



## COUNCIL INFORMATION PACKAGE

Friday, October 10, 2025

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**MEMORANDUM**

**TO: Council**

**FROM: Melanie Steele, MBA CPA CA, City Treasurer**

**DATE: October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

**SUBJECT: 2026 Budget Process and Timelines**

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This memorandum aims to provide Council with an overview of the 2026 budget process and timelines. Staff have prepared an outline to identify key steps and highlight changes in the budget process. Staff are working towards bringing forward public engagement results, the hospital funding strategy, a debt strategy, the User Fees and Charges report, and a resource planning report to Council prior to the budget. Additionally, staff are scheduling public drop-in sessions during the budget process to provide council with time to discuss and ask questions on key departmental priorities and projects, as well as seek out any information required for the budget amendment process. Appendix I provides a visual overview of the upcoming budget process.

**Background:**

Under the provisions of the Strong Mayors, Building Homes Act and Part V1.1. of the Municipal Act, the authority to propose a budget rest solely with the Mayor, which would automatically be adopted after 30 days unless Council amends it. A mayoral direction can be issued for staff to undertake the work required to prepare a draft budget. On October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025, Mayor Campion issued staff a mayoral budget directive, which is attached as Appendix II.

For more details on the legislative responsibilities in the budget process, please reference Appendix III.

## **2026 Key Dates and Timelines**

The 2025 Council & Committee meeting calendar included placeholder meeting dates for the 2026 budget process in November and December. These dates are essential for discussing and reviewing the upcoming budget and ensuring efficiency and consistency in the budgeting process. Below is a summary of the key budget dates and how they will be leveraged.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
<b>November 4, 2025</b>	N/A	Mayor's Budget Package Published to Council and on Engage Welland
<b>November 10, 2025 5-7pm</b>	Community Room	<b>Council/Staff Drop-in session #1</b> Ask questions about the proposed budget
<b>November 12, 2025 5-7 pm</b>	Council Chambers	<b>Meeting #1</b> Department/Board Presentations and Business Cases Presentations
<b>November 17, 2025 5-7 pm</b>	Community Room	<b>Council/Staff Drop-in session #2</b> Seek any information for amendments
<b>November 21 @ noon</b>	Via email	<b>Amendment Deadline</b> All Council amendments submitted
<b>November 28, 2025</b>	N/A	<b>Amendments Published</b> Comprehensive List of all Council amendments published to Council and on Engage Welland
<b>December 3, 2025 5-7pm</b>	Council Chambers	<b>Meeting #2</b> Amendment meeting
<b>December 4, 2025</b>	N/A	<b>2026 Budget Adopted</b>

Post-budget/debrief with staff and Council will be scheduled for Q1/Q2 2026.

### **Key Highlights:**

Staff reviewed the 2025 budget process when developing recommendations for the 2026 budget process and timeline. The following list identifies key steps and highlights changes to the budget process.

- **Council Feedback** – A survey seeking feedback from Council members on the budget and priorities was issued on August 13<sup>th</sup>. The survey period was 2 weeks and closed on August 28<sup>th</sup>. Staff received two (2) survey submissions, and results have been shared with CLT and the Mayor to help inform the budget.
- **Mayoral Direction** – Staff met with the Mayor in September to share preliminary budget impacts. Staff received the Mayor's direction in Appendix II and are working to finalize a detailed budget that is aligned.
- **Public Engagement Plan** - Finance worked with the Chief Communication & Public Engagement Officer on ways to engage the public in the budget process. Staff built on the engagement efforts from last year with a new interactive budget allocation tool for residents to explore. This new tool allows residents to learn about the services provided by the city and prioritize how to allocate a notional budget. Staff also continued to evolve the annual budget survey and budget materials that are accessed through [Engage Welland](#). This engagement was launched on September 2<sup>nd</sup>, with results expected to be presented to Council at the October 28<sup>th</sup> general committee meeting.
- **Hospital Funding** – Niagara Health requested a local hospital contribution commitment from the City before the end of the year. Staff brought forward hospital funding reports to Council on September 2<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> and received direction to not make any formal commitment at this time and explore the feasibility of a written commitment from Niagara Health for the Welland Hospital prior to considering the City's contribution. This process is expected to take some time, and no hospital commitment will be included in the Mayor's budget, which will be released on November 4<sup>th</sup>.
- **User Fees Report** – Building off success seen in 2025, staff plan to bring a report on October 14<sup>th</sup> to approve the 2026 User Fees and Charges in advance

of the budget process. These fees would be incorporated into the proposed budget.

- **Debt Strategy** – Debt is an important funding tool municipalities can leverage when developing budgets. Having a debt strategy that considers how and when debt is used, establishes thresholds for a debt limit that balances the City's needs and ability to pay, and takes a long-term view to sustainably fund services. Staff are currently reviewing the City's self-imposed debt limit and plan to bring back considerations to replace this with a debt strategy in October.
- **Resource planning report (in-camera)** – Staff are currently summarizing the assumptions, estimates, and approach to resource planning that impact the 2026 budget and plan to bring this information to Council on November 4<sup>th</sup>.
- **Public Council/Staff Drop-in session #1 for review of budget** – Similar to last year, staff plan to host a drop-in session to allow Council and staff to discuss prioritized items in the 2026 budget. The goal of this session is to allow Council to ask any questions they might have to help them understand the proposed budget. This year, the session will occur after all the budget materials have been released to allow for more specific and focused conversations. This session is scheduled for November 10, 2025, from 5 p.m. - 7 p.m.
- **Presentation and business case meeting** – Staff will provide an overview presentation on the budget, the library and museum boards will present their budget, and staff will present business cases for Council's consideration. This meeting is scheduled for November 12<sup>th</sup> at 5 p.m.
- **Public Council/Staff Drop-in session #2 to seek information required for amendments** – This is a new session being added this year to give Council time to discuss any of their proposed amendments with relevant staff and seek out any additional information they require to complete and submit their amendments. Staff will be available throughout the entire budget 30-day window to answer questions, but this dedicated session is intended to provide focused time where Council will have direct access to staff to obtain any information they may need. This session is scheduled for November 17, 2025, from 5 p.m. - 7 p.m.

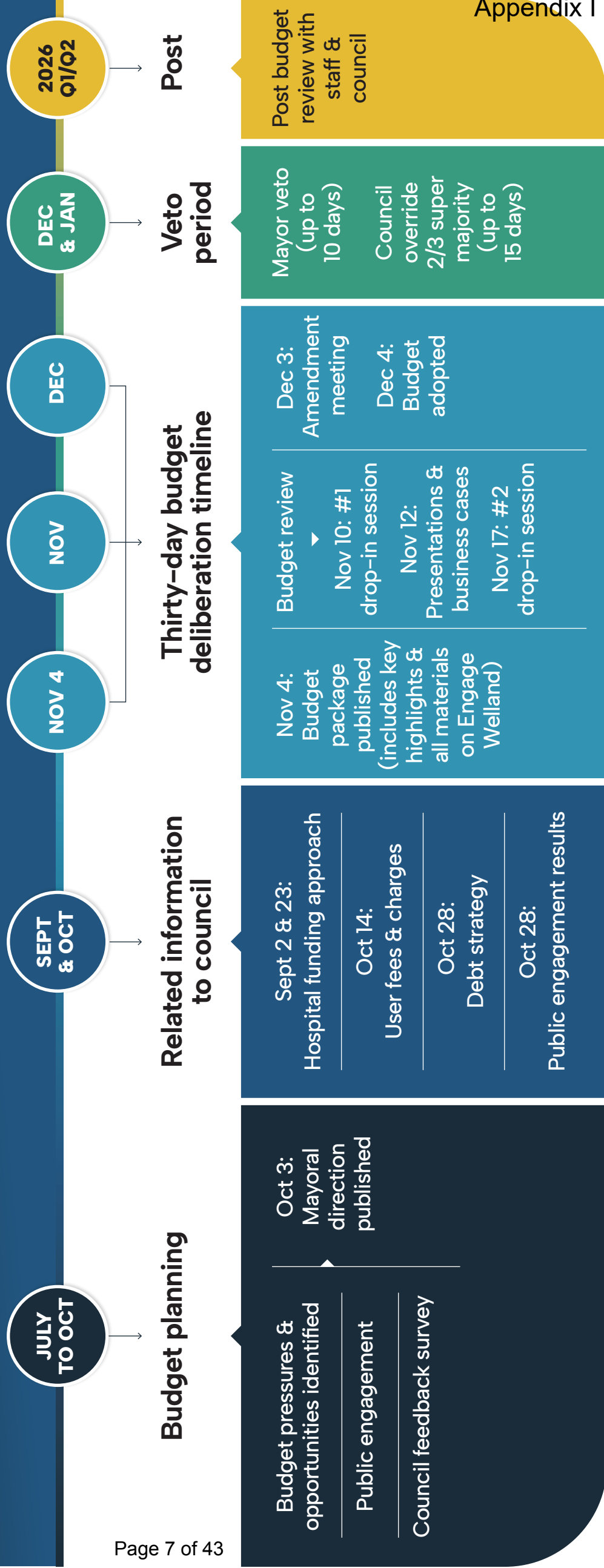
- **Council amendment meeting** – As directed through the mayoral directive, we will hold a dedicated meeting to review and debate all Council-proposed budget amendments on December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 5 p.m. All amendments must be submitted to staff by noon November 21<sup>st</sup>, and a comprehensive list of all proposed amendments will be shared with Council and the public by November 28<sup>th</sup>. At the December 3<sup>rd</sup> amendment meeting, all tax-supported operating and capital budget amendments will first be discussed and voted on in order, based on the date and time they were received by staff. This will be followed by all water and wastewater amendments. All amendments will be debated and voted on only once. More amendment submission details and the prescribed form for budget amendments will be communicated to all Council members via email on November 4<sup>th</sup>.
- **Budget package** – All budget materials will be provided to members electronically through eScribe in alignment with Council's paperless direction. Members who require a printed copy of the initial budget package to be released on November 4<sup>th</sup> may request one (1) through the Clerk's Office. This one-time accommodation is provided upon request for the budget matter only and does not change Council's electronic-agenda practice for any other reports or meetings. No medical or other documentation is required. To allow for printing, please submit your request to the Clerk's Office by Monday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>. One (1) bound copy per Member will be prepared; any late additions or supplemental materials will continue to be provided electronically through eScribe. This approach maintains our paperless standard while supporting full participation and simplifying logistics for the budget.

#### **Attachments:**

- Appendix I - 2026 Budget Process and Timeline Placemat
- Appendix II - 2026 Mayoral Budget Directive
- Appendix III - Legislative Responsibilities in the Budget Process

# 2026 Budget

## Process and timeline





## Mayoral Direction

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<b>Direction Number:</b>	<b>2025-05A</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Prepare 2026 Draft Mayors' Budget</b>

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I, Frank Campion, Mayor of the City of Welland, pursuant to Section 284.16 of the *Municipal Act, 2001*, hereby direct staff to prepare a draft 2026 budget for council to review and amend, per the following direction.

- In support of taxpayers' ability to pay, the mayor's budget focus should be on maintaining services as efficiently and effectively as possible, with no new services or new positions.
- A forecasted assessment growth calculation to be highlighted for Council.
- Compensation costs aligned with approved compensation policy (HR-023) including inflationary and collective bargaining considerations.
- An investment income strategy that maximizes funds available to support the operating budget.
- A capital budget for 2026 with a primary focus on Repair and Renewal of existing assets.
- Consider input received from the public engagement opportunities and provide Council a summary of the results in advance of the budget.
- Consider input received from the Council budget feedback survey.
- An efficient budget process with four (4) comprehensive Council engagement opportunities
  1. A public council drop-in session scheduled after the budget package is released where Councillors can ask questions of staff on what is included in the budget.
  2. A meeting to receive staff/board presentations and business cases for Council's consideration including:
    - New position and initiative business cases to be individually presented to Council to support continued service levels and growth.



- Capital program business cases to be individually presented to Council to support moving towards our asset management plan goals and/or accelerate renewal of key infrastructure projects.
- 3. A public council drop-in session scheduled after the overall budget and business cases are presented where Councillors can seek information from staff that would be required for their amendment submissions.
- 4. One amendment meeting to consider all Councillor amendment requests with an amendment submission deadline of five (5) working days prior to the release of the amendment package. Amendments to be listed and debated in order based on the date and time they are received by staff.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Frank Campion', written over a horizontal line.

**Frank Campion**  
Mayor

## Legislative Responsibilities in the Budget Process

By February 1 of each year the mayor must prepare and propose a budget to council for consideration.

- The authority to prepare and propose the budget rests with the mayor.
- This authority cannot be delegated to council or staff.
- Mayor can issue a staff direction for staff to prepare budget.

Once the mayor proposes a budget, council has 30 (calendar) days to meet and pass budget amendments.

- The 30-day window can be shortened by council resolution.
- May require special council meeting to meet 30-day timeline.
- Any amendments are required to be completed on a perscribed Budget Amendment Resolution Form and submitted to staff. The submission details and form for budget amendments will be communicated to all Council members via email on November 4th.

Following the amendment period, the mayor has 10 (calendar) days to veto budget amendments passed by council:

- Mayor vetos must be set out through a Mayoral Decision and include reasons for veto.
- Mayor can shorten veto period through a Mayoral Decision.
- Budget amendments vetoed by mayor are considered not to have been passed by council.
- If veto power is not exercised, budget is deemed to have passed.

Within 15 days of the veto period ending council may meet to attempt to override Mayoral vetos.

- Council override of mayoral veto requires 2/3 super majority to pass.
- 2/3 super majority is all member of council, not only the members present, as per current process.
- After process of amendments, vetos and overrides has passed the budget is deemed to have been adopted.
- Council no longer needs to vote on budget in its entirety.
- Budget is considered to have been passively adopted once the approval process above has finished.

The following graphic outlines the key budget process steps as stipulated in the Act:

<b>Day 1</b>	<b>+30 days</b>	<b>+10 days</b>	<b>+15 days</b>	<b>Approval</b>
Mayor Proposes Budget	Council meets and amends budget	Mayor may veto budget amendments	Council may override Mayor vetos	Budget is deemed to have passed

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO: Welland City Council**

**FROM: Janet Ferland, Water Meter Data and Billing Supervisor**

**DATE: October 10, 2025**

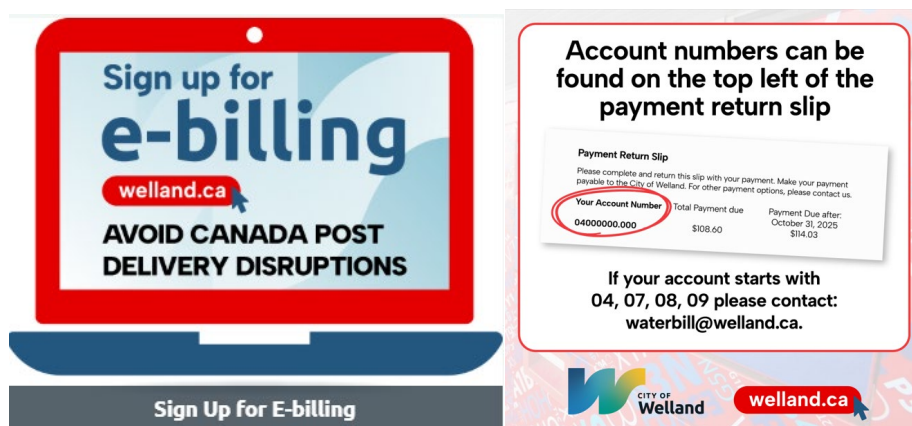
**SUBJECT: Canada Post Strike Update Regarding Utility Billings**

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The Finance Team has worked with Communications and has put a plan in place for the Area A and Monthly Utility Billings that are issued in October. Due dates will remain in effect, with October 31, 2025, being the due date for the October cycle. Please note, accounts enrolled in the City's pre-authorized payment plan will have their payment deducted on October 31<sup>st</sup> due date as usual. Any account that was registered for e-billing by October 3<sup>rd</sup> will have its utility bill emailed to them. Any customer not currently set up on e-billing can contact the office to inquire about the balance due, request a copy of the current billing at no charge, and sign up for e-billing for future billings. The utility bills will be prepared as usual, but will not be mailed out until the postal strike is over.

There is a new email address to accommodate the increase in inquiries, and residents are asked to email [waterbill@welland.ca](mailto:waterbill@welland.ca) or phone 905-735-1700 ext. 4060 to obtain information about this billing. Only accounts starting with 04, 07, 08, 09 will have a quarterly billing issued to their account, and all accounts that would normally receive a monthly bill.

Communication has been provided to the public through the News & Alerts ticker on [www.welland.ca](http://www.welland.ca), website posts, and social media. The home page of the website also includes a tab to sign up for e-billing.



The team is monitoring the Canada Post strike and will update the above as required.

October 1, 2025

The Right Honourable Mark Carney  
Prime Minister of Canada  
[pm@pm.gc.ca](mailto:pm@pm.gc.ca)

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

**SENT ELECTRONICALLY**

**Re: Publication of the Sexual Offender Registry**

Please be advised that at its meeting of September 30, 2025, the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Wainfleet passed the following motion:

**"THAT** Correspondence item C-166 from the City of Thorold respecting a request for the Government of Ontario to amend legislation to permit public access to the Ontario Sex Offender Registry be received and supported; and further

**THAT** Council for the Township of Wainfleet formally request the Government of Canada amend the *Sex Offender Information Registration Act (S.C. 2004, c. 10)* to permit public access to the National Sex Offender Registry in the interest of greater public safety."

Should you have any questions, please contact me at [achrastina@wainfleet.ca](mailto:achrastina@wainfleet.ca) or 905-899-3463 ext. 224. Thank you.

Regards,



Amber Chrastina  
Clerk

CC: The Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada  
The Minister of Public Safety, Democratic Institutions and Intergovernmental Affairs  
Niagara-area Members of Parliament  
The Attorney General of Ontario  
The Minister of Children, Community and Social Services  
Niagara-area Members of Provincial Parliament  
Niagara-area municipalities



September 10, 2025

Received September 10, 2025  
C-2025-166

**SENT ELECTRONICALLY**

To All Concerned Organizations

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

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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





September 26, 2025

**CL 14-2025, September 25, 2025**

***DISTRIBUTION LIST***

***SENT ELECTRONICALLY***

**Motion Respecting Call to Strengthen Laws, Sentencing and Parole Restrictions**

Regional Council, at its meeting held on September 25, 2025, passed the following motion:

WHEREAS the City of Welland and the broader Niagara Region have been deeply shaken by the recent violent sexual assault of a toddler in Welland;

WHEREAS court documents confirm the accused was previously convicted of sexual assault of a minor, ordered to register as a sex offender, but was released from his original sentence months early with limited conditions;

WHEREAS the release of repeat sexual offenders into our communities poses an unacceptable risk to children, families, and public safety;

WHEREAS municipalities lack the authority to legislate sentencing and offender release policies, but the Province of Ontario and the Government of Canada hold responsibility for ensuring that laws, sentencing guidelines, parole, and release practices protect the public from repeat violent and sexual offenders;

WHEREAS Canada's existing criminal justice system has permitted offenders convicted of the most serious crimes, including crimes against children, to be released prematurely despite ongoing risks to the community, and such leniencies in bail, sentencing, and release conditions have contributed to repeat victimization of children and other vulnerable Canadians; and

WHEREAS Niagara South Member of Parliament Fred Davies is presenting a petition to the House of Commons demanding changes to the Criminal Code to make bail and early release provisions more restrictive for repeat violent and child sex offenders.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That Niagara Regional Council **FORMALLY CALL** on the Governments of Ontario and Canada to review and strengthen laws, sentencing provisions, and parole eligibility for individuals convicted of sexual offences, ensuring that repeat offenders are not prematurely released into communities where they pose an ongoing threat;
2. That Regional Council **REQUEST** that the Province of Ontario establish stricter monitoring measures, including mandatory long-term supervision orders, GPS monitoring, and enhanced public safety provisions for all individuals convicted of sexual offences;
3. That Regional Council **REQUEST** that the Attorney General of Ontario, the Ministry of the Solicitor General, and the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services report back to municipalities on steps being taken to address gaps in legislation, sentencing, and supervision of repeat sex offenders;
4. That Niagara Regional Council **EXPRESS** its support for amendments to the Criminal Code of Canada to make bail, sentencing, and release conditions more restrictive for repeat violent offenders, particularly sex offenders, and that this support be communicated to MP Fred Davies for inclusion in his petition to the House of Commons; and
5. That a copy of this motion **BE SENT** to:
  - The Premier of Ontario;
  - The Attorney General of Ontario;
  - The Minister of Children, Community and Social Services;
  - The Prime Minister of Canada;
  - The Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada;
  - The Minister of Public Safety, Democratic Institutions and Intergovernmental Affairs;
  - All Niagara-area Members of Provincial Parliament (MPPs);
  - All Niagara-area Members of Parliament (MPs); and
  - All local area municipalities.

Yours truly,



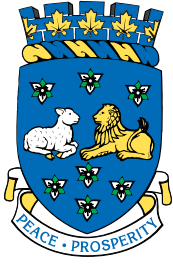
Ann-Marie Norio  
Regional Clerk

:kl

CLK-C 2025-108

Distribution List

Premier of Ontario  
Attorney General of Ontario  
Minister of Children, Community and Social Services  
Prime Minister of Canada  
Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada  
Minister of Public Safety, Democratic Institutions and Intergovernmental Affairs  
Niagara MPPs  
Niagara MPs  
Local Area Municipalities



October 8, 2025

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

Dear Premier:

**Re: Amending Ontario Regulation 391/21**

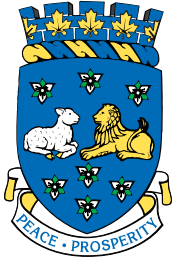
Please be advised that the Council of the Regional Municipality of Waterloo at their Sustainability, Infrastructure, and Development meeting held on October 7, 2025 approved the following motion:

**Whereas under Ontario Regulation 391/2, Blue Box producers are fully accountable and financially responsible for their products and packaging once they reach their end of life and are disposed of for 'eligible' sources only; and**

**Whereas 'ineligible' sources, which producers are not responsible for, include business improvement areas, places of worship, daycares, camp grounds, public facing and internal areas of municipal-owned buildings, and not-for-profit organizations, such as shelters and food banks; and**

**Whereas the province amended Ontario Regulation 391/2 to not expand services for new public space recycling; and**

**Whereas should a municipality continue to provide services to the 'ineligible' sources, the municipality will be required to oversee the collection, transportation, and processing of the recycling, assuming 100% of the costs;**



## REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF WATERLOO

OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL CLERK

150 Frederick Street, 2nd Floor  
Kitchener ON N2G 4J3 Canada  
Telephone: 519-575-4400  
TTY: 519-575-4608  
Fax: 519-575-4481  
[www.regionofwaterloo.ca](http://www.regionofwaterloo.ca)

**Therefore, be it resolved that Region of Waterloo Council request that the province amend Ontario Regulation 391/21, Blue Box so that producers are responsible for the end-of-life management of recycling products from all sources as stated above; and**

**Further that Council request the support of all Ontario Municipalities; and**

**That Minister McCarthy be asked to provide more information on the estimated \$171M in savings for municipalities through this program.**

Please accept this letter for information purposes only. If you have any questions please contact Dorothy McCabe, Councillor [DMcCabe@regionofwaterloo.ca](mailto:DMcCabe@regionofwaterloo.ca)

Regards,

Chris Fraresso, Legislative Services Specialist

cc: Todd McCarthy, Minister of the Environment, Conservation, and Parks  
Mike Harris, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry  
Rob Flack, Minister of Affairs and Housing  
Robin Jones, AMO President  
Waterloo Region municipalities  
All Ontario Municipalities  
First Nation Councils



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

September 26, 2025

Prime Minister  
Right Hon. Mark Carney  
Office of the Prime Minister  
80 Wellington Street  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0A2

Right Honorable Prime Minister:

RE: Resolution Passed by Woolwich Township Council – Bill C-61 First Nations Clean Water Act

This letter is to inform you that the Council of the Township of Woolwich passed the following resolution at their meeting held on September 23, 2025:

**WHEREAS in December 2023, the Minister of Indigenous Services introduced house government bill C-61: An Act respecting water, source water, drinking water, wastewater and related infrastructure on First Nation lands also known as the First Nations Clean Water Act; and**

**WHEREAS in an open letter to Members of Parliament on December 12, 2024, the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) called on all Members of Parliament to prioritize the advancement of Bill C-61, calling it “a step toward addressing the long-standing water issues faced by First Nations”; and**

**WHEREAS Bill C-61 was not passed into law before Parliament was prorogued on January 6, 2025; and**

**WHEREAS Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks Todd McCarthy has been unclear on Ontario’s position on this legislation, identifying Bill C-61 as a potential piece of legislation that would “undermine competitiveness” and “delay project development” before apologizing for any confusion and clarifying the need to “bring clean drinking water to First Nations communities, while also bringing the kind of regulatory certainty that attracts investment in businesses and communities”; and**

**WHEREAS Prime Minister Mark Carney and Indigenous Services Minister Mandy Gull-Masty have indicated the Canadian government’s support for introducing legislation like Bill C-61 in the fall of 2025; and**

**WHEREAS as of September 2025, Indigenous Services Canada data shows that while 93 long-term drinking water advisories have been lifted, since November**

**2015, 37 long-term drinking water advisories remain active, including in 27 communities in Ontario; and**

**NOW THEREFORE be it resolved that the Council of the Township of Woolwich:**

- 1. Calls on the Government of Canada and the Minister of Indigenous Services to reintroduce legislation to ensure First Nations have the right to clean and safe drinking water in the Fall of 2025 in the same form as Bill C-61;**
- 2. Calls on the Government of Ontario and the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks to support this important Federal legislation; and**
- 3. Directs staff to forward this resolution to the Prime Minister, Minister of Indigenous Services, Premier of Ontario, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, Assembly of First Nations and all Municipalities in Ontario.**

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

Yours truly,



Jeff Smith  
Municipal Clerk  
Corporate Services  
Township of Woolwich

cc. Hon. Mandy Gull-Masty, Minister of Indigenous Services  
Hon. Todd J. McCarthy, Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks  
Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario  
Assembly of First Nations  
All Municipalities in Ontario

Sent by Email

October 3, 2025

Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)  
24 Clarence Street  
Ottawa, ON K1N 5P3  
[resolutions@fcm.ca](mailto:resolutions@fcm.ca)

Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)  
155 University Ave, Suite 800  
Toronto, ON M5H 3B7  
[resolutions@amo.on.ca](mailto:resolutions@amo.on.ca)

Subject: Elect Respect

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The Council of The Corporation of the City of Pickering considered the above matter at a Meeting held on September 29, 2025 and adopted the following resolution:

WHEREAS, democracy is strengthened when all individuals can participate fully, safely, and without discrimination, contributing to the well-being of their communities;

And Whereas, democratic discourse and respectful debate are under pressure across all levels of government, including municipal councils in Ontario;

And Whereas, elected officials are increasingly facing harassment, threats, intimidation, and unsafe work environments, which undermine personal safety, deter civic participation, and erode public confidence in democratic institutions;

And Whereas, social media platforms, while enabling legitimate discourse, have also amplified abusive, discriminatory, or threatening behaviour, disproportionately affecting women, racialized persons, Indigenous peoples, LGBTQ+ persons, and persons with disabilities, discouraging many from seeking or remaining in public office;

And Whereas, freedom of expression is a cornerstone of democracy and must be safeguarded, even as we combat unlawful harassment, violence, and hate;

And Whereas, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario's Healthy Democracy Project has identified troubling trends in declining voter turnout and a reduction in candidate participation at the municipal level;

And Whereas, grassroots and national initiatives such as Halton Elected Representatives (H.E.R.) campaign and the Parliamentary Civility Pledge led by the Canadian Association of Feminist Parliamentarians, demonstrate a growing commitment to fostering respectful, safe, and inclusive environments in political life;



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

1. Supports the principles of the Elect Respect pledge and commits to:
  - Treat all persons with dignity and respect in public, private, and online spaces;
  - Reject and call out harassment, threats, unlawful discrimination, and personal abuse;
  - Focus public debate on policies and ideas, rather than personal attacks or identity-based commentary;
  - Build a culture of safety and inclusion, ensuring that individuals of all genders, identities, backgrounds, races, sexual orientations, ages, and abilities feel empowered to run for and serve in public office;
  - Call on relevant authorities to investigate and respond to threats or harassment directed at elected officials, in accordance with applicable laws;
  - Model accountability and integrity by holding ourselves and one another to clear, transparent, and legally grounded standards of conduct;
  - Defend freedom of expression while actively opposing abuse and intimidation in all forms;
2. Encourages elected officials, political organizations, municipalities, and members of the public to sign and support the Elect Respect pledge by visiting: [electrespect.ca](http://electrespect.ca); and,
3. Directs that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), Ontario's Big City Mayors, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), Members of Provincial and Federal Parliament (MPPs and MPs), Durham Regional Police Services (DRPS), the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP), the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), all municipalities in Ontario, Halton Elected Representatives (H.E.R.), and Canadian Association of Feminist Parliamentarians.

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

Yours truly



Susan Cassel  
City Clerk

SC:am

Copy:      Ontario's Big City Mayors  
             Members of Provincial and Federal Parliament (MPPs and MPs)  
             Durham Regional Police Services (DRPS)  
             Ontario Provincial Police (OPP)  
             Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP)  
             All Municipalities in Ontario  
             Halton Elected Representatives (H.E.R.)  
             Canadian Association of Feminist Parliamentarians  
  
             Chief Administrative Officer

October 7, 2025

Sent via email

The Honourable Doug Ford, M.P.P., Premier of Ontario, Legislative Building, Queen's Park, Toronto, ON, M7A 1A1, [premier@ontario.ca](mailto:premier@ontario.ca)

The Honourable Prabmeet Singh Sarkaria, M.P.P., Minister of Transportation, 5<sup>th</sup> Flr, 777 Bay St. Toronto, ON, M7A 1Z8, [minister.mto@ontario.ca](mailto:minister.mto@ontario.ca)

The Honourable Michael S. Kerzner, Solicitor General, M.P.P., Solicitor General, George Drew Bldg., 25 Grosvenor St. Toronto, ON, M7A 1Y6, [Minister.SOLGEN@ontario.ca](mailto:Minister.SOLGEN@ontario.ca)

Ms. Dawn Gallagher Murphy, M.P.P., Unit 22, 16635 Yonge St., Newmarket, ON, L3X 1V6, [dawn.gallaghermurphy@pc.ola.org](mailto:dawn.gallaghermurphy@pc.ola.org)

The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), 155 University Ave., Suite 800, Toronto, ON, M5H 3B7, [resolutions@amo.on.ca](mailto:resolutions@amo.on.ca)

All Ontario Municipalities

**RE: Automated Speed Enforcement Resolution – Town of Newmarket**

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I am writing to advise you that at the Council meeting held on October 6, 2025, the Town of Newmarket Council adopted the following recommendations regarding the above referenced matter:

Whereas Automated Speed Enforcement (ASE) is by far the most effective speed mitigation and safety tool that municipalities have had access to; and,

Whereas The Ontario Safety League has expressed that ASE is effective and that it supports the use of ASE; and,

Whereas The Ontario Association Chiefs of Police has expressed that ASE is effective and that it supports the use of ASE; and,

Whereas The Hospital for Sick Children and Toronto Metropolitan University have studied ASE and found that speed is the single most important factor in pedestrian injury risk and ASE can be an effective way to reduce that risk, especially in areas where children are most vulnerable; and,

Whereas The Canadian Automobile Association (CAA) found that 73 percent of Ontario drivers slow down when nearing an ASE camera and 52 percent shared that they are unlikely to speed up after they pass through an ASE zone; and,

Whereas ASE frees up more time for police officers to attend to serious crimes, such as home invasions and auto theft; and,

Whereas One of the top complaints that Council has received from residents for decades is speeding on residential streets; and,

Whereas Since implementing ASE, Newmarket has observed between 58 percent and 90 percent reductions in the number of vehicles exceeding the speed limit in the community safety zones with automated speed enforcement; and,

Whereas the Town's ASE program has recorded speeds of 125 km/hr, 113 km/h, and 96 km/h in school zones with speed limits of 40 km/h.

Therefore, be it resolved:

1. That the Council of the Town of Newmarket opposes the Ontario Government's proposal to cancel municipal ASE programs; and,
2. That the Council of the Town of Newmarket requests the Premier of Ontario or Minister of Transportation meet with municipal leaders to develop provincial legislation, regulations and standards to ensure municipal ASE programs are fair, transparent and consistent throughout Ontario as opposed to eliminating the programs; and,
3. That the Council of the Town of Newmarket requests that the Ontario Government consider the following amendments to address Provincial concerns:
  - Only implement ASE in school zones; and,
  - Establish a province-wide minimum threshold over the speed limit at which tickets are issued; and,
  - Require extensive communication campaigns warning drivers that ASE cameras will be implemented, including warning tickets, well ahead of activating the cameras, and install permanent flashing signs at the camera locations; and,
  - Establish a maximum fine amount for ASE, and,
  - Establish a maximum number of cameras per municipality, and,
4. That copies of this motion be distributed to the following:
  - Premier Doug Ford; and,
  - Hon. Prabmeet Singh Sarkaria, Minister of Transportation; and,
  - Hon. Michael S. Kerzner, Solicitor General; and,
  - Dawn Gallagher Murphy, MPP, Newmarket -- Aurora; and,
  - All Ontario Municipalities; and,
  - The Association of Municipalities of Ontario.



**Legislative Services**  
Town of Newmarket  
395 Mulock Drive  
P.O. Box 328 Station Main  
Newmarket, ON L3Y 4X7

clerks@newmarket.ca  
tel.: 905-953-5300  
fax: 905-953-5100

Yours sincerely,

Simon Granat  
Legislative Coordinator

September 25, 2025

Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)  
155 University Avenue, Suite 800  
Toronto, ON M5H 3B7

**Delivered by email**  
[resolutions@amo.on.ca](mailto:resolutions@amo.on.ca)

**Re: Town of Aurora Council Resolution of September 23, 2025**  
**Member Motion 8.9.1 - Councillor Gilliland; Re: Elect Respect Campaign Support**

Please be advised that this matter was considered by Council at its meeting held on September 23, 2025, and in this regard, Council adopted the following resolution:

**Whereas a healthy democracy thrives when all individuals can participate safely, equitably, and meaningfully in public life; and**

**Whereas Aurora, like many municipalities across Ontario, is witnessing an erosion of civil discourse and growing hostility in the political arena, both in person and online; and**

**Whereas elected officials at all levels, particularly women and those from equity-deserving communities, are experiencing increased threats, harassment, and toxic engagement that deter civic participation; and**

**Whereas social media platforms, while powerful tools for engagement, have contributed to a climate of disrespect and polarization that discourages individuals from seeking or maintaining public office; and**

**Whereas inclusive and respectful governance results in better decision-making and stronger representation, especially when voices of diverse genders, identities, races, ethnicities, sexual orientations, ages, and abilities are present at municipal council tables; and**

**Whereas the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), through its Healthy Democracy Project, has identified troubling trends of voter apathy and a declining interest in running for municipal office; and**

**Whereas in 2024, a group of female elected officials from Halton formed H.E.R. (Halton Elected Representatives), launching the Elect Respect campaign to advocate for respectful political engagement and safe, inclusive workplaces; and**

**Whereas on June 5, 2025, the Canadian Association of Feminist Parliamentarians launched a national Parliamentary Civility Pledge, inspired by the work of H.E.R., to promote respectful conduct among elected officials;**

**1. Now Therefore Be It Hereby Resolved That the Town of Aurora Council endorses the Elect Respect pledge and commits to:**

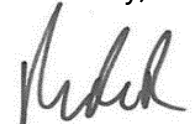
- **Treating all individuals with respect in every setting; public, private, and digital;**
- **Speaking out against harassment, intimidation, and personal attacks;**
- **Keeping debate focused on ideas and public policy, not individuals;**
- **Fostering an environment where people of all backgrounds feel safe and supported in seeking and holding public office;**
- **Urging relevant authorities to ensure the safety and protection of elected officials facing threats or abuse;**
- **Demonstrating leadership through integrity, accountability, and mutual respect among colleagues and constituents; and**

**2. Be It Further Resolved That the Town of Aurora encourages other municipalities, elected officials, organizations, and residents to support the Elect Respect initiative and sign the pledge at [www.electrespect.ca](http://www.electrespect.ca); and**

**3. Be It Further Resolved That a copy of this resolution be sent to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), Ontario's Big City Mayors, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), local Members of Parliament (MPs) and Members of Provincial Parliament (MPPs), York Region, York Regional Police, and all Ontario municipalities.**

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

Sincerely,



Michael de Rond

Town Clerk

The Corporation of the Town of Aurora

MdR/lb

Attachment (Council meeting extract)

Copy: Ontario's Big City Mayors (OBCM)  
Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)  
Sandra Cobena, MP Newmarket—Aurora  
Costas Menegakis, MP Aurora—Oak Ridges—Richmond Hill  
Dawn Gallagher Murphy, MPP Newmarket—Aurora  
Hon. Michael Parsa, MPP Aurora—Oak Ridges—Richmond Hill  
The Regional Municipality of York  
York Regional Police  
All Ontario Municipalities





## 8. Committee of the Whole Meeting Report of September 9, 2025

**Moved by** Councillor Thompson

**Seconded by** Councillor Weese

That the Committee of the Whole Meeting Report of September 23, 2025, and the Audit Committee Meeting Report of June 24, 2025 (Item 9), be received and the recommendations carried by the Committees approved, with the exception of sub-items 8.2.2, 8.5.2, and 8.7.1, which were discussed and voted on separately as recorded below.

Yeas (6): Mayor Mrakas, Councillor Weese, Councillor Gilliland, Councillor Thompson, Councillor Gallo, and Councillor Kim

Absent (1): Councillor Gaertner

**Carried (6 to 0)**

### 8.9 Member Motions

#### 8.9.1 Councillor Gilliland; Re: Elect Respect Campaign Support

Whereas a healthy democracy thrives when all individuals can participate safely, equitably, and meaningfully in public life; and

Whereas Aurora, like many municipalities across Ontario, is witnessing an erosion of civil discourse and growing hostility in the political arena, both in person and online; and

Whereas elected officials at all levels, particularly women and those from equity-deserving communities, are experiencing increased threats, harassment, and toxic engagement that deter civic participation; and

Whereas social media platforms, while powerful tools for engagement, have contributed to a climate of disrespect and polarization that discourages individuals from seeking or maintaining public office; and

Whereas inclusive and respectful governance results in better decision-making and stronger representation, especially when

voices of diverse genders, identities, races, ethnicities, sexual orientations, ages, and abilities are present at municipal council tables; and

Whereas the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), through its Healthy Democracy Project, has identified troubling trends of voter apathy and a declining interest in running for municipal office; and

Whereas in 2024, a group of female elected officials from Halton formed H.E.R. (Halton Elected Representatives), launching the Elect Respect campaign to advocate for respectful political engagement and safe, inclusive workplaces; and

Whereas on June 5, 2025, the Canadian Association of Feminist Parliamentarians launched a national Parliamentary Civility Pledge, inspired by the work of H.E.R., to promote respectful conduct among elected officials;

1. Now Therefore Be It Hereby Resolved That the Town of Aurora Council endorses the Elect Respect pledge and commits to:
  - Treating all individuals with respect in every setting; public, private, and digital;
  - Speaking out against harassment, intimidation, and personal attacks;
  - Keeping debate focused on ideas and public policy, not individuals;
  - Fostering an environment where people of all backgrounds feel safe and supported in seeking and holding public office;
  - Urging relevant authorities to ensure the safety and protection of elected officials facing threats or abuse;
  - Demonstrating leadership through integrity, accountability, and mutual respect among colleagues and constituents; and
2. Be It Further Resolved That the Town of Aurora encourages other municipalities, elected officials, organizations, and residents to support the Elect Respect initiative and sign the pledge at [www.electrespect.ca](http://www.electrespect.ca); and
3. Be It Further Resolved That a copy of this resolution be sent to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), Ontario's Big City Mayors, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM),

local Members of Parliament (MPs) and Members of Provincial Parliament (MPPs), York Region, York Regional Police, and all Ontario municipalities.

**Carried**

# The Corporation of The Township of Stone Mills

4504 County Road 4, Centreville, Ontario K0K 1N0  
Tel. (613) 378-2475 Fax. (613) 378-0033  
Website: [www.stonemills.com](http://www.stonemills.com)



October 7, 2025

**Sent Via Email Only**

Office of the Prime Minister  
80 Wellington Street  
Ottawa, ON  
K1A 0A2

Re: Electoral Reform

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Dear Honourable Mark Carney,

Please be advised that during the regular Council meeting of October 6, 2025, Township of Stone Mills Council passed the following motion,

## **Resolution 23-696-2025**

That the resolution circulated from the Municipality of Brighton be received and supported.

**Moved By** Councillor Woodcock  
**Seconded By** Councillor Fenwick  
**Carried**

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Sincerely,

*B Teeple*

**Brandi Teeple**  
Township Clerk  
Township of Stone Mills  
4504 County Road 4  
Centreville, ON, K0K 1N0  
Phone: 613 378-2475 ext. 225  
Email: [bteeple@stonemills.com](mailto:bteeple@stonemills.com)

cc. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario  
All Ontario Municipalities

Enc. 1



**Date:** September 15, 2025

**Resolution No.** COU-2025-30

**Moved By:** Councillor Wheeldon

**Seconded By:** Councillor Rowley

Whereas Canadian governments at all levels are structured by and derive their legitimacy from democratic principles, practices, and norms;

And Whereas many countries around the world are experiencing increased political polarization and hostility, shifts toward authoritarianism, and the undermining of democratic norms;

And Whereas incivility and hostility increasingly define the political sphere in Canada at every level of government, but particularly in systems with political parties;

And Whereas this hostile political climate drives lower democratic participation, including low voter turnout and fewer and less diverse political candidates, resulting in a lopsided and unhealthy democracy;

And Whereas poor political health undermines the ability of democratic institutions to exercise effective leadership and overcome the unprecedented challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century;

And Whereas elections are one of the most central and participatory parts of Canadian democratic systems;

And Whereas numerous studies, including those by Parliamentary committees, have identified our First Past the Post electoral system as driving increasing polarization and declines in voter participation, and have recommended some form of proportional representation;

And Whereas electoral reform enjoys broad public support, with a majority of polling respondents who identify with every major party supporting change in the way that they vote;

Therefore Be It Resolved that the Municipality of Brighton call upon the provincial and federal governments to enact electoral reform, adopting proportional systems in which every vote counts and polarization is diminished, in order to safeguard and empower Canadian democracy;

11.1

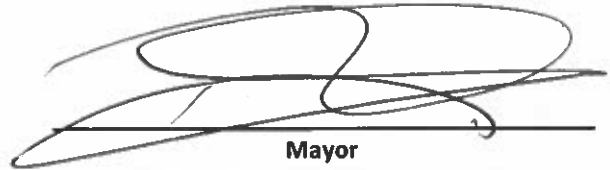
And Be It Further Resolved that this motion be circulated to Prime Minister Mark Carney, Premier Doug Ford, and all Ontario municipalities.

Carried

☒

OR Defeated

☐

  
Mayor

Recorded Vote		For Clerks Use Only			
Recorded vote called by: _____					
	For	Against	Abstain	Absent	COI
Mayor Brian Ostrander					
Deputy Mayor Ron Anderson					
Councillor Anne Butwell					
Councillor Hannah MacAusland					
Councillor Emily Rowley					
Councillor Jeff Wheeldon					
Councillor Bobbi Wright					
<b>Total</b>					
<b>Carried</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Defeated</b> <input type="checkbox"/>					<b>Clerk's Initials</b> <input type="text"/>

11.1.

# TOWN OF ENGLEHART

61 Fifth Avenue , Englehart , Ontario , P0J 1H0

Tel: 1-705-544-2244

<https://www.engagehart.ca/>

September 24, 2025

## RESOLUTION

**Resolution # 2025-229**

**Agenda Item # 6.2 Regular Council Meeting**

**Moved By :** Pam Bannink

**Seconded By :** Jo-Anne Farmer

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

**And Whereas** although it is important to standardize firefighting training and safety, 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 recruitment and retention of volunteer firefighters to provide adequate fire protection;

**Now Therefore Be It Resolved that** the Council of the Town of Englehart strongly encourages the Office of the Fire Marshal and the Ministry of the Solicitor General, to provide for support and an extension of the Mandatory Firefighter Certification Requirements as currently outlined in O. Reg. 343/22;

**And Further That** a copy of this resolution be sent to the Solicitor General, Premier of Ontario, John Vanthof, MPP Timiskaming-Cochrane, The Fire Marshal, AMO, FONOM, and all Ontario Municipalities.

**Carried**

This is a certified and true copy of the original document Amy Vickery, CAO/Clerk.







# SMITHS FALLS

RISE AT THE FALLS

October 8, 2025

Association of Municipalities of Ontario  
155 University Ave | Suite 800 Toronto, ON M5H 3B7  
[resolutions@amo.on.ca](mailto:resolutions@amo.on.ca)

To Whom it May Concern:

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

Please be advised that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Smiths Falls passed the following resolution at their September 15, 2025, Council meeting:

*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;*



# SMITHS FALLS

## RISE AT THE FALLS

*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 the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Smiths Falls 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 Council of the Corporation of the Town of Smiths 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, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, Ontario Municipalities, relevant MPs and MPPs, Smiths Falls Police Services, the Ontario Provincial Police and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.*



# SMITHS FALLS

RISE AT THE FALLS

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions and/or concerns.

Yours truly,

Kerry Costello  
Town Clerk

cc: Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)  
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)  
Ontario Municipalities  
M.P. Scott Reid, Lanark-Frontenac-Kingston  
M.P.P. John Jordan, Lanark-Frontenac-Kingston  
Smiths Falls Police Services  
Ontario Provincial Police  
Royal Canadian Mounted Police