



COUNCIL INFORMATION PACKAGE

Friday, August 29, 2025

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Welland City Council

FROM: Mariannie Laurence – Facilities Project Coordinator

DATE: August 29, 2025

SUBJECT: Welland Market Square Enhancements

The purpose of this memo is to provide Council with an update on the ongoing revitalization efforts at Market Square. As communicated to Council through a [previous CIP memo](#) in 2024, this renewal project is supported by an external funding grant from the Niagara Region Parks Renewal and Improvement Program (PRIP) and supplemented through previously approved capital budgets.

Considerable work has been done since the project the last update was provided including developing a detailed design, receiving funding, as well as coordinating materials and installation. Given that the summer events season is wrapping up, renewal is scheduled to begin in September and be completed by the end of the year. This work will happen outside of regular programming of the space including the Saturday Farmer's Market, and staff don't anticipate any disruption to service levels.

This project directly aligns with the City's strategic priorities of Health and Wellbeing, and Livability by improving access to public amenities, enhancing recreation opportunities, and creating a more inviting and vibrant destination for residents and commercial investment. This project also aligns with the City's Downtown Revitalization Plan.

As per the memo in 2024, the revitalization project involves several enhancements to improve both the functionality and aesthetics of Market Square. These include:

MEMORANDUM

TO: Welland City Council

FROM: Amanda Degazio, Manager of Business and Community Services

DATE: August 29, 2025

SUBJECT: Market Square Memorial Block Art Project – Artist Selection

In 2024, the City of Welland issued a Call to Indigenous Artists to design and paint the memorial block at Market Square, located next to the Truth and Reconciliation crosswalk. The project was created to honour Indigenous culture and provide a meaningful public art installation in the heart of downtown. Despite extending the call, no submissions were received.

To move the project forward, the City partnered in January 2025 with Willow Arts Community, a peer-led arts organization in St. Catharines with experience supporting collaborative public art initiatives. Through this partnership, outreach was undertaken to Indigenous artists in the region. Several proposals were received and reviewed by the Arts and Culture Advisory Committee, who evaluated the submissions for artistic merit, relevance, and feasibility.

Following this process, the Committee selected Cheyenne Ricard, a Mohawk/Tuscarora artist from Six Nations with deep ties to the Niagara region. Ricard's body of work includes a public mural at Bogart Street Park in St. Catharines, a commissioned installation at Waterloo International Airport, and the "Medicine Tree" project for the Niagara Regional Native Centre. Her proposed artwork for the Welland memorial block, *Carry the Light*, combines realism and symbolism to create a reflective and culturally significant piece designed to bridge generations and honour the principles of Truth and Reconciliation.

The mural will be completed, including graffiti resistant coating, by September 6, 2025, and we are excited to see this newest addition to Welland's collection of public art. This project ensures that the memorial block reflects Indigenous heritage while fostering community connection and shared reflection.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Welland City Council

FROM: Sherri-Marie Millar, P.Eng.
Director of Infrastructure Services/City Engineer
Muhammad Ali Khan, P.Eng.
Manager of Transportation

DATE: Friday, August 29, 2025

SUBJECT: Rotary Park Parking Lot Upgrades – Status Update

The purpose of this memo is to provide Council with background information, a status update and a preview of next steps for the Rotary Park parking lot upgrades in advance of the 2026 budget deliberations.

Background:

As part of the 2024 capital budget deliberations, Community Services proposed a staff-initiated upgrade for Rotary Park, focusing on parking lot paving and the design of the sand play area. The project, based on a Concept Plan prepared by Adesso Design Inc. was described as:

Paving and sand area upgrades to the Rotary Park parking lot and boat launch area. Current stone surfacing has been an ongoing issue in recent years and requires upgrades. Also, adding a sand area near the boat launch will further enhance the park amenities for residents and visitors to enjoy. Design to be completed in 2024. Construction to commence 2025.

Council approved the estimated \$50,000 in design costs, to be funded through the Cash-in-Lieu of Parkland Dedication Reserve. Construction funding for the park upgrades was also identified in the 2025 nine-year capital forecast, with implementation proposed for 2026 at an estimated cost of \$650,000.

Through a Request for Quotation (RFQ) the lowest cost received for the detailed design of the Rotary Park upgrades was from Upper Canada Consultants at an estimated \$85,000. Through ENG-2025-07, Council authorized funding the \$35,000 shortfall at the April 8, 2025 meeting.

Status:

The design of the parking lot upgrades which includes paving and expanding the existing gravel parking lot, adding a new sand beach area, accessible parking, fencing, landscaping, and pathways is currently at the 60% complete stage.

Based on the 60% complete design of the Rotary Park parking lot upgrades, a construction cost estimate has been prepared. The costs of the proposed works are estimated to be \$900,000.

A Public Information Centre (PIC) was held on Monday, August 18, 2025 at the Welland Community Wellness Complex to present the proposed design and gather feedback from residents. Approximately 25 residents attended the meeting.

The project is also posted on the City's Engage Welland website at: <https://engagewelland.ca/rotary-park-parking-lot-upgrades>. The City is inviting members of the public to provide feedback until September 1, 2025.

Next Steps:

All public input received will be reviewed and considered. Where feedback influences the final design, it may also affect future construction costs if revisions are incorporated. The final design will be completed by the end of this year.

As the 2026 Capital Budget is developed, staff will recommend prioritization of all capital requests, including the construction of the Rotary Park parking lot upgrades. It will then be up to the Mayor and Council to review and debate funding for this construction in 2026, alongside other City priorities.



Legal and Legislative Services

August 26, 2025

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

Honourable and Dear Sir:

Re: Town of Aurora - Bill 5 Protect Ontario by Unleashing Our Economy Act, 2025

Please be advised the Municipal Council of the Town of Fort Erie at its meeting of August 25, 2025, received and supported correspondence from the Town of Aurora dated July 17, 2025, expressing serious concern regarding Bill 5 and requesting the Province to collaborate with municipalities to determine Special Economic Zones; ensure environmental protection and heritage safeguards are strengthened; include municipalities and indigenous partners in shaping regulations and preserve legal recourse for affected communities.

Attached please find a copy of the Town of Aurora's correspondence dated July 17, 2025.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Rosanna Firenze

Rosanna Firenze,
Deputy Clerk
rfirenze@forterie.ca

RF:dlk
Attach

c.c The Honourable Stephen Lecce, Minister of Energy and Mines; MinisterEnergy@ontario.ca
AMO; amo@amo.on.ca
Ishita Soneji, Deputy Town Clerk clerks@aurora.ca
Municipalities of Ontario

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)



Legal and Legislative Services

August 26, 2025

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

Honourable and Dear Sir:

Re: Town of Aurora – Bill 17, Protect Ontario by Building Faster and Smarter Act, 2025

Please be advised the Municipal Council of the Town of Fort Erie at its meeting of August 25, 2025, received and supported correspondence from the Town of Aurora dated July 17, 2025, expressing significant concerns of Bill 17 in its current form and recommends restoring municipal autonomy, and ensuring meaningful consultations and decision-making power; maintaining rigorous environmental safety and heritage assessment despite timelines; incorporating clear affordable housing requirements within new developments; enhancing transparency, public engagement and accountability mechanisms and ensuring climate change mitigation is included in all development projects.

Attached please find a copy of the Town of Aurora's correspondence dated July 17, 2025.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Rosanna Firenze

Rosanna Firenze,
Deputy Clerk
rfirenze@forterie.ca
Attach

c.c The Honourable Stephen Lecce, Minister of Energy and Mines; MinisterEnergy@ontario.ca
The Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing; minister.mah@ontario.ca
AMO; amo@amo.on.ca
Ishita Soneji, Deputy Town Clerk clerks@aurora.ca
Municipalities of Ontario

July 17, 2025

The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario

Delivered by email
premier@ontario.ca

The Honourable Rob Flack
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

minister.mah@ontario.ca

Dear Premier Ford and Minister Flack:

**Re: Town of Aurora Council Resolution of June 24, 2025
Member Motion 7.2 - Councillor Weese; Re: Opposition to Bill 17, *Protect Ontario
by Building Faster and Smarter 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 Ontario Bill 17 (the legislation) was granted Royal Assent on June 5, 2025; and

Whereas the legislation raises significant concerns related to democratic governance, environmental sustainability, municipal autonomy, and social equity; and

Whereas the legislation centralizes decision-making authority and reduces the power of local municipalities in planning and development approvals; and

Whereas the legislation curtails public consultation rights, limiting residents' ability to influence projects impacting their neighbourhoods; and

Whereas the legislation accelerates approvals by reducing time for environmental assessments, heritage evaluations, and public safety considerations that could result in substandard buildings, strained infrastructure and negative long-term effects on communities; and

Whereas the legislation threatens green spaces, natural habitats, and water resources overlooking careful measures that allows sustainable growth and undermines Ontario's commitment to environmental stewardship; and

Whereas the legislation limits public hearings and community engagement opportunities, which increases the risk of corruption, favouritism and poor local planning decisions;

1. **Now Therefore Be It Hereby Resolved That Aurora Town Council recognizes the intent of Ontario Bill 17 to streamline housing and infrastructure development; however, expresses significant concerns with Ontario Bill 17 in its current form, and recommends:**
 - **Restoring municipal autonomy, and ensuring meaningful consultation and decision-making power;**
 - **Maintaining rigorous environmental, safety, and heritage assessments despite expedited timelines;**
 - **Incorporating clear affordable housing requirements within new developments;**
 - **Enhancing transparency, public engagement and accountability mechanisms;**
 - **Ensuring climate change mitigation is included in all development projects; and**
2. **Be It Further Resolved That this Motion be forwarded to all 444 Ontario Municipalities, Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, and Hon. Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, 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

7.2 Member Motion - Councillor Weese; Re: Opposition to Bill 17, *Protect Ontario by Building Faster and Smarter Act, 2025*

Main motion as amended

Moved by Councillor Weese

Seconded by Councillor Gallo

Whereas Ontario Bill 17 (the legislation) was granted Royal Assent on June 5, 2025; and

Whereas the legislation raises significant concerns related to democratic governance, environmental sustainability, municipal autonomy, and social equity; and

Whereas the legislation centralizes decision-making authority and reduces the power of local municipalities in planning and development approvals; and

Whereas the legislation curtails public consultation rights, limiting residents' ability to influence projects impacting their neighbourhoods; and

Whereas the legislation accelerates approvals by reducing time for environmental assessments, heritage evaluations, and public safety considerations that could result in substandard buildings, strained infrastructure and negative long-term effects on communities; and

Whereas the legislation threatens green spaces, natural habitats, and water resources overlooking careful measures that allows sustainable growth and undermines Ontario's commitment to environmental stewardship; and

Whereas the legislation limits public hearings and community engagement opportunities, which increases the risk of corruption, favouritism and poor local planning decisions;

1. Now Therefore Be It Hereby Resolved That Aurora Town Council recognizes the intent of Ontario Bill 17 to streamline housing and

infrastructure development; however, expresses significant concerns with Ontario Bill 17 in its current form, and recommends:

- Restoring municipal autonomy, and ensuring meaningful consultation and decision-making power;
- Maintaining rigorous environmental, safety, and heritage assessments despite expedited timelines;
- Incorporating clear affordable housing requirements within new developments;
- Enhancing transparency, public engagement and accountability mechanisms;
- Ensuring climate change mitigation is included in all development projects; and

2. Be It Further Resolved That this Motion be forwarded to all 444 Ontario Municipalities, Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, and Hon. Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, 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)

The Corporation of the
MUNICIPALITY OF TWEED

255 Metcalf St., Postal Bag 729
Tweed, ON K0K 3J0
Tel.: (613) 478-2535
Fax: (613) 478-6457



Email: info@tweed.ca
Website: www.tweed.ca
facebook.com/tweedontario

To: All Ontario Municipal Councils

Collaborative Action on Sustainable Waste Management in Ontario

As members of municipal councils, we share a responsibility to make decisions that result in the most positive outcomes for both our current residents and future generations. The management of municipal waste is one of the most pressing environmental challenges we face today.

Large urban centres are increasingly looking to rural areas for land to bury garbage waste. Continuing to bury garbage in the ground will inevitably lead to serious consequences:

Globally, solutions already exist. Clean incineration technology can drastically reduce the volume of waste going to landfills while producing much needed electricity. Germany serves as an inspiring model, operating 156 municipal thermal waste incineration facilities with an aggregate annual capacity of 25 million tonnes. At the same time, Germany recycles 66.1% of its municipal waste, the highest rate in the world, driven by strong community engagement, innovative infrastructure, and early education programs that foster a culture of sustainability.

We believe Ontario can and must do better.

We are calling for:

1. The creation of a provincial working group composed of municipalities, the Provincial and Federal Governments, and manufacturing partners;
2. A commitment to exploring and implementing clean incineration, stronger recycling programs, and other sustainable practices;
3. Support from municipal councils across Ontario to advocate for immediate action at all levels of government.

We respectfully request that your council consider supporting this initiative by passing a similar resolution and communicating your support to Premier Doug Ford, the opposition parties, and other relevant stakeholders. By acting together, we can ensure that waste disposal in Ontario is managed quickly, efficiently, and sustainably protecting our environment and safeguarding our communities for generations to come.

Jim Flieler
Councillor, Municipality of Tweed

Resolution for Incineration and a more Robust Recycling Program

Whereas It is incumbent upon the members of council, MPP's and MPs to make the decisions that will result in the most positive outcomes for now and future generations

And Whereas with large urban centres now looking in rural areas of our province and entire country for lands to bury their garbage waste

And Whereas a large landfill site owned by a large urban centre which receives 50% of their garbage at the present time is expected to be full by 2029 creating more environmental impacts

And Whereas continuing to bury garbage in the ground will result in our future generations having lost potable groundwater as a result of garbage leachate rendering it unusable.

And Whereas burying garbage, particularly organic waste in landfills, leads to the production of methane a greenhouse gas, which escapes into the atmosphere and contributes to climate change causing more environmental destruction.

And Whereas we continue to destroy our environment jeopardizing our future generations

And Whereas we have worldwide technology that will allow us the use of clean incineration and also produce much needed electric energy

And Whereas the incineration of household and other municipal waste has a long tradition in Germany, which currently has 156 municipal thermal waste incineration facilities with an aggregate annual capacity of around 25 million tons

And Whereas with a strong focus on community involvement, innovative infrastructure, and sustainable practices, Germany has set a high bar for municipal recycling programs that the rest of the world can learn from and emulate.

And Whereas at the present time, Germany recycles 66.1% of its garbage waste at a municipal level. This places the country as the most effective and prominent country when it comes to recycling in the entire world. This highlights the citizen's strength and motivation to deal with environmental issues on a daily basis.

And Whereas German schools often integrate recycling education into their curriculum. This early exposure to the importance of recycling instills a sense of responsibility in the younger generation, creating a culture of sustainability that transcends generations.

Now Therefore be it resolved that Council direct staff to investigate the possibility of working together with Ontario Municipalities, Provincial and Federal Governments as well as our manufacturing partners to form a working group to ensure that our waste disposal issues can be resolved quickly, efficiently and effectively with the use of incineration, more robust recycling programs and sustainable practices so that our future generations will not suffer from our environmental mismanagement and to request support from these organizations as well as letters being sent to all municipalities in Ontario, Premier Ford and the opposition parties.

**Municipality of Tweed Council Meeting
Council Meeting**



Resolution No.

355

Title:

Notice of Motion - Incineration and a More Robust Recycling Program

Date:

Tuesday, August 12, 2025

Moved by

Councillor J. Flieler

Seconded by

Councillor P. Valiquette

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council direct staff to investigate the possibility of working together with the Ontario Municipalities, Provincial and Federal Governments as well as our manufacturing partners to form a working group to ensure that our waste disposal issues can be resolved quickly, efficiently and effectively with the use of incineration, more robust recycling programs and sustainable practices so that our future generations will not suffer from our environmental mismanagement and to request support from these organizations as well as letters being sent to all municipalities in Ontario, Premier Ford and the opposition parties.

Carried



**TOWNSHIP OF
BRUDENELL, LYNDOCH AND RAGLAN**

42 Burnt Bridge Road, PO Box 40
Palmer Rapids, Ontario K0J 2E0
TEL: (613) 758-2061 · FAX: (613) 758-2235

August 6, 2025

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

RE: Advocacy for Increased Income Support Thresholds for Canadian Veterans

Dear Hon. Mark Carney,

Please be advised that at the Regular Council Meeting on August 6, 2025, Council for the Corporation of the Township of Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan passed the following resolution, supporting the resolution from the Town of Bradford West Gwilliambury.

Resolution No: 2025-06-06-11
Moved by: Councillor Quade
Seconded by: Councillor Banks

"Be it resolved that the Council for the Corporation of the Township of Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan support the Town of Bradford West Gwilliambury resolution regarding Advocacy for Increased Income Support Thresholds for Canadian Veterans.

And further that this resolution be forwarded to The Honourable Jill McKnight, Minister of Veterans Affairs; The honourable Andrew Scheer, Acting Leader of the Official Opposition; Cheryl Gallant, MP Algonquin-Renfrew-Pembroke; The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), and all Ontario Municipalities."

Carried.

Sincerely,

Tammy Thompson
Deputy Clerk
Township of Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan

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)



TOWNSHIP OF BRUDENELL, LYNDOCH AND RAGLAN

42 Burnt Bridge Road, PO Box 40
Palmer Rapids, Ontario K0J 2E0
TEL: (613) 758-2061 · FAX: (613) 758-2235

August 6, 2025

Jon Pegg
Fire Marshal of Ontario
Office of the Fire Marshal
25 Morton Shulman Avenue
Toronto, ON M3M 0B1
Jon.pegg@ontario.ca

RE: Request for Exemption to Proposed Mandatory Firefighter Certification Requirements (O. Reg. 343/22)

Dear Fire Marshal Pegg,

Please be advised that at the Regular Council Meeting on August 6, 2025, Council for the Corporation of the Township of Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan passed the following resolution, supporting the correspondence from the Township of Black River – Matheson.

Resolution No: 2025-06-06-10
Moved by: Councillor Keller
Seconded by: Councillor Banks

“Be It resolved that the Council for the Corporation of the Township of Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan support the correspondence from the Township of Black River – Matheson with their Request for Exemption to Proposed Mandatory Firefighter Certification Requirements (O. Reg. 343/22).

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 Corporation of the Township of Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan acknowledges the importance of standardized firefighting 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, geographics 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 The Council for the Corporation of the Township of Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan 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 Billy Denault, the Fire Marchal, AMO, FONOM and all Ontario Municipalities."

Carried.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tammy Thompson".

Tammy Thompson

Deputy Clerk

Township of Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan



CORPORATION OF THE
TOWNSHIP OF BLACK RIVER – MATHESON

367 FOURTH AVE, P.O. BOX 601, MATHESON, ON P0K 1N0
TELEPHONE (705) 273-2313 EMAIL : brm@twobrm.ca WEBSITE: www.twobrm.ca

**Jon Pegg
Fire Marshal of Ontario
Office of the Fire Marshal
25 Morton Shulman Avenue
Toronto, ON M3M 0B1**

June 10, 2025

Via Email: Jon.Pegg@ontario.ca

Dear Fire Marshal Pegg:

Subject: Request for Exemption to Proposed Mandatory Firefighter Certification Requirements (O. Reg. 343/22)

On behalf of the Council of the Township of Black River-Matheson, I am writing to express our concerns regarding the mandatory firefighter certification requirements under Ontario Regulation 343/22.

At its meeting held on June 10th, Council passed the attached resolution formally opposing the implementation of these requirements. While we recognize and support the importance of firefighter training and safety, the regulation as it stands does not adequately reflect the operational realities of small, rural, and northern municipalities.

Communities such as ours rely heavily on volunteer and composite fire departments that already face critical challenges in recruitment, training accessibility, and financial capacity.

Specifically, we are burdened by:

- Geographic barriers and long travel distances to accredited training centres,
- Inconsistent access to instructors and scheduling options,
- Limited budgets and competing capital demands,
- Difficulty in retaining and replacing volunteers due to increased regulatory pressures.

Without additional support, flexibility, or exemption mechanisms, the implementation of O. Reg. 343/22 will severely compromise our ability to provide consistent, timely, and effective fire protection to our residents.

Accordingly, the Council of the Township of Black River-Matheson respectfully requests that the Office of the Fire Marshal and the Ministry of the Solicitor General:

1. Defer full implementation of the certification regulation for rural and northern municipalities,
2. Provide exemptions or alternative compliance pathways tailored to the needs and limitations of small, remote fire services,
3. Increase funding and training supports for municipalities outside major urban centres.

We believe that a one-size-fits-all regulatory model will disproportionately and unfairly affect communities like ours. A more flexible, consultative approach is urgently needed. Thank you for your consideration of this request. We would welcome further discussion and are open to participating in any future consultations or working groups aimed at resolving these challenges collaboratively.

Sincerely,

Dave Dymont, Mayor

/hjl

On behalf of the Council of Black River-Matheson

Encl.: Resolution No.2025-214 – Council Opposition to O. Reg. 343/22

CC:

The Honourable Michael Kerzner, Solicitor General – michael.kerzner@ontario.ca

The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario – premier@ontario.ca

John Vanthof, MPP, Timiskaming—Cochrane – jvanthof-co@ndp.on.ca

Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) – amo@amo.on.ca

Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) – admin@fonom.org

All Ontario Municipalities

TOWNSHIP OF BLACK RIVER – MATHESON

367 FOURTH AVE, P.O. BOX 601, MATHESON, ON P0K 1N0

COMMUNITIES OF: HOLTYRE – MATHESON – RAMORE – SHILLINGTON – VAL GAGNE



Corporation of the Township of Black River - Matheson
367 Fourth Avenue
P.O. Box 601
Matheson, Ontario
P0K 1N0

ITEM # 2025-10.b)
RESOLUTION

DATE: June 10, 2025

2025-214

Moved by Councillor Steve Campsall
Seconded by Councillor Alain Bouchard

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 Black River-Matheson 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 Black River-Matheson 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 John Vanthof, the Fire Marshal, AMO, FONOM, and all Ontario municipalities

☒ CARRIED ☐ DEFEATED

CHAIR SIGNATURE

☐ Original ☐ Amendment ☐ Refer ☐ Defer ☐ Reconsider ☐ Withdrawn

Recorded Vote-TO BE COMPLETED BY CLERK ONLY

	YEAS	NAYS
Mayor Dave Dymont		
Councillor Allen		
Councillor Charbonneau		
Councillor Campsall		

Councillor McCutcheon		
Councillor Gadoury		
Councillor Bouchard		

Hongji Lei

Hong Ji Lei
Town Manager/Clerk



THE TOWNSHIP OF
WOOLWICH

BOX 158, 24 CHURCH ST. W.
ELMIRA, ONTARIO N3B 2Z6
TEL. 519-669-1647 / 1-877-969-0094
COUNCIL/CAO/CLERKS FAX 519-669-1820
PLANNING/ENGINEERING/BUILDING FAX 519-669-4669
FINANCE/RECREATION/FACILITIES FAX 519-669-9348

August 27, 2025

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

Honorable Premier:

RE: Resolution Passed by Woolwich Township Council – Strong Mayor Legislation

This letter is to inform you that the Council of the Township of Woolwich passed the following resolution at their meeting held on August 26, 2025:

WHEREAS the Province of Ontario introduced Strong Mayor Powers on November 22, 2022, in the Cities of Toronto and Ottawa to support the provincial priority of building 1.5 million homes with subsequent expansions in 2023; and:

WHEREAS on May 1, 2025, the Province of Ontario expanded the Strong Mayors legislation to include 169 additional municipalities with six or more members of Council, including the Township of Woolwich; and

WHEREAS over 100 municipalities have passed resolutions opposing these powers and requesting their removal, expressing concerns about the effect on democratic governance and transparency; and

WHEREAS a 2024 survey by the Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario (AMCTO) found that only 33% of mayors retained the power to change the organizational structure and 26% of mayors retained the power of employment matters; and

WHEREAS on May 1, 2025, Mayor Sandy Shantz delegated all possible political powers and duties back to Council and administrative duties back to the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), however not all powers and duties can be delegated; and

NOW THEREFORE be it resolved that the Council of the Township of Woolwich respectfully request that the Province of Ontario continue to study the impacts of the strong mayors legislation including:

1. **To what extent the legislation is supporting the stated intent of supporting housing development, for example if strong mayors are using their powers to support or veto more housing in their communities;**
2. **If there are any unintended consequences of the legislation, for example on democracy, transparency, workplace culture, or the politicization of administrative staff appointed by a strong mayor (the CAO or department heads);**
3. **The impact of extending the legislation to smaller, rural municipalities like Woolwich, such as the impact of additional powers and duties on part-time mayors or the implications six-member councils where a simple majority and 2/3 majority vote is the same;**
4. **Consider the concerns expressed by the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and the AMCTO, including the powers affecting public administration and eliminating the need for a majority council support for certain decisions related to provincial priorities;**
5. **Directs staff to forward this resolution to the Premier of Ontario, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, AMO, AMCTO and all Municipalities in Ontario.**

Should you have any questions, please contact Alex Kirchin, by email at akirchin@woolwich.ca or by phone at 519-669-6005.

Yours truly,



Jeff Smith
Municipal Clerk
Corporate Services
Township of Woolwich

cc. Hon. Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
AMO
AMCTO
All Municipalities in Ontario