



COUNCIL INFORMATION PACKAGE

Friday, September 12, 2025

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Welland City Council

FROM: Frank Pearson, B. Tech – Arch. Sci.
Manager of Facilities, Operations and Development

DATE: September 12, 2025

SUBJECT: New Public Washroom Legislation – O. Reg. 480/24

The purpose of this memorandum is to advise Council of new requirements mandated under Ontario Regulation 480/24 made under the *Health Protection and Promotion Act*. This regulation requires all municipalities to document the cleaning and maintenance of public washrooms to ensure accountability, transparency, and protection of public health.

Under the regulation, the following requirements apply to all public washrooms operated by the municipality. Compliance must be met by January 1, 2026.

- **Cleaning Logs:** A written record of each cleaning and maintenance activity must be created, including the date, time, and name of the individual performing the cleaning.
- **Frequency of Cleaning:** Washrooms must be cleaned and inspected with a frequency appropriate to their usage level. High-use areas may require multiple daily cleanings.
- **Posting of Records:** The most recent cleaning record must be made available to the public either by physical posting in the washroom or through a QR code linking to the digital record.

- **Retention of Records:** All cleaning records must be retained for a minimum of one year and made available for inspection by public health officials upon request.

City staff have reviewed current cleaning and documentation practices and implemented updates to ensure full compliance under the new regulation. These updates include revised cleaning schedules, staff training, standardized documentation templates, and integration with digital facility management systems where applicable.

Throughout the months of August and September, staff will be launching new processes, training applicable staff, and implementing documentation requirements across all facilities. Additionally, supervisors will audit documentation, verify compliance with the regulation and coach staff and contractors as required.

Compliance with O. Reg. 480/24 demonstrates the City's continued commitment to public health, cleanliness, and operational transparency in our municipal facilities.

Mayor's Message – Premier's support strengthens Welland's call for reform

Yesterday afternoon, [I received a letter from Premier Doug Ford](#), committing to stand with the City of Welland in pressing the federal government for urgent and lasting reform to our criminal laws and bail system. His support strengthens our call for the real change our community both needs and deserves.

We continue to grieve the tragic, horrid act that has shaken our collective sense of safety. The wound runs deep and will leave a lasting scar for so many in our community. I am told that the young victim is recovering, and I cannot overstate the relief I feel in sharing those words with you. Her recovery will not be simple. It will be a journey of many stages, from the immediate physical healing to the extended and potentially life-long emotional and mental recovery.

In the face of this darkness, I have witnessed our community rally around her with love, courage, and conviction. I am profoundly proud of Welland. Despite seething anger and fear, we are channeling that energy into meaningful action: vigils, peaceful demonstrations, powerful protests, and united demands to government. And people are listening. I believe change is coming and I will continue to fight for it.

Nothing can erase what happened. The joy, the laughter, and the light of a child are among life's most sacred gifts, and when that is attacked, we all bear the hurt. As mayor, I will continuously raise the voice of our community, and I will not stop demanding change. I will not stop demanding action. Together with our partners in government, we will press forward until real reform is achieved.

We owe this little girl proof that we did not sit idly by. That when her light was nearly extinguished, we collected our voices and turned up the volume. As a community, we owe her that.

And that is why I welcome the Premier's letter of support as one more step in our fight for what is right.



September 10, 2025

SENT ELECTRONICALLY

To All Concerned Organizations

Re: 14.3 Publication of the Sexual Offender Registry – City of Thorold Council Resolution

Please be advised that the Council of the Corporation of the City of Thorold, at its meeting held on September 9, 2025, considered the aforementioned topic and passed the following resolution:

The Corporation of the City of Thorold enacts as follows:

WHEREAS the current provisions of *Christopher's Law (Sex Offender Registry)*, 2000, restrict access to the Ontario Sex Offender Registry to law enforcement agencies, limiting public awareness of individuals convicted of sexual offences living within their communities;

WHEREAS public access to information about registered sex offenders can empower City residents to take informed precautions to enhance community safety, particularly for vulnerable populations such as children;

AND WHEREAS transparency and access to information are key components of public safety policy, and a public version of the registry could balance safety and privacy;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Council for Corporation of the City of Thorold enacts as follows:

1. That Council **FORMALLY REQUESTS** that the Government of Ontario amend Christopher's Law (Sex Offender Registry), 2000, to permit public access to the Ontario Sex Offender Registry; and
2. That a copy of this resolution **BE CIRCULATED** to the Premier of Ontario, the Attorney General of Ontario, the Solicitor General of Ontario, all regional Members of Provincial Parliament, and Niagara region municipalities.

Thank you,



Nicholas Debono
City Clerk, City of Thorold

- cc. The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
The Honourable Doug Downey, Attorney General of Ontario
The Honourable Michael S. Kerzner, Solicitor General of Ontario
All regional Members of Provincial Parliament
- Sam Oosterhoff
 - Jennifer Stevens
 - Wayne Gates
 - Jeff Burch
- Niagara Regional Municipalities
- Niagara Falls
 - Port Colborne
 - St Catharines
 - Welland
 - Grimsby
 - Lincoln
 - Niagara-on-the-Lake
 - Pelham
 - Wainfleet
 - West Lincoln
 - Fort Erie
- Niagara Region





The City of Niagara Falls, Ontario

Resolution

August 26, 2025

No. 16 – Motion to Support Elect Respect Pledge – Region of Niagara Resolution

Moved by: Councillor Lori Lococo

Seconded by: Councillor Mike Strange

Please be advised that the Council of the Corporation of the City of Niagara Falls, at its meeting held on August 26, 2025, considered the aforementioned topic and passed the following resolution in support:

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

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

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

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

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;

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;

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 call on elected officials to uphold the highest standards of conduct;

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

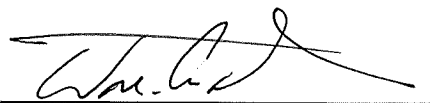
WHEREAS on June 5, 2025, the Canadian Association of Feminist Parliamentarians launched a non-partisan 'Parliamentary Civility Pledge" to encourage all parliamentarians to commit to end workplace harassment and increase civility on Parliament Hill, modelled after the pledge developed in Halton by representatives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

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

1. That the City of Niagara Falls 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;
2. That the City of Niagara Falls' Council **CALLS ON** elected officials, organizations, and community members to support the 'Elect Respect' campaign and sign the online pledge at www.electrespect.ca;
3. 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, Niagara's MPs and MPPs, the Niagara Region, Niagara Regional Police, the Ontario Provincial Police and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police; and
4. That this resolution **BE SENT** to all of Niagara's local area municipalities with a request that their Councils pass a similar motion.

AND The Seal of the Corporation to hereto affixed.

Carried Unanimously



WILLIAM G. MATSON
CITY CLERK



JAMES M. DIODATI

WHEREAS the Government of Ontario has imposed "Strong Mayor Powers" on municipalities without broad consultation or consent; and

WHEREAS over 100 municipalities have passed resolutions opposing these powers and requested their removal, some as early as 2023; and

WHEREAS strong mayor powers concentrate authority in one office, undermining democratic governance, council collaboration, and transparency; and

WHEREAS municipalities are most effective through shared leadership and local decision-making;

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Town of Fort Frances opposes the imposition of strong mayor powers and requests immediate removal from the list of designated municipalities;

AND FURTHER THAT this resolution be sent to:

- The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
- The Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
- The Association of Municipalities of Ontario
- The Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario
- Paula Banks



September 4, 2025

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

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

via email: premier@ontario.ca
minister.edu@ontario.ca

RE: Closure of Before and After School Programs

Dear Premier Ford and Minister Calandra,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alexander", with a large, stylized initial "A".

Chandra Alexander
Manager of Corporate Services/Clerk

cc: All Ontario Municipalities



Township of Perry

PO Box 70, 1695 Emsdale Road, Emsdale, ON POA 1J0

PHONE: (705)636-5941

FAX: (705)636-5759

www.townshipofperry.ca

September 4, 2025

The Right Honourable Mark Carney Email: PM@pm.gc.ca

The Honourable Jill Mcknight jill.mcknight@parl.gc.ca

The Honourable Andrew Scheer andrew.scheer@parl.gc.ca

Scott Aitchison, Member of Parliament Scott.Aitchison@parl.gc.ca

All 444 municipalities across the Province of Ontario

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Info@fcm.ca

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

Re: Support for Advocacy for Increased Income Support Thresholds for Canadian Veterans

To the Respective Parties,

I am writing to express our strong support for the call 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. Our Council also 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.

The Township of Perry recognizes the selfless service and enduring sacrifices made by Canadian Armed Forces veterans in the defence of our country and values.

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



We respectfully encourage your governments to move forward with the increase of the eligibility threshold for the Income Replacement Benefit (IRB) and to review the income support programs available to our Canadian Veterans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Norm Hofstetter', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Norm Hofstetter
Mayor



The Corporation of the Township of Perry

Box 70 1695 Emsdale Road Emsdale, Ontario P0A 1J0

Date: September 3, 2025

Resolution No.: 2025- 310

Moved By: Joe Lumley

Seconded By: Paul Sowrey

Whereas the Township of Perry 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 Corporation of the Township of Perry 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;
- Scott Aitchison, Member of Parliament for Parry Sound-Muskoka;
- 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;

Carried:  Defeated: _____


Norm Hofstetter, Mayor

RECORDED VOTE		
Council	For	Against
Councillors Jim Cushman		
Joe Lumley		
Margaret Ann MacPhail		
Paul Sowrey		
Mayor Norm Hofstetter		



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: admin@armourtownship.ca

Website: www.armourtownship.ca

Date: September 9, 2025

Motion # 266

WHEREAS the Province of Ontario, through the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP), transitioned the cost of the Blue Box Programs to a full producer responsibility (100% cost recovery) model, under Ontario Regulation 391/21 (Blue Box Regulation), made pursuant to the *Resource Recovery and Circular Economy Act, 2016*;

AND WHEREAS under the new framework, producers are individually and collectively responsible for operating and fully funding Blue Box collection systems, effective July 1, 2023, with municipal transition dates phased in through to 2026;

AND WHEREAS municipalities are no longer required to operate Blue Box collection systems after their designated transition date, resulting in the potential for stranded municipal assets, such as materials recovery facilities, vehicles, bins, depots, and other capital investments, which may not be compensated under the new regulatory framework;

AND WHEREAS the Council of the Township of Armour has historically, on behalf of the shared service partners, invested in waste diversion programs and infrastructure to meet provincial mandates and local service expectations;

AND WHEREAS the successful transition to the producer responsibility model requires clarity on asset management, fair compensation for stranded assets, and ongoing communication between municipalities, producers, and the Province to ensure a seamless transition for residents;

AND WHEREAS municipalities continue to have an interest in ensuring that Blue Box programs remain accessible, efficient, and effective for residents throughout and after the transition period;

AND WHEREAS the Municipal Corporation of the Township of Armour and its shared service partners have formally declined the extension to contract made by Circular Materials through the Change Notice dated June 27, 2025;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Township of Armour hereby:

1. **Requests** that the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, and Producer Responsibility Organizations (PROs), work collaboratively with municipalities to address the financial and operational risks of stranded assets;
2. **Advocates** for transparent processes, fair compensation, and timely communication to protect municipal investments and ensure service continuity for residents; and
3. **Directs** that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, Chief Executive Officer of Circular Materials, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), and all Ontario municipalities for their information and support, *and forward to Parry Sound District meeting*

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 

Declaration of Pecuniary Interest by: _____

Recorded vote requested by: _____

<u>Recorded Vote:</u>	For	Opposed
Blakelock, Rod	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Brandt, Jerry	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Haggart-Davis, Dorothy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ward, Rod	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Whitwell, Wendy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LARDER LAKE

69 FOURTH AVENUE, P. O. BOX 40, LARDER LAKE, ON P0K 1L0

PH: 705-643-2158 FAX: 705-643-2311

LARDERLAKE.CA

September 10, 2025

Jon Pegg
Ontario Fire Marshal
Ministry of the Solicitor General
25 Morton Shulman Avenue
Toronto, ON M3M 0B1

Subject: Request for Extension of Certification Deadlines under Ontario Regulation 343/22

Dear Fire Marshal Pegg,

On behalf of The Corporation of the Township of Larder Lake we are writing to express our support for the firefighter certification requirements outlined in Ontario Regulation 343/22. We recognize the importance of standardized training and certification in enhancing firefighter safety, service quality, and public confidence across the province.

When firefighter certification was first introduced in 2018, many rural municipalities voiced concern, noting that they do not offer the same level of fire protection services as larger municipalities or urban centres. The Province graciously responded by introducing legislation to allow municipalities to certify firefighters only to the services they actually provide. This flexibility is greatly appreciated and reflects a thoughtful understanding of the diverse realities across Ontario.

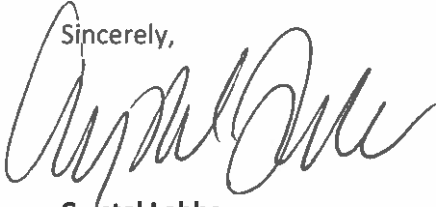
However, despite this accommodation, training programs for many of these service-specific certifications are still not available or are only in "pilot" while there remains a large demand for these programs. The Province cannot reasonably expect volunteer firefighters—many of whom work full-time jobs—to independently develop training programs that meet the standards required to pass certification exams. This places an undue burden on small municipalities and risks compromising the intent of the regulation.

We have enclosed a formal resolution passed by our Council, which outlines our concerns and respectfully requests that the province extend the certification deadline to a minimum of two years beyond the final release date of the Ontario Seal programs offered in the regulation to allow time for volunteer fire departments to access these training programs and achieve certification.

We also urge the Province to consider a phased adaptive approach to implementation, ensuring that all communities have equitable access to the necessary training resources.

We appreciate your leadership and commitment to fire service excellence and look forward to your support in helping Ontario municipalities meet these important standards in a realistic and sustainable manner.

Sincerely,

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

Crystal Labbe

CAO/Clerk-Treasurer

Corporation of the Township of Larder Lake



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

September 10, 2025

To whom it May Concern:

RE: Resolution #17, September 9, 2025 – Request for Extension of Certification Deadlines under Ontario Regulation 343/22

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

Moved by: Councillor Kelly

Seconded by: Councillor Armstrong

CARRIED

WHEREAS Ontario Regulation 343/22 mandates that firefighters performing specific fire protection services be certified to a prescribed standard by July 1, 2026, with certain technical rescue disciplines requiring certification by July 1, 2028;

AND WHEREAS the Township recognizes and supports the value of the certification requirements mandated by the Province of Ontario, acknowledging that standardized training enhances firefighter safety, service quality, and public trust;

AND WHEREAS the Office of the Fire Marshal (OFM) and Ontario Fire College (OFC) are actively working to provide training and certification programs, including offering over 600 courses annually, yet some certification programs and testing resources remain under development or are not yet widely accessible, particularly in the Ontario Seal Programs;

AND WHEREAS many fire departments in Ontario are staffed predominantly by volunteer firefighters who balance full-time employment with their emergency service commitments;

AND WHEREAS the certification programs are still in development and the current availability does not adequately reflect the operational realities of volunteer fire departments, especially in rural communities, where training opportunities are limited and certification demands place undue pressure on personnel and municipal resources;

AND WHEREAS when firefighter certification was first introduced in 2018, smaller/rural Municipalities raised concerns that they do not provide the same level of fire protection services as larger municipalities or urban centres. The Province responded thoughtfully by introducing new legislation to allow municipalities to certify firefighters only to the services they actually provide. This flexibility is appreciated and reflects a fair and practical approach; however, training programs for many of these service-specific certifications are still not available.

AND WHEREAS it is unreasonable to expect volunteer firefighters—who already balance full-time employment and community service—to independently develop curriculums and training programs in-house that meet provincial standards and adequately prepare them for certification exams;

AND WHEREAS smaller rural volunteer fire departments often lack the necessary resources, certified personnel, and specialized expertise to independently develop training curriculums or qualify for learning contracts with the Ontario Fire College; and

AND WHEREAS these departments have long relied on the Ontario Fire College's course offerings and have been patiently awaiting the release of the Ontario Seal Programs, having noted preliminary pilot initiatives in Northern Ontario and anticipating a broader rollout of these programs in the near future;

AND WHEREAS rural municipalities would welcome the opportunity to engage in dialogue with the Office of the Fire Marshal to address current barriers and explore collaborative solutions;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the **Township of Larder Lake** respectfully requests that the Province of Ontario, through the Ministry of the Solicitor General and the Office of the Fire Marshal, extend the compliance deadlines outlined in Ontario Regulation 343/22 to a minimum of two years beyond the final release date of the Ontario Seal programs offered in the regulation for all affected certification categories;

AND THAT the Province consider implementing a phased or regionally adaptive approach to certification deadlines, taking into account the availability of training programs and the unique challenges faced by volunteer fire services in Rural Ontario;

AND THAT this resolution be forwarded to the Minister of the Solicitor General, the Ontario Fire Marshal, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA), the Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs (OAFCA), **John Vanthof** and all municipalities in Ontario for support and endorsement.

Sincerely,

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

Crystal Labbe
CAO/ Clerk Treasurer

WHEREAS Ontario Regulation 343/22 mandates that firefighters performing specific fire protection services be certified to a prescribed standard by July 1, 2026, with certain technical rescue disciplines requiring certification by July 1, 2028;

AND WHEREAS the Township recognizes and supports the value of the certification requirements mandated by the Province of Ontario, acknowledging that standardized training enhances firefighter safety, service quality, and public trust;

AND WHEREAS the Office of the Fire Marshal (OFM) and Ontario Fire College (OFC) are actively working to provide training and certification programs, including offering over 600 courses annually, yet some certification programs and testing resources remain under development or are not yet widely accessible, particularly in the Ontario Seal Programs;

AND WHEREAS many fire departments in Ontario are staffed predominantly by volunteer firefighters who balance full-time employment with their emergency service commitments;

AND WHEREAS the certification programs are still in development and the current availability does not adequately reflect the operational realities of volunteer fire departments, especially in rural communities, where training opportunities are limited and certification demands place undue pressure on personnel and municipal resources;

AND WHEREAS when firefighter certification was first introduced in 2018, smaller/rural Municipalities raised concerns that they do not provide the same level of fire protection services as larger municipalities or urban centres. The Province responded thoughtfully by introducing new legislation to allow municipalities to certify firefighters only to the services they actually provide. This flexibility is appreciated and reflects a fair and practical approach, however, training programs for many of these service-specific certifications are still not available;

AND WHEREAS it is unreasonable to expect volunteer firefighters—who already balance full-time employment and community service—to independently develop curriculums and training programs in-house that meet provincial standards and adequately prepare them for certification exams;

AND WHEREAS smaller rural volunteer fire departments often lack the necessary resources, certified personnel, and specialized expertise to independently develop training curriculums or qualify for learning contracts with the Ontario Fire College; and

AND WHEREAS these departments have long relied on the Ontario Fire College's course offerings and have been patiently awaiting the release of the Ontario Seal Programs, having noted preliminary pilot initiatives in Northern Ontario and anticipating a broader rollout of these programs in the near future;

AND WHEREAS rural municipalities would welcome the opportunity to engage in dialogue with the Office of the Fire Marshal to address current barriers and explore collaborative solutions;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the **[insert Township name]** respectfully requests that the Province of Ontario, through the Ministry of the Solicitor General and the Office of the Fire Marshal, extend the compliance deadlines outlined in Ontario Regulation 343/22 to a minimum of two years beyond the final release date of the Ontario Seal programs offered in the regulation for all affected certification categories;

AND THAT the Province consider implementing a phased or regionally adaptive approach to certification deadlines, taking into account the availability of training programs and the unique challenges faced by volunteer fire services in Rural Ontario;

AND THAT this resolution be forwarded to the Minister of the Solicitor General, the Ontario Fire Marshal, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA), the Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs (O AFC), **[insert local MPP name]**, and all municipalities in Ontario for support and endorsement.

[Your Township Letterhead]

Date: **[Insert Date]**

To:

Jon Pegg
Ontario Fire Marshal
Ministry of the Solicitor General
25 Morton Shulman Avenue
Toronto, ON M3M 0B1

Subject: Request for Extension of Certification Deadlines under Ontario Regulation 343/22

Dear Fire Marshal Pegg,

On behalf of **[Insert Township Name]**, we are writing to express our support for the firefighter certification requirements outlined in Ontario Regulation 343/22. We recognize the importance of standardized training and certification in enhancing firefighter safety, service quality, and public confidence across the province.

When firefighter certification was first introduced in 2018, many rural municipalities voiced concern, noting that they do not offer the same level of fire protection services as larger municipalities or urban centres. The Province graciously responded by introducing legislation to allow municipalities to certify firefighters only to the services they actually provide. This flexibility is greatly appreciated and reflects a thoughtful understanding of the diverse realities across Ontario.

However, despite this accommodation, training programs for many of these service-specific certifications are still not available or are only in “pilot” while there remains a large demand for these programs. The Province cannot reasonably expect volunteer firefighters—many of whom work full-time jobs—to independently develop training programs that meet the standards required to pass certification exams. This places an undue burden on small municipalities and risks compromising the intent of the regulation.

We have enclosed a formal resolution passed by our Council, which outlines our concerns and respectfully requests that the province extend the certification deadline to a minimum of two years beyond the final release date of the Ontario Seal programs offered in the regulation to allow time for volunteer fire departments to access these training programs and achieve certification.

We also urge the Province to consider a phased adaptive approach to implementation, ensuring that all communities have equitable access to the necessary training resources.

We appreciate your leadership and commitment to fire service excellence and look forward to your support in helping Ontario municipalities meet these important standards in a realistic and sustainable manner.

Sincerely,

[Name]

[Title]

[Contact Information]

[Insert Township Name]



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

September 10, 2025

To whom it May Concern:

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

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

Moved by: Councillor Armstrong

Seconded by: Councillor Kelly

CARRIED

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

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

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

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

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

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this resolution be forwarded to:

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

The Honourable Sylvia Jones, Minister of Health

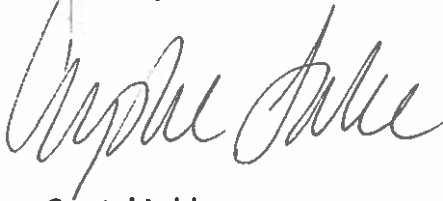
MPP John Vanthof, Timiskaming–Cochrane

AMO (Association of Municipalities of Ontario)

FONOM (Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities)

All municipalities within Northeastern Ontario

Sincerely,

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

Crystal Labbe

CAO/ Clerk Treasurer