to the municipality. If they are not interested the city would not pursue expropriation. In relation to all of the above staff would prepare strategies and associated costs to service lands so that they would be "shovel ready".	<b>Status:</b> In progress  <b>To Complete:</b> Update report to come in 2024 through Economic Development.	
06-156	Planning & Development Services	April 20, 2021	Report as part of the Official Plan Review detailing what Urban Farming initiatives Council should consider accommodating.	<b>Status:</b> In progress  <b>To Complete:</b>	

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21-92	Planning & Development Services	July 6, 2021	Report regarding petition by residents of Seaway Pointe Condominium at 330 Prince Charles Drive regarding parking space for the Evertrust Development at 350 Prince Charles Drives.	<b>Status:</b> In progress  <b>To Complete:</b> Applications were approved and building is currently under construction.	
07-144	Economic Development	January 31, 2023	Dissolution of the Welland Development Commission (WDC) referred back to staff for further information.	<b>Status:</b> In process. <b>To Complete:</b> 4 <sup>th</sup> quarter of 2024.	
05-50	Planning & Development Services	March 7 & 28, 2023	Refers back to staff regarding changes to the Municipal Heritage Register from the Town of Grimsby and Report P&B-2023-06.	<b>Status:</b> In process  <b>To Complete:</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2024.	
02-160	Planning & Development Services	March 27, 2023	Staff report re: having Council representation or staff on the Committee of Adjustment, Grants and Programs and Property Standards Committee.	<b>Status:</b> In process  <b>To Complete:</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2024.	
22-152	Planning & Development Services	March 27, 2023	Develop content for residents, simplifying and explain the process to provide a better understanding for interested parties, and to freely provide these resources to members of the public by posing online on the City website.	<b>Status:</b> In Progress  <b>To Complete:</b> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2024.	

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23-22	Planning & Development Services Traffic and By-laws Division	May 16, 2023	Refers back to staff Report P&B-2023-15: Cash In Lieu of parking Policy. Went to the July 18, 2023 Council Meeting to consult with the development community and public with regards to the proposed Cash-In-Lieu Parking By-law with a final By-law for consideration.	<b>Status:</b> In progress <b>To Complete:</b>	
21-79	Planning & Development Services	June 6, 2023	Refers back to staff Report P&B-2023-22 Application for Official Plan Amendment and Zoning By-law Amendment for 368 Aqueduct Street and 155 Gadsby Avenue.	<b>Status:</b> In progress <b>To Complete:</b> At Ontario Land Tribunal due to decision from Council.	
22-137	Planning & Development Services	June 6, 2023	Refers back to staff Report P&B-2023-20 Application for Official Plan Amendment and Zoning By-law Amendment for 50 Bruce Street.	<b>Status:</b> In progress <b>To Complete:</b> At Ontario Land Tribunal due to decision from Council. Went to CW on April 23/24.	
02-160	CAO	September 5, 2023	Refers back to staff notice of motion re: shall be notified in camera if any entity including but not limited to committees, commissions, agencies or boards that the city funds, or approves members or places members of council on, if this entity experiences any litigation involving its members.	<b>Status:</b> <b>To Complete:</b>	
02-160	Clerks Division	September 19, 2023	Refers back to staff Report CLK-2023-19: Amendment to Hybrid Model – Meeting of Council.	<b>Status:</b> In progress. <b>To Complete:</b>	

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23-122	Clerks Division	September 19, 2023	Refers back to staff Notice of Motion regarding the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Report recommendation #57.	<b><u>Status:</u></b> City Clerk is exploring training opportunities.  <b><u>To Complete:</u></b>	
23-28	Community Services	December 19, 2023	Presentation re: Crimestoppers Program and refers matter to staff for report.	<b><u>Status:</u></b>  <b><u>To Complete:</u></b>	
99-99	Community Services	January 9, 2024	Prepare a report in regards to creating and allowing family caping along the west side of the former Welland Canal.	<b><u>Status:</u></b>  <b><u>To Complete:</u></b>	
23-22	Infrastructure Services	January 9, 2024	Report that would address parking at Chippawa Park from the pavilion on First Avenue north to Laughlin Avenue on the park property which is currently grass/open space similar to Bugar Park.	<b><u>Status:</u></b>  <b><u>To Complete:</u></b>	
24-36	Planning & Development Services	March 19, 2024	Petition from residents of the City of Welland opposing the planning application for the zoning at 44 Heron Street.	<b><u>Status:</u></b>  <b><u>To Complete:</u></b>	

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24-22	Planning & Development Services Traffic and By-laws Division	April 23, 2024	Report to consider amending the City's Zoning By-law 2017-117 to include a requirement for visitor parking, as well as reviewing the parking requirements spaces per dwelling units in the surrounding municipalities.	<u>Status:</u>  <u>To Complete:</u>	
24-22	Planning & Development Services Traffic and By-laws Division	May 14, 2024	Directs staff to create a report on increasing the maximum yearly eligible amount per resident under the Roden Rebate program.	<u>Status:</u>  <u>To Complete:</u>	

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24-22	Planning & Development Services Traffic and By-laws Division	July 9, 2024	Refers back to staff Report TRAF-2024-07: Update to Traffic and Parking By-law 89-2000 for investigation of removing the bicycle lanes and having parking only on one side.	<u>Status:</u>  <u>To Complete:</u>	
				-	
02-160	Clerk's Division	August 13, 2024	Code of conduct for members of Council Section 4.1 – Staff report back to Council on the working of this section in regards to its contradictory nature and how it would apply to freedom of expression and communicating individual councillors political positions to constituents.	<u>Status:</u>  <u>To Complete</u>	
24-26	Infrastructure Services	September 3, 2024	Staff engage with the Region of Niagara to have sidewalks installed on South Pelham Road between Foss and Thorold Roads.	<u>Status:</u>  <u>To Complete:</u>	
24-78	Infrastructure Services	September 3, 2024	Refer to staff petition from residents of Coyle Creek Park opposing implementing the buffer zone around the perimeter of the pond.	<u>Status:</u>  <u>To Complete:</u>	

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24-78	Infrastructure Services	September 3, 2024	Staff to provide a comprehensive report regarding the storm management pond at Coyle Creek. Report detail the city's responsibility and history to the maintenance of the surrounding park like setting over the past 10 years.	<u>Status:</u>  <u>To Complete:</u>	
				-	
24-26	Infrastructure Services	September 10, 2024	Staff engage with the Region of Niagara to discuss road upgrades on South Pelham between Webber Street and Thorold Road..	<u>Status:</u>  <u>To Complete:</u>	
				-	
24-90	Community Services	October 22, 2024	Refer back to staff Report CS-2024-16: Neighbourhood Association Policy Options from the General Committee Meeting of October 22, 2024.	<u>Status:</u> Complete  <u>To Complete:</u>	CS-2025-20 June 17, 2025
				-	



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21-30	Planning & Development Services	November 26, 2024	Refers back to staff the notice of motion regarding increases in the number of encampments near public, private and business properties.	<u>Status:</u>  <u>To Complete:</u>	
21-30	Planning & Development Services	December 10, 2024	Refers Report PB-2024-30: 184 Denistoun Street – Proposed Niagara Regional Housing Project back to staff.	<u>Status:</u>  <u>To Complete:</u>	
24-22	Planning & Dev. Services Traffic and By-laws Division	December 17, 2024	Prepare a report for a signalized school crossing on First Avenue for Quaker Road School. Report to include costs and location.	<u>Status:</u>  <u>To Complete:</u>	
02-160/ 24-14	Clerk's Division	January 14, 2025	Directs staff to conduct a ward boundary review.	<u>Status:</u>  <u>To Complete:</u>	
25-47	Infrastructure Services	February 4, 2025	Refers Report ENG-2025-06: Humberstone Landfill Host Municipality Compensation Agreement back to staff.	<u>Status:</u>  <u>To Complete:</u>	

CLERKS REF. NO.	DIVISION RESPONSIBLE FOR ITEM	DATE APPROVED BY COUNCIL	SUBJECT/ACTION	STATUS OF THE ITEM	COMMENTS/ COMPLETION INFORMATION
02-160	Clerk's Division	March 4, 2025	Notice of Motion from Councillor Lee re: staff report back on the estimated annual savings associated with this transition, including reductions in paper, printing and delivery costs.	<u>Status:</u>  <u>To Complete:</u>	
25-22	Planning & Dev. Services Traffic and By-laws Division	March 18, 2025	Staff to prepare a recommendation on whether the city would benefit from the creation of a Welland School Traffic Safety Action Committee.	<u>Status:</u>  <u>To Complete:</u>	
25-22	Planning & Dev. Services Traffic and By-laws Division	March 18, 2025	Staff to prepare a report on how automated speed enforcement cameras can be installed in the vicinity of every school in Welland.	<u>Status:</u> Complete  <u>To Complete:</u>	ENG-2025-20
25-68	Infrastructure Services	April 8, 2025	Staff report on a Pavement Rejuvenation Program for budget years 2025 and 2026 with no impact to the tax levy.	<u>Status:</u>  <u>To Complete:</u>	
25-73	Infrastructure Services	April 22, 2025	Staff to prepare a report regarding the Niagara Regional Police Services regarding updates and opportunities and staff to report back with further information and recommendations.	<u>Status:</u>  <u>To Complete:</u>	
25-22	Infrastructure Services	July 22, 2025	Report with costs of installing large roadway markings indicating school crossing zone as well as with mid road signage indicating speed.	<u>Status:</u> Complete  <u>To Complete:</u>	Memorandum on
25-22	Planning & Dev. Services Traffic and By-laws Division	July 22, 2025	Report on parking control on Gram Avenue to include but not limited to 2 hour parking along the park, resident parking permits .	<u>Status:</u>  <u>To Complete:</u>	

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25-22	Planning & Development Services	July 22, 2025	Report on the feasibility finishing the missing section of fence along 695 Niagara Street.	<u>Status:</u>  <u>To Complete:</u>	
25-22	Infrastructure Services	July 22, 2025	Report to install a stop sign on Daimler Parkway and Magnolia Lane.	<u>Status:</u>  <u>To Complete:</u>	
25-22	Infrastructure Services	July 22, 2025	Report on the suitability of establishing a Community Safety Zone along Rive Road between Downs Drive and Evan Street.	<u>Status:</u> Complete  <u>To Complete:</u>	
02-85	Clerk's Division	August 12, 2025	Refers the Terms of Reference for the Welland Accessibility Advisory Committee.	<u>Status:</u> Complete  <u>To Complete:</u>	
25-22	Infrastructure Services	August 12, 2025	Report on the suitability of establishing a Community Safety Zone on Plymouth Road from the train tracks north to Lincoln Street since it has two senior homes, a park, two day cares and a school located there.	<u>Status:</u> Complete  <u>To Complete:</u>	
25-22	Infrastructure Services	August 12, 2025	Report on the suitability of establishing a Community Safety Zone on Gaiser Road, specifically but not limited to Gaiser Road and Julia Drive, and Gaiser Road between South Pelham and Clare Avenue/Creekside Drive.	<u>Status:</u> Complete  <u>To Complete:</u>	

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25-88	Community Services	August 12, 2025	Report on the feasibility of launching a new music series featuring Jazz and Blues in Rotary Park, to be held Sunday afternoons during the months of July and August commencing in 2026.	<u>Status:</u>  <u>To Complete:</u>	





**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
FRANK CAMPION**

60 East Main Street  
Welland, Ontario  
L3B 3X4  
Phone: 905-735-1700  
Fax: 905-735-1543

August 18, 2025

**Subject: Response to Bill 9**

Thank you for sharing the information and resources related to Bill 9. I would like to commend the Provincial Government for recognizing the seriousness of the challenges facing municipal councils and for taking meaningful steps to address them. The introduction of measures such as consistent Codes of Conduct across municipalities is both timely and necessary. These provisions will help strengthen accountability and ensure that expectations for elected officials are clear and enforceable across Ontario.

That said, I must raise a significant concern with the proposed mechanism requiring a unanimous vote of all members of council to remove a councillor from their seat. While the intent may be to empower councils to self-govern, in practice this approach creates a substantial barrier to achieving an outcome when a councillor's conduct has reached a critical threshold. A single dissenting vote would be sufficient to block action, leaving the matter unresolved and potentially emboldening the councillor in question.

This issue is not hypothetical. My Council in Welland has already expressed that they would struggle with this approach and are likely to reject it when faced with this type of decision. The result would be an impasse that undermines the very accountability the legislation is intended to strengthen.

I respectfully submit that when concerns elevate to the level of requiring removal from office, the matter should not rest solely with Council. Instead, it should be referred to an independent, third-party, quasi-judicial body that can weigh the facts and make a determination in a fair, impartial, and consistent manner. This would align with the principle of council self-governance while ensuring there is a credible and effective recourse for the most serious cases of misconduct.

As the Mayor for the City of Welland, I commend the Province for opening the door to these much-needed reforms and urge reconsideration of this particular provision so that Bill 9 can achieve its intended outcome of restoring public trust and strengthening local governance.

Sincerely,

Frank Campion  
Mayor, City of Welland



4800 SOUTH SERVICE RD  
BEAMSVILLE, ON L0R 1B1  
905-563-8205

August 1, 2025

***SENT ELECTRONICALLY TO DISTRIBUTION LIST***

**RE: BY-LAW 2025-28 – ADOPTION OF A NEW WARD STRUCTURE AND COUNCIL COMPOSITION FOR THE TOWN OF LINCOLN**

Please be advised that at its meeting held on July 30, 2025, Council for the Corporation of the Town of Lincoln, passed By-law 2025-28 to adopt a new ward structure and Council composition.

Under the approved changes, the Town will move from four wards to three, with two Councillors elected per ward. This change will result in six Councillors plus the Mayor, for a total of seven elected Council members.

In accordance with Section 222(4) of the Municipal Act, 2001, any person or agency may appeal By-law 2025-28 to the Ontario Land Tribunal (OLT) by filing a notice of appeal with the Town Clerk, no later than 4:30 p.m. on Monday, September 15, 2025. Appeals must be submitted to:

Town Clerk  
Town of Lincoln  
4800 South Service Road  
Beamsville, ON L3J 1L3

The notice of appeal must clearly state the objections to By-law 2025-28 and the reasons supporting the appeal. It must also include the prescribed fee of \$1,100.00, in the form of a certified cheque or money order payable to the "Minister of Finance." Further information about the appeal process, including the appeal form, can be found at [www.olt.gov.on.ca](http://www.olt.gov.on.ca).

If no appeals are filed, or if the OLT upholds the By-law, it will come into force by December 31, 2025, and will apply to the October 26, 2026 municipal election.

Background materials related to the Ward Boundary and Council Composition Review are available at: [speakuplincoln.ca/boundaryreview](http://speakuplincoln.ca/boundaryreview).

Should you require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Regards,



Julie Kirkelos

Town Clerk/Director of Legislative, Enterprise and Information Services  
[jkirkelos@lincoln.ca](mailto:jkirkelos@lincoln.ca)

jk/dk

Distribution List:    Niagara Region  
                             Local Area Municipalities  
                             Elections Ontario



Aug 12, 2025

City of Orangeville  
87 Broadway  
Orangeville, ON  
L9W 1K1

Dear Clerk

Re: Support of H.E.R. Elect Respect Campaign

This is to confirm that at the Aug 11, 2025 Council Meeting the following resolution was adopted with respect to the above noted matter:

Whereas democracy is healthy when everyone is able to participate fully and safely and contribute to the well-being of their community;

AND WHEREAS we are witnessing the dissolution of democratic discourse and respectful debate across all levels of government and in neighbouring jurisdictions;

AND WHEREAS Ontario's municipally elected officials are dealing with increasingly hostile, unsafe work environments facing threats and harassment;

AND WHEREAS social media platforms have exacerbated disrespectful dialogue, negative commentary, and toxic engagement which disincentivizes individuals, especially women and candidates from diverse backgrounds from running for office;

AND WHEREAS better decisions are made when democracy is respectful and constructive and the voices of diverse genders, identities, ethnicities, races, sexual orientation, ages and abilities are heard and represented around municipal council tables;

AND WHEREAS the Association of Municipalities of Ontario's Healthy Democracy Project has identified concerning trends with fewer people voting in local elections and running for municipal office;

AND WHEREAS in 2024, female elected representatives from across Halton formed a group called H.E.R. (Halton Elected Representatives) which pledged to speak out against harassment and negativity in politics and called on elected officials to uphold the highest standards of conduct;

AND WHEREAS H.E.R. Halton has launched a campaign called Elect Respect to promote the importance of healthy democracy and safe, inclusive, respectful work environments for all elected officials that encourages individuals to participate in the political process;

AND WHEREAS on June 5, 2025, the Canadian Association of Feminist Parliamentarians launched a non-partisan “Parliamentary Civility Pledge” to encourage all parliamentarians to commit to end workplace harassment and increase civility on Parliament Hill, modelled after the pledge developed in Halton by representatives of H.E.R.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:**

THAT Township of West Lincoln Council supports the Elect Respect pledge and commits to:

- Treat others with respect in all spaces—public, private, and online,
- Reject and call out harassment, abuse, and personal attacks,
- Focus debate on ideas and policies, not personal attacks,
- Help build a supportive culture where people of all backgrounds feel safe to run for and hold office,
- Call on relevant authorities to ensure the protection of elected officials who face abuse or threats, and
- Model integrity and respect by holding one another to the highest standards of conduct.

AND THAT the Township of West Lincoln Council calls on elected officials, organizations and community members to support the Elect Respect campaign and sign the online pledge at [www.electrespect.ca](http://www.electrespect.ca)

AND THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, Ontario’s Big City Mayors, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, Mayors and Regional Chairs of Ontario, relevant MPs and MPPs, Regional Police, the Ontario Provincial Police and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

If any further information is required, please contact the undersigned at 905-957-3346, Ext 5129.

Yours Truly,



Justin J. Paylove  
Manager, Legislative Services/Clerk  
[ipaylove@westlincoln.ca](mailto:ipaylove@westlincoln.ca)

JJP/jmt

cc. Dean Allison, MP  
Sam Oosterhoff, MPP  
Chris Bittle, MP  
Tony Baldinelli, MP  
Fred Davies, MP  
Jennifer Stevens, MPP  
Wayne Gates, MPP  
Jeff Burch, MPP  
Federation of Canadian Municipalities  
Association of Municipalities of Ontario  
Niagara Region Municipalities  
Mayors and Regional Chairs of Ontario (MARCO)  
Ontario's Big City Mayors (OBCM)  
Ontario and Canadian Associations of Chiefs of Police

Aug 12, 2025

Niagara Region

Dear Ann-Marie Norio:

Re: Endorse the Development of a Code of Conduct for Human Trafficking Prevention in Niagara Region

This is to confirm that at the Aug 11, 2025 Council Meeting the following resolution was adopted with respect to the above noted matter:

WHEREAS human trafficking in Niagara is currently a persistent challenge impacting the hospitality and tourism sectors;

WHEREAS human trafficking is a critical issue due to the region's proximity to the U.S. border and the thriving tourism and hospitality sectors, which create environments where sexual and labour exploitation can go unnoticed;

WHEREAS women, newcomers, racially-marginalized people, people experiencing poverty, people living with disabilities, and children in the child welfare system are disproportionately targeted and impacted by the harms perpetuated by traffickers;

WHEREAS 60% of human trafficking cases in Ontario occur along the corridor linking Toronto and Niagara;

WHEREAS data from the Niagara Regional Police Service comparing 2023 to 2024 indicates the number of human trafficking investigations increased by 61%; the number of victims identified increased by 700%; the number of accused charged increased by 190%; the number of criminal charges laid increased by 75%; and the number of referrals from NRPS' Human Trafficking Unit to Victim Services Niagara increased by 133%;

WHEREAS human trafficking thrives in secrecy, but with leadership and commitment, local government can be on the front line of prevention and protection;

WHEREAS local businesses and organizations are key to preventing human trafficking through proactive measures such as The 4 Ps: prevention, protection, partnership, and prosecution;

WHEREAS local area municipalities have already begun to assist in making the Niagara region inhospitable to human traffickers;

WHEREAS Tools of Empowerment for Success (TOES) Niagara and Brock University have undertaken work funded by Women and Gender Equality Canada to develop a Code of Conduct to Prevent Human Trafficking in the Niagara Region through education, increasing awareness, and providing resources, including prevention strategies; and

WHEREAS TOES Niagara and Brock University created a Steering Committee of representatives from across tourism, business, education, law enforcement, government, and non-profit sectors to engage in broad community collaboration through focus groups, surveys, and feedback sessions to develop the Code of Conduct for Human Trafficking Prevention in the Niagara Region.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:**

1. That Township of West Lincoln **RECOGNIZE** that human trafficking in Niagara has serious impacts on the health and wellness of local residents and their families, as well as negative economic impacts on local businesses and communities;
2. That Township of West Lincoln **ENDORSE** the work of TOES Niagara and Brock University in developing a Code of Conduct for the Prevention of Human Trafficking in the Niagara Region;
3. That Township of West Lincoln **COMMIT** to reviewing and assessing the applicable local government sectoral guidelines and responsibilities outlined in The Code upon its finalization, with the intent to implement measures that align with Regional priorities and capacity;
4. That Township of West Lincoln **WRITE** letters to all of Niagara's 12

Local Area Municipalities encouraging them to also endorse the work of TOES Niagara and Brock University in the development of the Code of Conduct for the Prevention of Human Trafficking in the Niagara Region and commit to reviewing and assessing the applicable local government sectoral guidelines and responsibilities outlined in The Code upon its finalization, with the intent to implement measures that align with municipal priorities and capacity; and

5. That a copy of this motion **BE SENT** to Niagara's four MPs; Niagara's four MPPs; the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO); the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM); Mayors and Regional Chairs of Ontario (MARCO); Ontario's Big City Mayors (OBCM); and the Ontario and Canadian Associations of Chiefs of Police.

If any further information is required, please contact the undersigned at 905-957-3346, Ext 5129.

Yours Truly,



Justin J. Paylove  
Manager, Legislative Services/Clerk  
[jpayscale@westlincoln.ca](mailto:jpayscale@westlincoln.ca)

JJP/jmt

cc. Dean Allison, MP  
Sam Oosterhoff, MPP  
Chris Bittle, MP  
Tony Baldinelli, MP  
Fred Davies, MP  
Jennifer Stevens, MPP  
Wayne Gates, MPP  
Jeff Burch, MPP  
Federation of Canadian Municipalities  
Association of Municipalities of Ontario  
Niagara Region Municipalities  
Mayors and Regional Chairs of Ontario (MARCO)  
Ontario's Big City Mayors (OBCM)  
Ontario and Canadian Associations of Chiefs of Police





**The Corporation of the Town of Grimsby  
Administration**

Office of the Town Clerk

160 Livingston Avenue, Grimsby, ON L3M 0J5

**Phone:** 905-945-9634 Ext. 2171 | **Fax:** 905-945-5010

**Email:** [vsteele@grimsby.ca](mailto:vsteele@grimsby.ca)

August 14, 2025

SENT VIA E-MAIL

[clerks@stcatharines.ca](mailto:clerks@stcatharines.ca)

Attention: City of St. Catharines

**RE: Endorsement of City of St. Catharines' Motion – Elect Respect Pledge**

Please be advised that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Grimsby at its meeting held on August 11, 2025 passed the following resolution:

**C-25-150**

**Moved:** Councillor Korstanje

**Seconded:** Councillor Howe

*Resolved that Council endorse the City of St. Catharines' motion regarding an Elect Respect Pledge.*

If you require any additional information, please let me know.

Regards,

Victoria Steele  
Town Clerk

CC:

Association of Municipalities of Ontario ([resolutions@amo.on.ca](mailto:resolutions@amo.on.ca))

Ontario's Big City Mayors ([info@obcm.ca](mailto:info@obcm.ca))

Federation of Canadian Municipalities ([info@fcm.ca](mailto:info@fcm.ca))

Dean Allison ([dean.allison@parl.gc.ca](mailto:dean.allison@parl.gc.ca))

Sam Oosterhoff ([sam.oosterhoffco@pc.ola.org](mailto:sam.oosterhoffco@pc.ola.org))

Chris Bittle ([chris.bittle@parl.gc.ca](mailto:chris.bittle@parl.gc.ca))

Jennie Stevens ([jstevens-co@ndp.on.ca](mailto:jstevens-co@ndp.on.ca))

Fred Davies ([fred.davies@parl.gc.ca](mailto:fred.davies@parl.gc.ca))

Jeff Burch ([jburch-co@ndp.on.ca](mailto:jburch-co@ndp.on.ca))

Tony Baldinelli ([tony.baldinelli@parl.gc.ca](mailto:tony.baldinelli@parl.gc.ca))

Wayne Gates ([wgates-co@ndp.on.ca](mailto:wgates-co@ndp.on.ca))

Michelle Seaborn ([michelle.seaborn@niagararegion.ca](mailto:michelle.seaborn@niagararegion.ca))

Niagara Regional Police ([info@niagarapolice.ca](mailto:info@niagarapolice.ca))

Ontario Provincial Police ([opp.media@opp.ca](mailto:opp.media@opp.ca))



Royal Canadian Mounted Police ([rcmp.hqmediarelations-dgreationsmedias.grc@rcmp-grc.gc.ca](mailto:rcmp.hqmediarelations-dgreationsmedias.grc@rcmp-grc.gc.ca))

Mayors and Regional Chairs of Ontario

ATTCH: Elect Respect Pledge Our File 10.12.1

July 30, 2025

Association of Municipalities of Ontario  
155 University Ave | Suite 800  
Toronto, ON M5H 3B7

Sent via email: [resolutions@amo.on.ca](mailto:resolutions@amo.on.ca)

**Re: Elect Respect Pledge  
Our File 10.12.1**

To Whom it May Concern,

At its meeting of July 14, 2025, St. Catharines City Council approved the following motion:

WHEREAS democracy is healthy when everyone is able to participate fully and safely and contribute to the well-being of their community; and

WHEREAS we are witnessing the dissolution of democratic discourse and respectful debate across all levels of government and in neighbouring jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS Ontario's municipally elected officials are dealing with increasingly hostile, unsafe work environments facing threats and harassment; and

WHEREAS social media platforms have exacerbated disrespectful dialogue, negative commentary, and toxic engagement which disincentivizes individuals, especially women and candidates from diverse backgrounds from running for office; and

WHEREAS better decisions are made when democracy is respectful and constructive and the voices of diverse genders, identities, ethnicities, races, sexual orientation, ages and abilities are heard and represented around municipal council tables; and

WHEREAS the Association of Municipalities of Ontario's Healthy Democracy Project has identified concerning trends with fewer people voting in local elections and running for municipal office; and

WHEREAS in 2024, female elected representatives from across Halton formed a group called H.E.R. (Halton Elected Representatives) which pledged to speak out against harassment and negativity in politics and called on elected officials to uphold the highest standards of conduct; and

WHEREAS H.E.R. Halton has launched a campaign called Elect Respect to promote the importance of healthy democracy and safe, inclusive, respectful work environments for all elected officials that encourages individuals to participate in the political process; and

WHEREAS on June 5, 2025, the Canadian Association of Feminist Parliamentarians launched a non-partisan “Parliamentary Civility Pledge” to encourage all parliamentarians to commit to end workplace harassment and increase civility on Parliament Hill, modelled after the pledge developed in Halton by representatives of H.E.R.;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT City of St. Catharines Council supports the Elect Respect pledge and commits to:

- Treat others with respect in all spaces—public, private, and online,
- Reject and call out harassment, abuse, and personal attacks,
- Focus debate on ideas and policies, not personal attacks,
- Help build a supportive culture where people of all backgrounds feel safe to run for and hold office,
- Call on relevant authorities to ensure the protection of elected officials who face abuse or threats, and
- Model integrity and respect by holding one another to the highest standards of conduct; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That City of St. Catharines Council calls on elected officials, organizations and community members to support the Elect Respect campaign and sign the online pledge at [www.electrespect.ca](http://www.electrespect.ca); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, Ontario’s Big City Mayors, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, Mayors and Regional Chairs of Ontario, relevant MPs and MPPs, Regional Police, the Ontario Provincial Police and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

If you have any questions, please contact the Office of the City Clerk at extension 1524.



Donna Delvecchio, Acting City Clerk  
Legal and Clerks Services, Office of the City Clerk  
:av

cc: Ontario Big City Mayors  
The Federation of Canadian Municipalities

Mayors and Regional Chairs of Ontario  
MPs and MPPs  
Regional Police  
The Ontario Provincial Police  
Royal Canadian Mounted Police



**The Corporation of the Town of Grimsby  
Administration**

Office of the Town Clerk

160 Livingston Avenue, Grimsby, ON L3M 0J5

**Phone:** 905-945-9634 Ext. 2171 | **Fax:** 905-945-5010

**Email:** [vssteel@grimsby.ca](mailto:vssteel@grimsby.ca)

August 14, 2025

SENT VIA E-MAIL

[clerks@aurora.ca](mailto:clerks@aurora.ca)

Attention: Ishita Soneji, Deputy Town Clerk

**RE: Endorsement of Motion - Opposition to Bill 5, *Protect Ontario by Unleashing our Economy Act, 2025***

Please be advised that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Grimsby at its meeting held on August 11, 2025, passed the following resolution:

**C-25-164**

**Moved:** Councillor Korstanje

**Seconded:** Councillor Charrois

*Resolved that Council endorse the Town of Aurora's motion regarding opposition to Bill 5.*

If you require any additional information, please let me know.

Regards,

Victoria Steele  
Town Clerk

CC:

Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario ([premier@ontario.ca](mailto:premier@ontario.ca))

Hon. Stephen Lecce, Ontario Minister of Energy and Mines ([stephen.lecce@pc.ola.org](mailto:stephen.lecce@pc.ola.org))

Association of Municipalities of Ontario ([resolutions@amo.on.ca](mailto:resolutions@amo.on.ca))

All Ontario Municipalities

ATTCH: Town of Aurora Council Resolution of July 15, 2025, Member Motion 7.1 - Councillor Weese; Re: Opposition to Bill 5, *Protect Ontario by Unleashing our Economy Act, 2025*

July 17, 2025

The Honourable Doug Ford  
Premier of Ontario

**Delivered by email**  
premier@ontario.ca

The Honourable Stephen Lecce  
Minister of Energy and Mines

ministerenergy@ontario.ca

Dear Premier Ford and Minister Lecce:

**Re: Town of Aurora Council Resolution of July 15, 2025  
Member Motion 7.1 - Councillor Weese; Re: Opposition to Bill 5, *Protect Ontario  
by Unleashing our Economy Act, 2025***

Please be advised that this matter was considered by Council at its special meeting held on July 15, 2025, and in this regard, Council adopted the following resolution:

**Whereas Bill 5 was granted Royal Assent on June 5, 2025; and**

**Whereas Bill 5 amends several key pieces of legislation with the goal of fast-tracking economic development and introduces changes in legislation that affect local governance, labour laws and environmental protections; and**

**Whereas the legislation includes the *Special Economic Zones Act, 2025* (SEZ) that gives Queen's Park the power to designate areas where regulatory approval processes can be amended by the Ontario Government, potentially without input from local decision-makers; and**

**Whereas the *Endangered Species Act, 2007* has been dissolved and replaced by the *Species Conservation Act 2025*, which environmental critics argue removes important provisions of the former law; and**

**Whereas the new law also makes changes to the *Ontario Heritage Act* that potentially could impact Heritage site designations; and**

**Whereas this law has been rushed through the legislature in 49 days, limiting Committee time, public consultation and ensuring rapid passage;**

- 1. Now Therefore Be It Hereby Resolved That Aurora Town Council acknowledges the stated goals of economic growth and development in Bill 5, but expresses serious concerns with Bill 5 in its current form as it interferes with local**

**planning authorities, limits public consultation, and threatens both heritage designations and endangered species; and**

**2. Be It Further Resolved That Aurora Town Council urges the Government of Ontario to consider the following:**

- **Collaboration with municipalities to determine Special Economic Zones;**
- **Ensure environmental protections and heritage safeguards are strengthened;**
- **Include municipalities and Indigenous partners in shaping regulations; and**
- **Preserve legal recourse for affected communities; and**

**3. Be It Further Resolved That this Motion be forwarded to all 444 Ontario Municipalities, Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, and Hon. Stephen Lecce, Ontario Minister of Energy and Mines, and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO).**

The above is for your consideration and any attention deemed necessary.

Sincerely,



Ishita Soneji

Deputy Town Clerk

The Corporation of the Town of Aurora

IS/lb

Attachment (Council meeting extract)

Copy: Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)  
All Ontario Municipalities



## 7. Consideration of Items Requiring Discussion

### 7.1 Member Motion - Councillor Weese; Re: Opposition to Bill 5, *Protect Ontario by Unleashing our Economy Act, 2025*

#### **Main motion as amended**

**Moved by** Councillor Weese

**Seconded by** Councillor Gaertner

Whereas Bill 5 was granted Royal Assent on June 5, 2025; and

Whereas Bill 5 amends several key pieces of legislation with the goal of fast-tracking economic development and introduces changes in legislation that affect local governance, labour laws and environmental protections; and

Whereas the legislation includes the *Special Economic Zones Act, 2025* (SEZ) that gives Queen's Park the power to designate areas where regulatory approval processes can be amended by the Ontario Government, potentially without input from local decision-makers; and

Whereas the *Endangered Species Act, 2007* has been dissolved and replaced by the *Species Conservation Act 2025*, which environmental critics argue removes important provisions of the former law; and

Whereas the new law also makes changes to the *Ontario Heritage Act* that potentially could impact Heritage site designations; and

Whereas this law has been rushed through the legislature in 49 days, limiting Committee time, public consultation and ensuring rapid passage;

1. Now Therefore Be It Hereby Resolved That Aurora Town Council acknowledges the stated goals of economic growth and development in Bill 5, but expresses serious concerns with Bill 5 in its current form as it interferes with local planning authorities, limits public consultation, and threatens both heritage designations and endangered species; and
2. Be It Further Resolved That Aurora Town Council urges the Government of Ontario to consider the following:



- Collaboration with municipalities to determine Special Economic Zones;
  - Ensure environmental protections and heritage safeguards are strengthened;
  - Include municipalities and Indigenous partners in shaping regulations; and
  - Preserve legal recourse for affected communities; and
3. Be It Further Resolved That this Motion be forwarded to all 444 Ontario Municipalities, Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, and Hon. Stephen Lecce, Ontario Minister of Energy and Mines, and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO).

Yeas (4): Councillor Weese, Councillor Gilliland, Councillor Gaertner, and Councillor Gallo

Absent (3): Mayor Mrakas, Councillor Thompson, and Councillor Kim

**Carried (4 to 0)**

## Economic Development Brief

August 15, 2025

### Statistics and Trends

#### Labour market conditions

Labour market conditions in Niagara (seasonally adjusted) deteriorated across all indicators in July except for population growth and unemployment rate. However, the decline in the unemployment rate was driven by a reduction in labour force participation rather than an increase in employment. Overall, Niagara underperformed Ontario in most areas, with the unemployment rate being the only exception.

Month-over month data from June to July 2025 show the following:

- Population: Niagara grew by 0.1% (300 people), while Ontario grew by the same rate.
- Labour force: Niagara decreased by 1.4% (3,600 people), while Ontario grew by 0.1%.
- Employment: Niagara decreased by 1.2% (3,600 people), while Ontario decreased by 0.1%.
- Unemployment rate: Niagara decreased by 0.1% to 6.9%, while Ontario increased by 0.1% to 7.9%.
- Participation rate: Niagara decreased by 0.9% to 61.3%, while Ontario remained the same at 65.0%.

Employment declines were most pronounced in the following sectors: transportation and warehousing, followed by education; health care and social assistance; public administration; business support services; wholesale and retail trade; accommodation and food services; and manufacturing. This marks a shift from previous months, as more service-oriented sectors are now experiencing job losses likely a ripple effect of the broader economic impact of tariffs on Niagara's economy.

#### Ontario Arts Council announces new data showing economic impact of arts in Niagara

Ontario Arts Council has released a powerful new model for measuring culture sector impact, the Regional Economic Model, developed by the research firm Nordicity. According to the data, the cultural sector in Niagara supports nearly 6,000 jobs and \$381 million in economic activity. The report notes the outsize impact of several Niagara institutions, such as the Shaw Festival, the Grimsby Public Art Gallery (Niagara's only public art gallery), and the Niagara Artists Centre. To view the report [CLICK HERE](#).

The economic development updates in this brief were compiled with input from economic development staff from Niagara's area municipalities, as well as public information sources.

**Mid-sized regions poised to drive Ontario's economic development: Brock researcher**

Brock professor Charles Conteh argues that Ontario's mid-sized regions such as Hamilton, London, Niagara, Greater Sudbury, and Windsor-Essex are key drivers of innovation, leveraging local talent, resources, and collaborative networks to adapt to technological and economic shifts. In his book, *Mediating Innovation Policy Delivery*, he highlights the role of intermediary institutions and Regional Innovation Centres like Innovate Niagara in fostering entrepreneurship, facilitating partnerships, and growing sectors like ICT, which has seen job growth outpacing national rates in several of these regions. Conteh concludes that these regions are effective leaders in innovation because they focus on their economic strengths, build inclusive innovation systems, and strategically tap into government resources, allowing them to respond quickly and flexibly to new opportunities. For more information [CLICK HERE](#).

**Economic Development Updates****Almost 500 rental units planned on vacant Ontario Street hospital site in St. Catharines**

A 492-unit rental apartment development has been approved for the former Hotel Dieu Hospital site at 159 Ontario Street in St. Catharines, with 10% of the units designated as affordable housing and a mix of residential and commercial space. The project, led by Elevate Living Niagara, will feature sustainable building practices, accessibility certifications, and amenities like EV shares and bike storage. City council unanimously approved zoning and official plan changes for the project, which is expected to break ground in spring 2026.

**Leyad buys Pen Centre mall for \$140 million**

Montreal-based investment firm Leyad has purchased the Pen Centre mall in St. Catharines for \$140 million, viewing it as a prime retail asset with strong potential for future residential development. The Pen Centre, a major shopping destination with over 1.1 million square feet and key national tenants, attracts more than 8 million visitors annually and currently generates retail sales of about \$650 per square foot. This acquisition adds to Leyad's aggressive expansion across Canada, including recent retail, commercial, and hospitality properties, as the company aims to capitalize on prime locations and mixed-use redevelopment opportunities.

**Town of Lincoln celebrates groundbreaking for Hampton by Hilton Hotel in Beamsville**

The Town of Lincoln has officially marked the ceremonial groundbreaking on a new \$20 million Hampton by Hilton hotel at 4711 Ontario Street in Beamsville, marking a major private-sector investment in local tourism infrastructure. The five-storey hotel, developed by local investor Aftab Qaisar and set to open in August 2026, will feature 100 rooms, an indoor pool, and modern conference space to support tourism, business travel, and events. Town officials see the project as a key milestone in Lincoln's tourism strategy, expected to create around 50 permanent jobs and strengthen the local economy.

The economic development updates in this brief were compiled with input from economic development staff from Niagara's area municipalities, as well as public information sources.

**Town of Lincoln welcomes new Economic Development Officer, Stephanie Hicks**

Stephanie Hicks has been appointed as the Town of Lincoln's new Economic Development Officer, effective August 11, 2025, bringing over a decade of experience in economic development and community revitalization. She is well known for her leadership in transforming the Beamsville BIA and her province-wide advocacy as Vice President of the Ontario Business Improvement Area Association. Stephanie will continue supporting the BIA in a transitional role through January 2026 and will then fully focus on supporting Lincoln's broader business community in her new position.

**Niagara Economic Development launches Connect to Care campaign**

The Connect to Care campaign, developed in partnership with Niagara Practitioners' Healthcare Alliance, promotes awareness and trust in the Region's Find a Doctor tool to improve access to primary care, with materials shared across all 12 municipalities. Over two dozen family doctors are currently accepting new patients, and all Niagara residents can register regardless of where they live in the region. The campaign supports Ontario's \$1.8 million Primary Care Action Plan and will be evaluated based on changes in attachment statistics. To view the Find a Doctor tool [CLICK HERE](#).

**Niagara non-profits among recipients of \$28 million in new Ontario Trillium Fund grants**

The Ontario government is investing more than \$28 million through the Ontario Trillium Foundation to support 300 non-profit organizations, First Nations and small municipalities across the province in delivering much-needed programs. 16 Niagara organizations were among the recipients for 2025-2026 including the following: Stolen from Africa, Community Living Port Colborne-Wainfleet, Casa El Norte, Thorold Community Activities Group, Niagara Falls Rowing Club, RiverBrink Art Museum, Strong Fort Erie Neighbourhoods, Community Care St. Catharines and Thorold, Heartland Forest Nature Experience, Gillian's Place, Niagara Safety Village, Design for a New Tomorrow, Central Station Education Initiative, Start Me Up Niagara, The Beachcombers Senior Citizens Association of Crystal Beach, and Friends of Fort George.

**Ontario invests \$94 million in water systems and irrigation in Niagara**

The Ontario government is investing \$94 million in water and irrigation infrastructure in Niagara Region to support housing development, agriculture, and job creation. The funding is for six water system projects enabling 14,000 new homes and irrigation pipelines to support hundreds of farms. This funding is part of a broader \$2.3 billion investment through the Municipal Housing Infrastructure Program to build critical infrastructure and enable up to 800,000 new homes across Ontario.

The economic development updates in this brief were compiled with input from economic development staff from Niagara's area municipalities, as well as public information sources.

**Niagara's South Coast Tourism Association partners with Indigenous Tourism Ontario on virtual indigenous business programming**

Niagara's South Coast Tourism Association has partnered with Indigenous Tourism Ontario to offer virtual indigenous business programming. This partnership includes free, 4-week virtual program to launch a new Indigenous tourism business, upgrade skills for their current venture, and turn new ideas into reality. Interested parties can get more information and register [HERE](#).

**Vaultra Storage opens in Welland**

Vaultra Storage, officially opened its doors in mid-May and is already making an impact. Conveniently located and purpose built with modern storage needs in mind, the facility features 85 total units, including heated indoor spaces, across a 50,000 SF building. Designed with security and accessibility at its core, Vaultra is access-controlled and offers tenants easy, 24/7 access via a mobile app—making storage seamless and secure. The facility is staffed with one full-time and one part-time employee, ensuring that personal service is always available for customers.

**Ontario Shipyards partners with province and Italy's largest builder to ready bid for navy corvettes**

The Ontario government is pushing to reestablish the province as a shipbuilding hub, offering \$215 million in financial support to help Ontario Shipyards secure a multibillion-dollar federal contract to build new corvettes for the Canadian Navy. This move includes partnerships with major international defense firms like Fincantieri and Thales, with Algoma Steel poised to supply critical materials if the bid is successful. Ontario Shipyards, which has significant unused capacity, believes it is well-positioned to win the contract amid competition from busier shipbuilders in other provinces.

**Niagara welcomes Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade for industry roundtable**

On July 30, Niagara Region hosted Minister Victor Fedeli and over 50 leaders from industry, innovation, and local governments for a roundtable on the economic impacts of global trade disruptions. The discussion emphasized the importance of targeted provincial partnerships and explored how the Trade Impacted Communities Program can support supply chain security, market expansion, and long-term resilience. Niagara reaffirmed its commitment to collaboration with all levels of government to maintain competitiveness and drive future-focused economic growth.

George Spezza, Ec.D., CEcD  
Director, Economic Development

The economic development updates in this brief were compiled with input from economic development staff from Niagara's area municipalities, as well as public information sources.



# CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ARMOUR

## RESOLUTION

Date: August 12, 2025

Motion # 248

WHEREAS Ontario's Family Health Teams provide team-based healthcare which is critical to our communities;

AND WHEREAS healthcare in Ontario is publicly funded;

AND WHEREAS municipalities invest significant additional public/taxpayer money in support of Family Health Teams and other healthcare-related organizations, including supports for primary care recruitment, healthcare facilities, and additional community healthcare needs;

AND WHEREAS the governance models for Family Health Teams in Ontario do not follow mandatory standards;

AND WHEREAS governance models are designed to ensure appropriate representation, transparency, and guardrails with respect to potential conflicts of interest for the organizations they represent;

AND WHEREAS many boards of Family Health Teams are not balanced in terms of representation from the communities and municipalities that they cover;

AND WHEREAS the lack of a standard and balanced governance model means that the needs of the local communities are not necessarily fully represented;

AND WHEREAS the province is directing the Primary Care Action Team (PCAT), through Dr. Jane Philpott, to ensure connected and convenient healthcare across the province;

AND WHEREAS Family Health Teams are crucial in the delivery of the mandate of PCAT;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT The Council of the Township of Armour urges the Province of Ontario to implement a standard and mandatory governance model for the boards of Family Health Teams across the province, which ensures that community members make up 50% of the overall board membership to ensure appropriate representation for the communities which use and support healthcare in their local area;

AND THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario; the Honourable Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health; Dr. Jane Philpott, Chair of the Primary Care Action Team; the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO); the Association of Family Health Teams of Ontario (AFHTO); and all municipalities in Ontario.

Moved by: Blakelock, Rod ☐  
Brandt, Jerry ☒  
Haggart-Davis, Dorothy ☐  
Ward, Rod ☐  
Whitwell, Wendy ☐

Seconded by: Blakelock, Rod ☐  
Brandt, Jerry ☐  
Haggart-Davis, Dorothy ☒  
Ward, Rod ☐  
Whitwell, Wendy ☐

Carried / Defeated

*R*

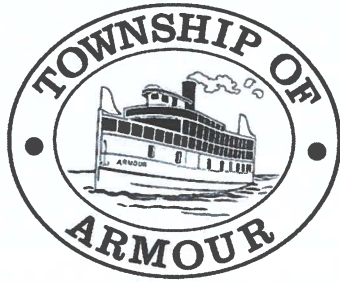
Declaration of Pecuniary Interest by:  
Recorded vote requested by:

Recorded Vote:

Blakelock, Rod  
Brandt, Jerry  
Haggart-Davis, Dorothy  
Ward, Rod  
Whitwell, Wendy

For	Opposed
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>





## DISTRICT OF PARRY SOUND

56 ONTARIO STREET  
PO BOX 533  
BURK'S FALLS, ON  
POA 1C0

(705) 382-3332

(705) 382-2954

Fax: (705) 382-2068

Email: [rward@armourtownship.ca](mailto:rward@armourtownship.ca)

Website: [www.armourtownship.ca](http://www.armourtownship.ca)

### *Mayor's Report – Governance of Family Health Teams*

To: Members of Council  
From: Rod Ward, Mayor  
Date: August 12, 2025

#### **Subject: Support for Standardized Governance Models for Family Health Teams**

Family Health Teams are a vital part of Ontario's healthcare system, particularly in rural and underserved communities like ours. These teams provide collaborative, team-based care that improves patient outcomes and relieves pressure on hospitals and emergency services.

Our municipality, like many others across the province, continues to invest local taxpayer dollars to support healthcare delivery — through physician recruitment efforts, infrastructure, and other community health initiatives. However, despite this investment and our community's reliance on these services, municipal and community voices are often underrepresented on the boards that govern Family Health Teams.

Currently, there is no mandatory governance framework for these boards, which has led to inconsistent representation and, in some cases, governance structures that do not reflect the communities they serve. This can lead to decisions being made without sufficient local input, oversight, or accountability.

The attached resolution calls on the Province of Ontario to implement a standardized and mandatory governance model for Family Health Teams, requiring that at least 50% of board members be community representatives. This would help ensure local interests are considered in decision-making, and strengthen transparency and trust in our healthcare system.

I recommend Council's support for this resolution and the forwarding of it to the appropriate provincial bodies and municipal partners.

Sincerely,

*Rod Ward*

Rod Ward  
Mayor



## DISTRICT OF PARRY SOUND

56 ONTARIO STREET  
PO BOX 533  
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The attached resolution calls on the Province of Ontario to implement a standardized and mandatory governance model for Family Health Teams, requiring that at least 50% of board members be community representatives. This would help ensure local interests are considered in decision-making, and strengthen transparency and trust in our healthcare system.

I recommend Council's support for this resolution and the forwarding of it to the appropriate provincial bodies and municipal partners.

Sincerely,

*Rod Ward*

Rod Ward  
Mayor





**Council - Committee of the Whole**

**Resolution #** 2025-263  
**Title:** Approve Resolution Requesting a Moratorium on Aerial Spraying of Glyphosate in the Nipissing Forest  
**Date:** August 12, 2025

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**Moved by:** Councillor Fern Pellerin  
**Seconded by:** Councillor Kaitlynn Nicol

**WHEREAS** the Province of Ontario, through the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, is planning to begin aerial spraying of glyphosate-based herbicides in late August 2025 in the Nipissing Forest; and

**WHEREAS** the Nipissing Forest covers a significant portion, if not all, of the Municipality of West Nipissing, and residents and ecosystems may be impacted by this activity; 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 West Nipissing formally request that the Honourable Mike Harris Jr., Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry, reconsider the planned use of glyphosate-based herbicides in the Nipissing 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

**CARRIED**



**TOWNSHIP OF RIDEAU LAKES  
Regular Council Meeting**

**RESOLUTION** 189-2025  
**Title:** Councillor P. Banks - V.O.I.C.E. Coalition - Request for Support and Endorsement  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 5, 2025

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**Moved by** Councillor P. Banks  
**Seconded by** Councillor J. Banks

**WHEREAS Strong Mayor Powers have been extended to 216 Ontario municipalities, with more expected by fall 2025;**  
**AND WHEREAS over 130 municipalities have formally opposed these powers due to concerns over democratic accountability and local governance;**  
**AND WHEREAS the V.O.I.C.E. coalition is hosting an open advocacy session at the 2025 AMO Conference on Monday, August 18, from 1:00–3:00 p.m. at Joey Rideau in Ottawa;**  
**NOW THEREFORE be it resolved, that the Township of Rideau Lakes endorses and supports this V.O.I.C.E. event and encourages all Ontario municipalities to attend;**  
**AND FURTHER that the attached invitation be sent along with this resolution to all 444 Ontario municipalities, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), and the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing.**

**Carried**



## Office of the City Clerk

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August 14, 2025

Via email

All Ontario Municipalities

**Re: Kingston City Council Meeting, August 12, 2025 – Resolution Number 2025-269 – Heritage Property Insurance Rates**

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At the regular Council meeting on August 12, 2025, Council approved Resolution Number 2025-269 with respect to Heritage Property Insurance Rates, as follows:

**Whereas** heritage is a fundamental part of individual and community identity, and is a major driver of Kingston's tourism economy; and

**Whereas** the Ontario Heritage Act encourages municipalities in Ontario to designate and protect properties that meet provincial criteria related to design value, associative value and contextual value; and

**Whereas** the Provincial Planning Statement states that protected heritage property shall be conserved; and Whereas the City of Kingston's Official Plan states that built heritage resources in Kingston shall be conserved; and

**Whereas** conserving heritage properties has direct benefits to property values, tourism and the environment; and

**Whereas** homeowners require insurance to protect their homes, which is often their most significant financial investment, and can be required to maintain a mortgage; and

**Whereas** the cost of living and the cost of insurance is on the rise in Canada; and

**Whereas** the Province of Ontario has stated that a heritage designation does not place additional requirements on insurers and that insurance premiums should not go up because of a heritage designation; and

**Whereas** some homeowners have reported that their premiums have gone up as a result of a heritage designation or they have been denied an insurance policy as a result of a heritage designation; and

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The Corporation of the City of Kingston

216 Ontario Street, Kingston, ON K7L 2Z3

Phone: (613) 546-4291 extension 1207

[cityclerk@cityofkingston.ca](mailto:cityclerk@cityofkingston.ca)

**Whereas** as a result of insurance concerns, some impacted homeowners have objected to a proposed heritage designation on their property or have applied to have a designating by-law repealed; and

**Whereas** this directly threatens the unique and irreplaceable heritage character of Kingston and Ontario;

**Therefore Be It Resolved That** Kingston City Council call on the Provincial Government to:

- investigate why some insurers are raising premiums on heritage designated properties or are denying insurance policies as a result of a heritage designation in contravention of provincial guidance; and
- bring insurance regulators, insurance industry representatives and heritage professionals together to find solutions that enable the continued protection of heritage properties without unwarranted financial burden on homeowners; and
- regulate the impact of heritage designation on insurance premiums through enforcement, education and new solutions;

**That** a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Honourable Doug Ford, M.P.P. Premier of Ontario, the Honourable Graham McGregor, M.P.P. Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism, Ted Hsu, M.P.P. Kingston and the Islands and John Jordan, M.P.P. Lanark-Frontenac-Kingston, all Ontario municipalities, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Financial Services Regulatory Authority of Ontario, the Canadian Council of Insurance Regulators, and the Insurance Bureau of Canada.

Yours sincerely,



Janet Jaynes  
City Clerk  
/nb



## The Corporation of the Township of Terrace Bay

P.O. Box 40, 1 Selkirk Avenue, Terrace Bay, ON, P0T 2W0

**Phone:** (807) 825-3315 **Fax:** (807) 825-9576

August 12, 2025

Premier Doug Ford  
[premier@ontario.ca](mailto:premier@ontario.ca)

Dear Mr. Ford,

At the Township of Terrace Bay Regular Council Meeting held on Monday August 11, 2025, the following resolution of support was passed.

**RE: Exemption to O. Reg. 343/22 – Firefighter Certification Requirements**

**Resolution: 203-2025**

**Moved By: Councillor Dube**

**Seconded By: Councillor Adduono**

WHEREAS the Ontario government has enacted O. Reg. 343/22, establishing mandatory certification requirements for firefighters under the Fire Protection and Prevention Act, 1997;

AND WHEREAS Council for the Township of Terrace Bay acknowledges the importance of standardized firefighter training and safety;

AND WHEREAS these mandatory certification requirements pose significant challenges for small, rural, and northern municipalities due to limited financial and training resources, geographic barriers, and reliance on volunteer fire departments;

AND WHEREAS the implementation of these requirements without additional flexibility or support may negatively impact the Township's ability to recruit and retain volunteer firefighters and provide adequate fire protection to its residents;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council for the Corporation of the Township of Terrace Bay formally opposes the mandatory firefighter certification requirements as currently outlined in O. Reg. 343/22;

AND FURTHER THAT this resolution be forwarded to the Solicitor General, Premier of Ontario, MPP Lise Vaugeois, the Fire Marshal, AMO, FONOM, NOMA and all Ontario municipalities.



## The Corporation of the Township of Terrace Bay

P.O. Box 40, 1 Selkirk Avenue, Terrace Bay, ON, P0T 2W0

**Phone:** (807) 825-3315 **Fax:** (807) 825-9576

Sincerely,

J. Hall  
Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk

**CC:**

Solicitor General – [Michael.kerzner@pc.ola.org](mailto:Michael.kerzner@pc.ola.org)

Premier of Ontario – [premier@ontario.ca](mailto:premier@ontario.ca)

MPP Lise Vaugeois – [lvaugois-gp@ndp.on.ca](mailto:lvaugois-gp@ndp.on.ca)

Ontario Fire Marshall – [askofm@ontario.ca](mailto:askofm@ontario.ca)

AMO – [resolutions@amo.on.ca](mailto:resolutions@amo.on.ca)

FONOM – [fonom.info@gmail.com](mailto:fonom.info@gmail.com)

NOMA – [admin@noma.on.ca](mailto:admin@noma.on.ca)

Ontario Municipalities

Friday, August 22, 2025

The Honourable Robert Black, Senator  
Senate Standing Committee on Agriculture and Forestry  
The Senate of Canada  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1J 0A4

SENT VIA EMAIL: [robert.black@sen.parl.gc.ca](mailto:robert.black@sen.parl.gc.ca)

RE: Standing Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry

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Dear Honourable Robert Black,

Please be advised of the following motion passed at the Monday, August 11, 2025, Goderich Town Council Meeting:

Moved By: Councilor Thompson

Seconded By: Councilor Petrie

Whereas the agricultural sector of Huron County depends on the health of the soils in Huron County;

And Whereas soil erosion poses a very significant threat to the long-term health of the soils in Huron County;

And Whereas the Town of Goderich owns some agricultural land which is an asset for the Town;

And Whereas the Town of Goderich is committed to protecting the assets of the Town from preventable harm;

And Whereas the Standing Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry published a report in 2024 titled "Critical Ground: Why Soil is Essential to Canada's Economic, Environmental, Human and Social Health" (the Report) that contained twenty-five (25) recommendations in total for the federal government;

And Whereas, Recommendation 7 of Critical Ground stated that "The Government of Canada encourage provinces, territories, and municipalities to develop measures—as a form of land use planning—that best preserve and protect agricultural land in their jurisdictions;"

Therefore, be it resolved that the Town of Goderich urge the Government of Canada and the Province of Ontario to commit to recognizing a sense of urgency and act accordingly in order to protect and conserve soil as per Recommendation 25.

**CARRIED**

The Town of Goderich  
57 West Street  
Goderich, Ontario  
N7A 2K5  
519-524-8344  
townhall@goderich.ca  
www.goderich.ca



If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 519-524-8344 ext. 210 or [afisher@goderich.ca](mailto:afisher@goderich.ca).

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrea Fisher".

Andrea Fisher  
Director of Legislative Services/Clerk  
/js

Cc: The Honourable Lisa Thompson, Minister of Rural Affairs, Member of Provincial Parliament – Huron-Bruce, [lisa.thompson@pc.ola.org](mailto:lisa.thompson@pc.ola.org)  
Todd McCarthy, Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks [todd.mccarthy@pc.ola.org](mailto:todd.mccarthy@pc.ola.org)  
Trevor Jones, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness [trevor.jones@pc.ola.org](mailto:trevor.jones@pc.ola.org)  
Ben Lobb, Member of Parliament – Huron-Bruce, [ben.lobb@parl.gc.ca](mailto:ben.lobb@parl.gc.ca)  
Julie Dabrusin, Federal Minister of Environment and Climate Change [julie.dabrusin@parl.gc.ca](mailto:julie.dabrusin@parl.gc.ca)  
Heath MacDonald, Federal Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food and Rural Economic Development [heath.macdonald@parl.gc.ca](mailto:heath.macdonald@parl.gc.ca)  
All local Municipalities within Huron County