



COUNCIL INFORMATION PACKAGE

Friday, October 17, 2025

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PENDING MOTION REFERRAL/DEFERRAL SUMMARY AS OF OCTOBER 14, 2025					
CLERKS REF. NO.	DIVISION RESPONSIBLE FOR ITEM	DATE APPROVED BY COUNCIL	SUBJECT/ACTION	STATUS OF THE ITEM	COMMENTS/ COMPLETION INFORMATION
02-85 16-26	Infrastructure Services	July 19, 2016	Draft Sidewalk Policy that focuses on the creation of new sidewalks and the improvement and maintenance of existing sidewalks.	Status: In progress To Complete: Quarter 4, 2024	
99-99	Community Services	May 3, 2016	Report regarding potential alternatives to expand the use of waterway by the general public. Defers Report R&C-2017-08: Public Consultation Process - 'Go Quiet By-law' & Alternative Uses of the Waterway to the General Committee meeting on September 26, 2017.	Status: In progress To Complete: R&C-2017-06 - October 4, 2017 was received for information.	
17-2	Planning & Development Services Traffic & By-laws	September 19, 2017	Refers back to staff for report regarding Section 8 Schedule 3 Food Vehicle, Section 7 Schedule 2 Food Premises and Exemption Section 10 Schedule 4 Hawker and Peddler from By-law 2011-173. Went to the May 15th Council Meeting to be deferred to staff for a report to a General Committee meeting.	Status: In progress To Complete: Report coming back July 2024.	
09-152 18-2	Planning & Development Services and Fire Department	June 5, 2018	Report on an education strategy to the public, tenants and landlords regarding rental housing.	Status: In progress To Complete: Fire and Planning to provide an update report in 2024.	

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

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

CLERKS REF. NO.	DIVISION RESPONSIBLE FOR ITEM	DATE APPROVED BY COUNCIL	SUBJECT/ACTION	STATUS OF THE ITEM	COMMENTS/ COMPLETION INFORMATION
20-77	Infrastructure Services	June 16, 2020	WHEREAS due to the recent pandemic the City of Welland is not able to provide services that they normally would perform do to the safety of its employees; and further WHEREAS if residents did in fact require a service that is normally provided by the City, in this case being a sewer related service and had to act immediately and contact an outside contractor and in resolving the issue a fee was paid. NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WELLAND directs staff to create a report to reimburse part or all of the fee paid by the owner (with guidelines similar to the rodent control program to be adhered to) and the amount be capped and for a certain period to time.	Status: In progress To Complete:	
20-106	Planning & Development Services	October 6, 2020	Signed petition from the residents of Caithness Drive regarding turning an established residential area from a single family homes to duplexes and refers this petition to Planning staff for review.	Status: In progress To Complete: Will be considered as part of update to City's Official Plan in 2024.	
20-19	Planning & Development Services	October 20, 2020	Refers to staff for report the notice of motion regarding 113 Michael Drive, redesignates this area as Open Space and proceed with an RFP to have a park with playground equipment be installed at this location.	Status: In progress To Complete: Approval for Park Development and will be amended to Open Space in the updated to the City's Official Plan.	

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20-82	Planning & Development Services	March 2, 2021	Report regarding a Municipal Comprehensive Review, under section 4.3.3.1 of the Official Plan, for the property outlined in Report P&B-2021-08 for an Employment Land conversion from Gateway Economic Centre to Agriculture.	Status: In progress To Complete: To be considered as part of the update to the Official Plan in 2024.	
21-58	CAO & Planning & Development Services	March 2, 2021	Report regarding Brownfield Employment Lands that are non-employment producing within the city limits.	Status: In progress To Complete: Will be included in 2024 update to the Brownfield CIP.	
21-59	CAO & Economic Development	March 2, 2021	Report on a strategy to aggressively pursue the acquisition of seaway lands from the Federal government, to discuss with them an accelerated process to declare such lands surplus and enter into discussions for the acquisition of identified properties and review options for "lease to own" such lands until such time as they become available. Staff identify Seaway lands of interest and develop servicing plans and other strategies as may be required and further staff identify other lands within and/or adjacent to employment lands identified in Welland's official plan that would be strategic acquisitions for the purpose of industrial/employment use and see if owners are interested in selling those lands to the municipality. If they are not interested the city would not pursue expropriation. In relation to all of the above staff would prepare strategies and associated costs to service lands so that they would be "shovel ready".	Status: In progress To Complete: Update report to come in 2024 through Economic Development. Went to the September 16, 2025 General Committee Meeting.	
06-156	Planning & Development Services	April 20, 2021	Report as part of the Official Plan Review detailing what Urban Farming initiatives Council should consider accommodating.	Status: In progress To Complete:	

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

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

REF. NO.	RESPONSIBLE FOR ITEM	APPROVED BY COUNCIL	SUBJECT/ACTION	STATUS OF THE ITEM	COMMENTS/ COMPLETION INFORMATION
23-28	Community Services	December 19, 2023	Presentation re: Crimestoppers Program and refers matter to staff for report.	<u>Status:</u> <u>To Complete:</u>	
99-99	Community Services	January 9, 2024	Prepare a report in regards to creating and allowing family caping along the west side of the former Welland Canal.	<u>Status:</u> <u>To Complete:</u>	
23-22	Infrastructure Services	January 9, 2024	Report that would address parking at Chippawa Park from the pavilion on First Avenue north to Laughlin Avenue on the park property which is currently grass/open space similar to Bugar Park.	<u>Status:</u> <u>To Complete:</u>	
24-36	Planning & Development Services	March 19, 2024	Petition from residents of the City of Welland opposing the planning application for the zoning at 44 Heron Street.	<u>Status:</u> <u>To Complete:</u>	

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

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

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24-78	Infrastructure Services	September 3, 2024	Staff to provide a comprehensive report regarding the storm management pond at Coyle Creek. Report detail the city's responsibility and history to the maintenance of the surrounding park like setting over the past 10 years.	<u>Status:</u> <u>To Complete:</u>	
				-	
24-26	Infrastructure Services	September 10, 2024	Staff engage with the Region of Niagara to discuss road upgrades on South Pelham between Webber Street and Thorold Road..	<u>Status:</u> <u>To Complete:</u>	
				-	
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21-30	Planning & Development Services	November 26, 2024	Refers back to staff the notice of motion regarding increases in the number of encampments near public, private and business properties.	<u>Status:</u> <u>To Complete:</u>	
21-30	Planning & Development Services	December 10, 2024	Refers Report PB-2024-30: 184 Denistoun Street – Proposed Niagara Regional Housing Project back to staff.	<u>Status:</u> <u>To Complete:</u>	
24-22	Planning & Dev. Services Traffic and By-laws Division	December 17, 2024	Prepare a report for a signalized school crossing on First Avenue for Quaker Road School. Report to include costs and location.	<u>Status:</u> <u>To Complete:</u>	
25-47	Infrastructure Services	February 4, 2025	Refers Report ENG-2025-06: Humberstone Landfill Host Municipality Compensation Agreement back to staff.	<u>Status:</u> <u>To Complete:</u>	

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02-160	Clerk's Division	March 4, 2025	Notice of Motion from Councillor Lee re: staff report back on the estimated annual savings associated with this transition, including reductions in paper, printing and delivery costs.	<u>Status:</u> <u>To Complete:</u>	
25-22	Planning & Dev. Services Traffic and By-laws Division	March 18, 2025	Staff to prepare a recommendation on whether the city would benefit from the creation of a Welland School Traffic Safety Action Committee.	<u>Status:</u> <u>To Complete:</u>	
25-68	Infrastructure Services	April 8, 2025	Staff report on a Pavement Rejuvenation Program for budget years 2025 and 2026 with no impact to the tax levy.	<u>Status:</u> Complete <u>To Complete:</u>	FIN-2025-15 September 16, 2025
25-73	Infrastructure Services	April 22, 2025	Staff to prepare a report regarding the Niagara Regional Police Services regarding updates and opportunities and staff to report back with further information and recommendations.	<u>Status:</u> <u>To Complete:</u>	
25-22	Planning & Dev. Services Traffic and By-laws Division	July 22, 2025	Report on parking control on Gram Avenue to include but not limited to 2 hour parking along the park, resident parking permits .	<u>Status:</u> <u>To Complete:</u>	

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25-22	Planning & Development Services	July 22, 2025	Report on the feasibility finishing the missing section of fence along 695 Niagara Street.	<u>Status:</u> <u>To Complete:</u>	
25-22	Infrastructure Services	July 22, 2025	Report to install a stop sign on Daimler Parkway and Magnolia Lane.	<u>Status:</u> Complete <u>To Complete:</u>	ENG-2025-22 September 23, 2025
25-22	Infrastructure Services	July 22, 2025	Report on the suitability of establishing a Community Safety Zone along Rive Road between Downs Drive and Evan Street.	<u>Status:</u> Complete <u>To Complete:</u>	
02-85	Clerk's Division	August 12, 2025	Refers the Terms of Reference for the Welland Accessibility Advisory Committee.	<u>Status:</u> Complete <u>To Complete:</u>	
25-22	Infrastructure Services	August 12, 2025	Report on the suitability of establishing a Community Safety Zone on Plymouth Road from the train tracks north to Lincoln Street since it has two senior homes, a park, two day cares and a school located there.	<u>Status:</u> Complete <u>To Complete:</u>	
25-22	Infrastructure Services	August 12, 2025	Report on the suitability of establishing a Community Safety Zone on Gaiser Road, specifically but not limited to Gaiser Road and Julia Drive, and Gaiser Road between South Pelham and Clare Avenue/Creekside Drive.	<u>Status:</u> Complete <u>To Complete:</u>	

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25-22	Infrastructure Services	September 2, 2025	Staff complete a review on Community Safety Zones that may meet the criteria city wide to include schools, day cares, senior homes, parks and possibly arena.	<u>Status:</u> <u>To Complete:</u>	ENG-2025-30 October 14, 2025
25-108	Finance Division	September 2 & 23 2025	Refers Report FIN-2025-20: South Niagara Hospital Contribution back to staff. Went to the Sept. 23 council meeting to be referred back to staff.	<u>Status:</u> <u>To Complete:</u>	
25-15	Fire Division	September 16, 2025	Report for the naming of Fire Staton #3 to be in Honour of Captain Craig Bowman.	<u>Status:</u> Complete <u>To Complete:</u>	FES-2025-04 September 23, 2025
05-51	Finance Division	September 23, 2025	Defers Report FIN-2025-23, Purchasing Policy Revision, for consideration at a meeting to be scheduled after the end of October 2025.	<u>Status:</u> <u>To Complete:</u>	
23-122	Clerks Division	September 23, 2025	Directs staff to review AMO's Indigenous Reconciliation Action Plan and prepare a report for Council with recommendations on actions the City of Welland could take as an organization to further advance reconciliation locally.	<u>Status:</u> <u>To Complete:</u>	

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25-45	Finance Division	September 23, 2025	Council directs staff to: 1. Review the current Claim Form and related procedures applicable when property is damaged due to City construction activities; and 2. Identify opportunities to make the process more accessible and less burdensome for residents, including consideration of timelines, documentation requirements, and potential costs to claimants; and further 3. Report back to Council with a recommended revised form and procedure for consideration.	<u>Status:</u> <u>To Complete:</u>	
25-111	Infrastructure Services	September 23, 2025	Staff to prepare a report on improved / brighter lighting on Quaker Road from Niagara to the east limit. Staff present temporary sidewalk solutions and any other feasible safety measures. This report to include options for brighter light fixtures and that the report be presented to council by November 18, 2025.	<u>Status:</u> <u>To Complete:</u>	
99-99	Community Services	October 14, 2025	Prepare a report and presentation for the six 2025 concerts on the canal series and to include all expenses on a spreadsheet prior to the 2026 budget as well as to include all sponsorship monies collected and surveys that were collected from the attendees.	<u>Status:</u> <u>To Complete:</u>	
21-30	Clerks Division/ Community Services	October 14, 2025	Staff to follow up with the Provincial Emergency Operations Centre and the Ontario Solicitor General, Michael Kerzner on how they plan to respond to the state of emergency; and THAT Welland City Council ask the Ontario Ministry of Health to fund and establish in partnership with Niagara Health, more addiction treatment beds in the City of Welland.	<u>Status:</u> <u>To Complete:</u>	

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25-29	Clerks Division	October 14, 2025	Refers back to staff Report CLK-2025-09: 2026 Council Meeting Schedule to consider an additional council meeting each month in 2026 prior to the municipal election.	<u>Status:</u> <u>To Complete:</u>	

SENT ELECTRONICALLY

October 16, 2025

Regional Municipality of Niagara
1815 Sir Issac Brock Way,
Box 1042
Thorold ON
L2V 4T7

Attention: Ann-Marie Norio, Regional Clerk

Dear Ms. Norio:

RE: Elect Respect Pledge

Please be advised the Council of The Corporation of the Town of Niagara-on-the Lake, at its regular meeting held on September 23, 2025, approved the following resolution:

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.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake Council supports the Elect Respect pledge and commits to:

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake Council calls on elected officials, organizations and community members to support the Elect Respect campaign and sign the online pledge at www.electrespect.ca; and

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

If you have any questions or require further information, please contact my office at 905-468-6488.

Sincerely,



Grant Bivol
Town Clerk/ Manager of Legislative Services
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c.c. Association of Municipalities of Ontario
Ontario's Big City Mayors
Federation of Canadian Municipalities
Niagara Region Municipalities
Dean Allison
Sam Oosterhoff
Chris Bittle
Jennie Stevens
Fred Davies
Jeff Burch
Tony Baldinelli
Wayne Gates
Niagara Regional Police
Ontario Provincial Police

SENT ELECTRONICALLY

October 16, 2025

Regional Municipality of Niagara
1815 Sir Issac Brock Way,
Box 1042
Thorold ON
L2V 4T7

Attention: Ann-Marie Norio, Regional Clerk

Dear Ms. Norio:

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

Please be advised the Council of The Corporation of the Town of Niagara-on-the Lake, at its regular meeting held on September 23, 2025, approved the following resolution:

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS human trafficking thrives in secrecy, but with leadership and commitment, local government can be on the front line of prevention and protection 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 local businesses and organizations are key to preventing human trafficking through proactive measures such as The 4 Ps: prevention, protection, partnership, and prosecution;

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

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

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

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake recognize that human trafficking in Niagara has serious impacts on the health and wellness of local residents and their families, as well as negative economic impacts on local businesses and communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake endorse the work of TOES Niagara and Brock University in developing a Code of Conduct for the Prevention of Human Trafficking in the Niagara Region; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake COMMIT to reviewing and assessing the applicable local government sectoral guidelines and responsibilities outlined in The Code upon its finalization, with the intent to implement measures that align with Regional priorities and capacity; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake write letters to all Niagara's 12 Local Area Municipalities encouraging them to also endorse the work of TOES Niagara and Brock University in the development of the Code of Conduct for the Prevention of Human Trafficking in the Niagara Region and commit to reviewing and assessing the applicable local government sectoral guidelines and responsibilities outlined in The Code upon its finalization, with the intent to implement measures that align with municipal priorities and capacity; and

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

If you have any questions or require further information, please contact my office at 905-468-6488.

Sincerely,



Grant Bivol
Town Clerk/ Manager of Legislative Services

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

Economic Development Brief

October 15, 2025

Statistics and Trends

Labour market conditions

Seasonally adjusted labour market conditions in Niagara did not improve across most indicators in September, with the exception of population growth. While Ontario and Canada performed slightly better, both still experienced employment losses.

Month-over-month data from August to September 2025 show the following:

- Population: Niagara grew by 0.1% (300 people), while Ontario grew by the same rate.
- Labour force: Niagara decreased by 1.5% (3,800 people), while Ontario decreased by 0.04%.
- Employment: Niagara decreased by 1.6% (3,800 people), while Ontario decreased by 0.1%.
- Unemployment rate: Niagara increased by 0.1% to 7.1%, while Ontario remained at 7.8%.
- Participation rate: Niagara decreased by 1.0% to 59.6%, while Ontario remained the same at 64.0%.

While previous recent employment losses were mostly concentrated in trade-oriented sectors such as manufacturing, this was not the case in Niagara in September. The sectors with the highest rates of employment decline included information, culture, and recreation; finance, insurance, and real estate; transportation and warehousing; wholesale and retail trade; and public administration, which is a change from previous months. In contrast, manufacturing employment rebounded by 2.9% in September.

Canada's economy slowing as major trade renegotiation looms

Canada's economy is slowing alongside global trends with growth expected to reach only 1.2% this year and remain subdued through 2026 amid trade uncertainties. Although inflation has eased to the Bank of Canada's 2% target, essential goods like food and services continue to see elevated prices that strain lower income households. The Bank of Canada has room to further ease monetary policy and markets expect at least one more interest rate cut in October or December. Despite headline inflation averaging 1.9% consumers still perceive high inflation due to persistently expensive essentials influencing household spending behaviour.

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

Economic Development Updates

International Plowing Match in Niagara deemed a success

The 106th International Plowing Match and Rural Expo from September 16-20 in West Lincoln drew nearly 70,000 visitors over five days, including Ontario political leaders, and was hailed as a major success by organizers. The event featured agricultural showcases, local attractions, and community initiatives that raised over \$4,200 and collected food donations for West Lincoln Community Care. It also highlighted local pride, with West Lincoln winning a beautification award and generating significant regional economic activity, estimated at around \$25 million for west Niagara.

Venture Niagara increases Express Loan limit to \$35,000

Venture Niagara Community Futures Development Corporation has increased its Express Loan program limit from \$20,000 to \$35,000. The program, available as a term loan or operating line, is designed to provide fast and flexible financing for businesses in Niagara. By raising the limit, Venture Niagara is ensuring that local businesses have greater access to capital when they need it.

St. Catharines launches downtown forgivable loan program to boost housing supply

The City of St. Catharines has launched the Downtown Forgivable Loan Program to encourage residential development in the downtown core and support inclusive, sustainable housing goals. The program offers eligible property owners interest-free, forgivable loans of up to \$150,000 per property to convert underused spaces into new or accessible housing units. Funded through the federal Housing Accelerator Fund, the DFLP is part of a broader plan to unlock over 2,300 housing units in three years and strengthen the city's housing supply.

Local tourism saw gains this summer despite a drop in US visits

Despite concerns that a trade conflict would severely hurt Niagara Falls tourism, the 2025 summer season was strong overall, according to Niagara Parks CEO David Adames. While revenue from American visitors fell by about 5%, increased travel from Canada and overseas markets such as the UK, Germany, and South Korea boosted by new flight routes and promotional campaigns more than offset the decline. Overall tourism revenue rose, supported by initiatives like the Canada Strong Pass and the successful launch of the new Niagara Takes Flight attraction, with positive momentum continuing into the fall season.

Minister Anand to host G7 Foreign Ministers Meeting in the Niagara

Foreign Affairs Minister Anita Anand has announced that the G7 Foreign Ministers Meeting will be held in Niagara from November 11 to 12, 2025. This will be Canada's second time hosting G7 foreign ministers in 2025, following the March meeting in Charlevoix, Quebec. The gathering will focus on global security, economic resilience, and strengthening international cooperation in response to shared global challenges.

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

SPARK initiative to position Brock as global leader in climate action

Brock University has launched SPARK (sustainability, performance, adaptation, renewal and knowledge), a three-year clean infrastructure program aimed at dramatically reducing the campus's environmental impact. The initiative will cut greenhouse gas emissions by 83% by 2028 and energy use by 60%, exceeding Brock's previous sustainability goals. Funded through a partnership with the Canada Infrastructure Bank and Enbridge Sustain, SPARK will modernize key campus facilities without upfront costs, enhancing energy efficiency, system performance, and the overall student experience.

Innovate Niagara announces i.d.e.a. Fund Cohort 4

12 Niagara-based companies have been awarded non-repayable contributions of up to \$20,000 each through Cohort Four of the i.d.e.a. Fund, delivered by Innovate Niagara in partnership with Boundless Accelerator. The fund supports southern Ontario clean growth firms in developing environmentally sustainable products and technologies that advance Canada's climate goals. Backed by a \$5.2 million federal investment through FedDev Ontario, the program promotes inclusion, diversity, and circular economy innovation across six Regional Innovation Centres. Since its launch in 2022, the i.d.e.a. Fund has supported nearly 320 businesses, strengthening the region's cleantech and innovation sectors.

Hamilton-Niagara Market Diversification Forum to be held on October 29

Niagara Economic Development, in partnership with Hamilton Economic Development, are hosting a free one-day seminar on October 29 to help local businesses access high-growth markets in Europe and the Indo-Pacific. Led by an expert from Foreign International Trade Training (FITT), the global standard for international trade training and certification, the session will provide strategic insights into key sectors, trade agreements, and cultural considerations in these regions. The seminar will guide participants through tools and examples to evaluate, compare, and select the most promising international markets for their business. To register [CLICK HERE](#).

Niagara municipalities recognized at EDAC's Marketing Canada Awards

The Town of Lincoln and the City of St. Catharines were jointly recognized with the Community Collaboration Award from the Economic Developers Association of Canada for their innovative approach to collaboration on destination marketing through the St. Catharines Lincoln Destination Partnership, a model of urban-rural cooperation on our work on the new Destination Marketing Organization which has strengthened Lincoln's tourism economy and elevated the Niagara Benchlands' reputation as a premier destination. St. Catharines was also recognized under the Single Publication category for the Small Business Enterprise Centre Starter Kit. These awards recognize their continued commitment to collaboration, innovation, and supporting business growth across the region.

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

Niagara Grape & Wine Festival generates significant economic impact

The Niagara Grape & Wine Festival kicked off in Montebello Park, marking its 73rd year as Canada's largest and oldest wine celebration. The event attracts over 25,000 visitors annually, generating an estimated \$25 million in local economic impact and supporting hundreds of local jobs. From the Wine & Culinary Village to the Grande Parade, the festival continues to drive tourism, showcase Niagara's talent, and foster pride in our community.

City of Welland hosts regional purchasing open house to help local businesses connect

The City of Welland hosted a Purchasing Open House on September 25, bringing together procurement professionals from Niagara municipalities to strengthen local economies and promote transparent procurement practices. The event helped local businesses understand municipal purchasing processes, connect with procurement teams, and learn how to participate in bids or become a Vendor of Record. This first-of-its-kind regional initiative reflects a commitment to collaboration, inclusivity, and economic growth, while laying the groundwork for stronger future partnerships across Niagara.

Province investing \$2.4 million to expand Brock University's nursing program

Ontario is investing an additional \$2.4 million in Brock University's nursing program to train up to 60 more nurses by 2029, addressing ongoing nursing shortages across the province. The funding supports the education of nurse practitioners, registered nurses, and practical nurses, and includes \$500,000 for critical supplies and lab equipment to ensure hands-on training. This investment is part of a larger \$56.8 million provincial plan to add 2,200 nursing professionals to Ontario's workforce, helping improve access to care in hospitals, long-term care homes, and community health settings.

Weekend GO train service expanding in Niagara

Starting in November, weekend GO train service between Niagara Falls and Toronto will increase from 6 to 8 trips, offering greater flexibility for travelers. The expansion is part of broader GO Transit service growth to meet rising regional demand, while weekday service remains unchanged. Additionally, the new Confederation GO station in Stoney Creek will open on October 27, providing more convenient access for Hamilton and Niagara riders and connecting with multiple train and bus routes.

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

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

Thursday, October 9, 2025

Allyson Euler
City Clerk
The Corporation of the City of Dryden
30 Van Horne Avenue
Dryden, Ontario
L8N 2A7

SENT VIA EMAIL: aeuler@dryden.ca

RE: Endorsement of The City of Dryden's Resolution – Swim-to-Survive Training

Dear A. Euler,

Please be advised of the following motion passed at the Monday, October 6, 2025, Goderich Town Council Meeting:

Moved By: Deputy Mayor Noel
Seconded By: Councillor Carroll
That Goderich Town Council supports the resolution from the City of Dryden, regarding
Swim-to-Survive Training.

CARRIED

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

Yours truly,



Andrea Fisher
Director of Legislative Services/Clerk
/js

Cc: Hon. Minister of Education of Ontario, paul.calandra@pc.ola.org
The Honourable Lisa Thompson, Minister of Rural Affairs, Member of Provincial
Parliament – Huron-Bruce, lisa.thompson@pc.ola.org
Ben Lobb, Member of Parliament – Huron-Bruce, ben.lobb@parl.gc.ca

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



The Association of Municipalities of Ontario, resolutions@amo.on.ca
All Ontario Municipalities

Friday, October 10, 2025

Jeff Smith
Municipal Clerk
Township of Woolwich
24 Church Street West
PO Box 158
Elmira, Ontario
N3B 2Z6

SENT VIA EMAIL: jsmith@woolwich.ca

RE: Endorsement of the Township of Woolwich Resolution – Bill C-61 First Nations Clean Water Act

Dear J. Smith,

Please be advised of the following motion passed at the Monday, October 6, 2025, Goderich Town Council Meeting:

Moved By: Deputy Mayor Noel
Seconded By: Councillor Kelly
That Goderich Town Council supports the resolution from the Township of Woolwich,
regarding Bill C-61, First Nations Clean Water Act

CARRIED

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

Yours truly,



Andrea Fisher
Director of Legislative Services/Clerk
/js

Cc: Hon. Mandy Gull-Masty, Minister of Indigenous Services, mandy.gull-masty@parl.gc.ca
Hon. Todd J. McCarthy, Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks,
todd.mccarthy@pc.ola.org
Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, premier@ontario.ca

The Town of Goderich
57 West Street
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519-524-8344
townhall@goderich.ca
www.goderich.ca



Assembly of First Nations, resolutions@afn.ca
All Municipalities in Ontario



VIA EMAIL

Friday, October 3, 2025

Corporate Services Department
Legal Services
Office of the Regional Clerk
1151 Bronte Road
Oakville, ON L6M 3L1

The Right Honourable Mark Carney, Prime Minister of Canada
The Honourable Sean Fraser, Minister of Justice and Attorney General
The Honourable Gary Anandasangaree, Minister of Safety
The Honourable Ruby Sahota, Secretary of State
The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
The Honourable Doug Downey, Attorney General
The Honourable Michael Kerzner, Solicitor General

Please be advised that at its meeting held on Wednesday, September 17, 2025, the Council of The Regional Municipality of Halton unanimously adopted the following resolution:

RESOLUTION: Public Safety Requirements to Protect Our Communities

WHEREAS community safety is the foremost responsibility of all levels of government, including federal, provincial/territorial, and municipal authorities;
AND WHEREAS recent violent home invasions in Halton Region and across Canada highlight the ongoing need to evaluate and strengthen bail laws and the administration of justice to better protect communities;

AND WHEREAS repeat violent offenders continue to be granted bail in some instances, placing victims, families, and first responders at risk, and public confidence in the justice system is undermined when such offenders are quickly returned to the community;

AND WHEREAS the federal government passed Bill C-48, which came into force in January 2024, introducing key reforms to the Criminal Code, including:

- A new reverse onus provision targeting repeat violent offending involving weapons,
- An expanded list of firearms offences triggering reverse onus,

- Requirements for courts to consider an accused's violent history and state on the record their consideration of community safety;

AND WHEREAS the federal government has committed to tabling additional legislation during the Fall 2025 session of Parliament to further strengthen community safety, including reforms related to bail and sentencing;

AND WHEREAS the provinces and territories are responsible for the administration of justice, including:

- Appointing justices of the peace and judges,
- Managing court operations and bail monitoring,
- Hiring and managing Crown Attorneys,
- Funding and overseeing provincial police services and detention centres;

AND WHEREAS on November 13, 2024, the Police Association of Ontario (PAO), the Ontario Provincial Police Association (OPPA), and the Toronto Police Association (TPA), representing 35,000 police members in Ontario, called for urgent action to ensure violent and repeat offenders are not released pending trial, and similar calls have been echoed by the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police and Canada's Premiers;

AND WHEREAS strengthening bail provisions and the broader justice system requires ongoing collaboration across all levels of government, and doing so would reduce pressures on local police services, the courts, and municipalities;

NOW THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED:

THAT Halton Regional Council:

1. Recognizes the steps already taken by the federal government through Bill C-48 and acknowledges the commitment to introduce further legislation in Fall 2025;
2. Calls on the Government of Canada to prioritize and expedite the introduction of its promised bail and sentencing reforms in the upcoming session of Parliament;
3. Calls on the Province of Ontario to invest in and strengthen the administration of justice, including:
 - Enhancing bail enforcement and monitoring,

- Increasing resources for Crown prosecutors and court operations, including the previously announced courthouse for Halton
- Expanding judicial capacity and detention infrastructure;
- 4. Encourages a national, coordinated approach involving all levels of government to ensure community safety is not compromised by gaps in bail or sentencing systems.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

- THAT Halton Regional Council calls for the following policy considerations in future reforms:
 - Expanding reverse onus provisions for repeat violent offenders,
 - Establishing stronger mandatory bail conditions, including firearm prohibitions, curfews, electronic monitoring, and no-contact orders,
 - Limiting multiple bail releases for individuals with histories of serious violent offences,
 - Improving inter-agency information sharing among police, Crown prosecutors, and corrections,
 - Prioritizing victim and community impact in bail decisions;
- THAT Halton Regional Council calls on the federal and provincial governments to review Criminal Code time limits and rules for stay of proceedings in cases involving serious and violent offences;
- THAT this motion be forwarded to:
 - The Prime Minister of Canada, the Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada, the Minister of Public Safety, the Secretary of State (Combatting Crime),
 - The Premier of Ontario, Attorney General of Ontario, the Solicitor General of Ontario,
 - All federal and provincial parties in the House of Commons and Ontario Legislature;
 - Halton's Members of Parliament and Members of Provincial Parliament,
 - The Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police, the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police, the Police Association of Ontario, and the Ontario Provincial Police Association;
 - Ontario Association of Police Service Boards (OAPSB) and Canadian Association of Police Governance (CAPG);

- Halton's Local Municipalities;
- THAT this motion be shared with the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), and all municipalities across Ontario and Canada, encouraging them to pass similar motions in a spirit of collaborative, cross-jurisdictional reform.

If you have any questions, please contact me at the email address below.

Sincerely,



Graham Milne
Regional Clerk
Graham.Milne@halton.ca

c.

The Honourable Pierre Poilievre, Leader of Official Opposition
Yves-François Blanchet, Leader of Bloc Québécois
Don Davies, Interim Leader of NDP
Elizabeth May, Leader of Green Party
Halton MPs
Halton MPPs
Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police
Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police
Police Association of Ontario
Ontario Provincial Police Association
Ontario Association of Police Boards
Canadian Association of Police Governance
City Clerk's Office, City of Burlington
Valerie Petryniak, Town Clerk & Director, Legislative Services, Town of Halton Hills
Meaghen Reid, Director, Legislative & Legal Services/Town Clerk, Town of Milton
William Short, Town Clerk, Town of Oakville
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)
all municipalities across Ontario and Canada

VIA EMAIL

Tuesday, October 14, 2025

The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
The Honourable Kinga Surma, Minister of Infrastructure
The Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
The Honourable Francois-Phillipe Champagne, Minister of Finance
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
Ontario Small Urban Municipalities (OSUM)
Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)
The United Counties of Leeds and Grenville
All Upper- and Lower-Tier Municipalities in Ontario

Please be advised that at its Regular Council meeting held on Monday, September 29, 2025, the Council of the Township of Edwardsburgh Cardinal unanimously adopted the following resolution:

RESOLUTION: Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (OCIF)

WHEREAS the Township of Edwardsburgh Cardinal acknowledges that municipal infrastructure—roads, bridges, water and wastewater systems—underpins public safety, economic vitality and quality of life in Ontario's rural and small urban communities;

WHEREAS the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (OCIF) was created in 2015 to assist small and rural municipalities facing infrastructure deficits that exceed their local revenue capacities;

WHEREAS in 2022 the Government of Ontario committed to increase the annual OCIF envelope from \$100 million to \$400 million over a five-year term, with that commitment scheduled to expire at the end of fiscal 2026;

WHEREAS fixed funding levels amid rising labour, materials and climate resilience costs have eroded the purchasing power of the \$400 million envelope, jeopardizing municipalities' ability to deliver and sustain essential services without incurring unsustainable debt;

WHEREAS predictable, multi-year funding indexed to real-world cost drivers is critical for municipalities to develop, finance and execute long-term asset management plans, reduce emergency repairs and leverage complementary federal and private infrastructure financing;

WHEREAS the Township of Edwardsburgh Cardinal requires a steadfast provincial partner to extend and enhance OCIF beyond 2026, ensuring infrastructure resilience, fiscal sustainability and equitable access for all small and rural municipalities;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT

1. The Township of Edwardsburgh Cardinal calls upon the Government of Ontario to extend the annual OCIF envelope at not less than \$400 million beyond its current five-year term ending in 2026, with no reductions in subsequent provincial budgets.
2. The Province be requested to index the total annual OCIF envelope—and each individual municipal allocation—to the Ontario Consumer Price Index (CPI), calculated on a calendar-year basis and disbursed in the first quarter of each fiscal year.
3. The Ministry of Infrastructure establish a new five-year OCIF funding framework that guarantees annual envelopes and allocation percentages by municipality, enabling long-term capital planning and stable cash-flow management.
4. The Province undertake a formal review of the OCIF allocation formula at least once every four years, incorporating current municipal asset management data, demographic projections, climate resilience metrics and rural equity considerations.
5. A dedicated contingency reserve equal to 5 percent of the annual OCIF envelope be created within the fund to address extraordinary cost escalations, emergency repairs or project overruns without reallocating core funding.

6. The Ministry of Infrastructure publish an annual OCIF performance report—including program disbursements, allocation adjustments and reserve expenditures—in a transparent, publicly accessible online dashboard.
7. The Clerk of the Township of Edwardsburgh Cardinal forward this resolution to:
 - The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
 - The Honourable Kinga Surma, Minister of Infrastructure
 - The Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
 - The Honourable Francois-Phillipe Champagne, Minister of Finance
 - Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
 - Ontario Small Urban Municipalities (OSUM)
 - Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)
 - The United Counties of Leeds and Grenville
 - All upper- and lower-tier municipalities in Ontario

If you have any questions, please contact me at the email address below.

Sincerely,



Natalie Charette
Interim Clerk
clerk@twpec.ca



EDWARDSBURGH CARDINAL

Phone: 613-658-3055
Fax: 613-658-3445
Toll Free: 866-848-9099
E-mail: mail@twpec.ca

P.O. Box 129,
18 Centre St.
Spencerville, Ontario
K0E 1X0

TOWNSHIP OF EDWARDSBURGH/CARDINAL

Resolution Number 2025-253

September 29, 2025

Moved By: _____

Seconded By: _____

WHEREAS the Township of Edwardsburgh Cardinal acknowledges that municipal infrastructure—roads, bridges, water and wastewater systems—underpins public safety, economic vitality and quality of life in Ontario's rural and small urban communities;

WHEREAS the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (OCIF) was created in 2015 to assist small and rural municipalities facing infrastructure deficits that exceed their local revenue capacities;

WHEREAS in 2022 the Government of Ontario committed to increase the annual OCIF envelope from \$100 million to \$400 million over a five-year term, with that commitment scheduled to expire at the end of fiscal 2026;

WHEREAS fixed funding levels amid rising labour, materials and climate resilience costs have eroded the purchasing power of the \$400 million envelope, jeopardizing municipalities' ability to deliver and sustain essential services without incurring unsustainable debt;

WHEREAS predictable, multi-year funding indexed to real-world cost drivers is critical for municipalities to develop, finance and execute long-term asset management plans, reduce emergency repairs and leverage complementary federal and private infrastructure financing;

WHEREAS the Township of Edwardsburgh Cardinal requires a steadfast provincial partner to extend and enhance OCIF beyond 2026, ensuring infrastructure resilience, fiscal sustainability and equitable access for all small and rural municipalities;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT

1. The Township of Edwardsburgh Cardinal calls upon the Government of Ontario to extend the annual OCIF envelope at not less than \$400 million beyond its current five-year term ending in 2026, with no reductions in subsequent provincial budgets.
2. The Province be requested to index the total annual OCIF envelope—and each individual municipal allocation—to the Ontario Consumer Price Index (CPI), calculated on a calendar-year basis and disbursed in the first quarter of each fiscal year.
3. The Ministry of Infrastructure establish a new five-year OCIF funding framework that guarantees annual envelopes and allocation percentages by municipality, enabling long-term capital planning and stable cash-flow management.
4. The Province undertake a formal review of the OCIF allocation formula at least once every four years, incorporating current municipal asset management data,

TOWNSHIP OF EDWARDSBURGH CARDINAL

September 29, 2025

Resolution Number: 2025- 253

demographic projections, climate resilience metrics and rural equity considerations.

5. A dedicated contingency reserve equal to 5 percent of the annual OCIF envelope be created within the fund to address extraordinary cost escalations, emergency repairs or project overruns without reallocating core funding.
6. The Ministry of Infrastructure publish an annual OCIF performance report—including program disbursements, allocation adjustments and reserve expenditures—in a transparent, publicly accessible online dashboard.
7. The Clerk of the Township of Edwardsburgh Cardinal forward this resolution to:
 - The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
 - The Honourable Kinga Surma, Minister of Infrastructure
 - The Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
 - The Honourable Francois-Phillipe Champagne, Minister of Finance
 - Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
 - Ontario Small Urban Municipalities (OSUM)
 - Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)
 - The United Counties of Leeds and Grenville
 - All upper- and lower-tier municipalities in Ontario

☐ Carried ☐ Defeated ☒ Unanimous

Mayor: 

RECORDED VOTE REQUESTED BY: _____

NAME	YEA	NAY
Councillor J. Martelle		
Councillor W. Smail		
Councillor C. Ward		
Deputy Mayor S. Dillabough		
Mayor T. Deschamps		
TOTAL		



THE CORPORATION OF THE **TOWN OF COBALT**

June 22, 2023

Municipality of North Perth
330 Wallace Ave North
Listowel, ON N4W 1L3

Please be advised that at the Regular Meeting of Council on October 14, 2025, the Town of Cobalt adopted the following resolution:

RESOLUTION No. 2025-162

MOVED BY: Councillor Starchuk

SECONDED BY: Councillor Anderson

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Town of Cobalt supports the Township of Larder Lake's resolution respectfully requesting 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 (OAFC), MPP John Vanthof, and all municipalities in Ontario for support and endorsement.

CARRIED

Kind Regards,

Steven Dalley

Town Manager, Clerk/Treasurer

Tel: (705) 679-8877

Email: sdalley@cobalt.ca

cc: Hon, Michael Kerzner, Minister of the Solicitor General, michael.kerzner@pc.ola.org
Ontario Fire Marshal
the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), resolutions@amo.ca
the Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA), roma@roma.on.ca
the Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs (OAFC), info@oafc.on.ca
MPP, John Vanthof, jvanthof-co@ndp.on.ca,



TOWN OF WASAGA BEACH

30 Lewis Street, Wasaga Beach
Ontario, Canada L9Z 1A1
Tel (705) 429-3844
mayor@wasagabeach.com

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

October 16, 2025

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

BY EMAIL ONLY

Dear Minister Calandra,

RE: Resolution from the Town of Wasaga Beach – Mandatory Water Safety & Swim-to-Survive Training

Please be advised that the Council of the Town of Wasaga Beach, during their October 9, 2025 Council meeting, and at the request of the City of Dryden, passed the following resolution regarding Mandatory Water Safety and Swim-to-Survive Training.

Whereas drowning remains one of the leading causes of preventable death among children in Ontario, and research by the Lifesaving Society of Ontario indicates that most children who drown never intended to be in the water; and

Whereas evidence clearly demonstrates that basic swimming ability and water survival skills significantly reduce the risk of drowning; and

Whereas many children across Ontario face barriers to accessing swimming lessons outside of school, whether financial, cultural, or geographic in nature; and

Whereas municipalities across the province, including the City of Dryden, have expressed strong support for improved water safety education for children; and

Whereas the Ministry of Education holds the authority to include water safety and survival training in the elementary school curriculum, recognizing it as a vital life skill comparable to fire and road safety education; and

Whereas the Town of Wasaga Beach is home to the world's longest freshwater beach and welcomes hundreds of thousands of visitors annually to its waterfront, underscoring the critical importance of water safety and swim survival skills for both residents and visitors, especially children;

Now therefore be it resolved that the Council of the Town of Wasaga Beach supports the resolution passed by the Council of the Corporation of the City of Dryden urging the Government of Ontario, through the Ministry of Education, to incorporate mandatory water safety and Swim-to-Survive training into the elementary school curriculum for all Ontario students; and



TOWN OF WASAGA BEACH

30 Lewis Street, Wasaga Beach
Ontario, Canada L9Z 1A1
Tel (705) 429-3844
mayor@wasagabeach.com

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to The Honourable Minister of Education of Ontario, local Members of Provincial Parliament, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), and all Ontario municipalities with a request for their endorsement.

Should you have any questions, please contact me at mayor@wasagabeach.com or (705) 429-3844 ext. 2225.

Sincerely,

Brian Smith
Mayor, Town of Wasaga Beach

/mps

cc: Local Members of Provincial Parliament
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
All Ontario Municipalities



The Corporation of the
City of North Bay
200 McIntyre St. East
P.O. Box 360
North Bay, Ontario
Canada P1B 8H8
Tel: 705 474-0400

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
Direct Line: (705) 474-0626, ext. 2522
Fax Line: (705) 495-4353
E-mail: veronique.hie@northbay.ca

August 13, 2025

Honourable Greg Rickford
Minister of Northern Development
Suite 400
160 Bloor Street
Toronto, ON M7A 2E6

Dear Hon. Greg Rickford:

This is Resolution No. 2025-279 which was passed by Council at its Regular Meeting held Tuesday, August 12, 2025.

Resolution No. 2025-279:

"Whereas the Northern Ontario Resource Development Support (NORDS) pilot program was introduced to help Northern Ontario municipalities address infrastructure pressures resulting from natural resource sector activities;

And Whereas the program has been well received and has allowed municipalities, such as the City of North Bay, to strategically accumulate multi-year allocations in order to support large-scale infrastructure initiatives critical to community development and economic growth;

And Whereas the City of North Bay recognizes the importance of modern, safe, and efficient infrastructure to support economic growth and industrial competitiveness;

AND WHEREAS the Seymour Street Widening project from Station Road to Wallace Road, including a signalized intersection, is a critical continuation of the intersection improvement at Hwy 11/17 and Seymour Street, directly supporting a high-value industrial zone;

And Whereas this arterial corridor enables key sectors such as mining, forestry, construction, and manufacturing to receive and ship goods efficiently, impacting markets provincially and beyond;

And Whereas the updated total Seymour Street Widening project budget of approx. \$11 million includes contributions from multiple funding programs such as NORDS (\$2 million) and OCIF (\$4,259,448).

Therefore Be It Resolved That the Council of the City of North Bay strongly urges the Government of Ontario to make the Northern Ontario Resource Development Support (NORDS) program a permanent fixture of its support to Northern municipalities;

And Further Be It Resolved That the Province consider expanding program eligibility to recognize the significant impact that agricultural equipment and operations have on municipal infrastructure, particularly in rural communities;

And Further Be It Resolved That the Council of the City of North Bay formally supports the principle of stacking (accumulating) funding from multiple grant and infrastructure programs to advance strategic capital works, such as the Seymour Street Widening project, and requests continued flexibility from higher levels of government to enable effective financial planning and timely delivery of large-scale municipal infrastructure initiatives;

And Further Be It Resolved That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Minister of Northern Development, the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness, the Minister of Infrastructure, the Minister of Natural Resources, Nipissing MPP Victor Fedeli, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM), the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA), Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) and all Northern Ontario municipalities for their awareness and support."

Yours truly,



Veronique Hie
Deputy City Clerk

VH/ck

cc: Minister of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness
Minister of Infrastructure
Minister of Natural Resources
Nipissing MPP, Victor Fedeli
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM)
Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA)
Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA)
Northern Ontario Municipalities



COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Resolution No.: 314-25

Date: Oct 14, 2025

Moved By: Ron Giardetti

Seconded By: Don Smith

BE IT RESOLVED that Council for the Municipality of Shuniah hereby supports the resolution passed by the City of North Bay, and the resolution passed by the Municipality of Assignack, regarding making the NORDS Pilot Program permanent and expanding program eligibility;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Minister of Northern Development; the Minister of Agriculture, Food, and Agribusiness, the Minister of Infrastructure; the Minister of Natural Resources; our Local Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP); the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO); the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM); the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA); the Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA), the Thunder Bay District Municipal League (TBDML), and all Ontario Municipalities.

☒ Carried

☐ Defeated

☐ Amended

☐ Deferred


Signature

Municipality of Shuniah, 420 Leslie Avenue, Thunder Bay, Ontario, P7A 1X8

October 16, 2025

Sent via email: resolutions@amo.on.ca

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

RE: Elect Respect Pledge

Please be advised that at its Regular meeting on October 1, 2025, Council of the Township of Springwater passed the following resolution:

C371-2025

Moved by: Councillor Moore

Seconded by: Councillor Thompson

Be it resolved that the correspondence from the Township of Southgate regarding the Elect Respect pledge; be received and supported as outlined below:

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 and municipal staff are dealing with increasingly hostile, unsafe work environments facing threats and harassment; and

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

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

municipal council tables; and

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

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

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

Now Therefore Be It Resolved That the Council of the Township of Springwater supports the Elect Respect pledge and commits to:

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

Be It Further Resolved That the Township of Springwater Council calls on elected officials, organizations and community members to support the Elect Respect campaign and sign the online pledge at www.electrespect.ca; and

Be It Further Resolved That a copy of this resolution be sent to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, MP Doug Shipley and MPP Hon. Doug Downey, the Ontario Provincial Police, and all Ontario Municipalities.

Carried

Yours Truly,



Jennifer Marshall, AMP
Clerk

cc: Federation of Canadian Municipalities,
MP Doug Shipley,
MPP Honourable Doug Downey,
Ontario Provincial Police
All Ontario Municipalities



**CORPORATION OF THE
TOWNSHIP OF CASEY**
903303 Hanbury Rd
New Liskeard ON P0J 1P0
Tel: 705-647-5439 Fax: 705-647-6373
Email: admin@casey.ca

October 9th, 2025

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 the Township of Casey, 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.



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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,

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Krystle Seymour
Clerk-Treasurer



THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CASEY RESOLUTION/MOTION

Moved By:	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jacques Fortin
<input type="checkbox"/>	Janet Little
<input type="checkbox"/>	Jessie Denommé
<input type="checkbox"/>	Bruno Trudel
<input type="checkbox"/>	Guy Labonté

Seconded By:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Jacques Fortin
<input type="checkbox"/>	Janet Little
<input type="checkbox"/>	Jessie Denommé
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Bruno Trudel
<input type="checkbox"/>	Guy Labonté

No: 2025-146
Date: 8-Oct-2025

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

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<input type="checkbox"/>	AMENDED
<input type="checkbox"/>	DEFEATED

Presiding Officer

Recorded Vote		
Council Member	For Motion	Against Motion
Jacques Fortin		
Janet Little		
Jessie Denommé		
Bruno Trudel		
Guy Labonté		



THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CASEY RESOLUTION/MOTION

Moved By:	
	Jacques Fortin
	Janet Little
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	Bruno Trudel
	Guy Labonté

Seconded By:	
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	Janet Little
	Jessie Denommé
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	Guy Labonté

No: 2025-146 (cont.)
Date: 8-Oct-2025

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 Casey 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

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	TABLED

	AMENDED
	DEFEATED

Presiding Officer

Recorded Vote		
Council Member	For Motion	Against Motion
Jacques Fortin		
Janet Little		
Jessie Denommé		
Bruno Trudel		
Guy Labonté		



THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CASEY RESOLUTION/MOTION

Moved By:

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	Janet Little
	Jessie Denommé
	Bruno Trudel
	Guy Labonté

Seconded By:

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No: 2025-

146 (cont.)

Date: 8-Oct-2025

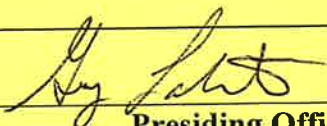
343/22 to a minimum of two years beyond the final release date of the Ontario Seal programs offered in the regulation for all affected certification categories;

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), MPP John Vanthof, and all municipalities in Ontario for support and endorsement.

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Presiding Officer

Recorded Vote		
Council Member	For Motion	Against Motion
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Jessie Denommé		
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Guy Labonté		



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October 9th, 2025

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

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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.



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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,

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Krystle Seymour
Clerk-Treasurer



THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CASEY RESOLUTION/MOTION

Moved By:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jacques Fortin
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Seconded By:

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No: 2025-146**Date: 8-Oct-2025**

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

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Presiding Officer

Recorded Vote		
Council Member	For Motion	Against Motion
Jacques Fortin		
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Seconded By:	
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No: 2025-146 (cont.)
Date: 8-Oct-2025

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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 Casey 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

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THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CASEY RESOLUTION/MOTION

Moved By:

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Seconded By:

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No: 2025-

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Date: 8-Oct-2025

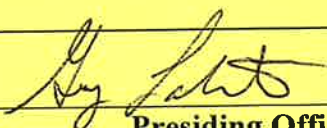
343/22 to a minimum of two years beyond the final release date of the Ontario Seal programs offered in the regulation for all affected certification categories;

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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), MPP John Vanthof, and all municipalities in Ontario for support and endorsement.

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Council Member	For Motion	Against Motion
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October 9th, 2025

To:

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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

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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,

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Krystle Seymour
Clerk-Treasurer



THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CASEY RESOLUTION/MOTION

Moved By:	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jacques Fortin
<input type="checkbox"/>	Janet Little
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Seconded By:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Jacques Fortin
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Presiding Officer

Recorded Vote		
Council Member	For Motion	Against Motion
Jacques Fortin		
Janet Little		
Jessie Denommé		
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Guy Labonté		



THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CASEY RESOLUTION/MOTION

Moved By:	
	Jacques Fortin
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Seconded By:	
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No: 2025-146 (cont.)
Date: 8-Oct-2025

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	AMENDED
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Presiding Officer

Recorded Vote		
Council Member	For Motion	Against Motion
Jacques Fortin		
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THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CASEY RESOLUTION/MOTION

Moved By:

	Jacques Fortin
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Seconded By:

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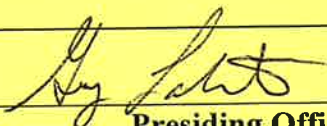
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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CARRIED
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Recorded Vote		
Council Member	For Motion	Against Motion
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On behalf of the Township of Casey, we are 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.



**CORPORATION OF THE
TOWNSHIP OF CASEY**
903303 Hanbury Rd
New Liskeard ON P0J 1P0
Tel: 705-647-5439 Fax: 705-647-6373
Email: admin@casey.ca

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 "Krystle Seymour", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Krystle Seymour
Clerk-Treasurer



THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CASEY RESOLUTION/MOTION

Moved By:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jacques Fortin
<input type="checkbox"/>	Janet Little
<input type="checkbox"/>	Jessie Denommé
<input type="checkbox"/>	Bruno Trudel
<input type="checkbox"/>	Guy Labonté

Seconded By:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Jacques Fortin
<input type="checkbox"/>	Janet Little
<input type="checkbox"/>	Jessie Denommé
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Bruno Trudel
<input type="checkbox"/>	Guy Labonté

No: 2025-146**Date: 8-Oct-2025**

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

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<input type="checkbox"/>	TABLED

<input type="checkbox"/>	AMENDED
<input type="checkbox"/>	DEFEATED

Presiding Officer

Recorded Vote		
Council Member	For Motion	Against Motion
Jacques Fortin		
Janet Little		
Jessie Denommé		
Bruno Trudel		
Guy Labonté		



THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CASEY RESOLUTION/MOTION

Moved By:	
	Jacques Fortin
	Janet Little
	Jessie Denommé
	Bruno Trudel
	Guy Labonté

Seconded By:	
	Jacques Fortin
	Janet Little
	Jessie Denommé
	Bruno Trudel
	Guy Labonté

No: 2025-146 (cont.)
Date: 8-Oct-2025

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 Casey 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

	CARRIED
	TABLED

	AMENDED
	DEFEATED

Presiding Officer

Recorded Vote		
Council Member	For Motion	Against Motion
Jacques Fortin		
Janet Little		
Jessie Denommé		
Bruno Trudel		
Guy Labonté		



THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CASEY RESOLUTION/MOTION

Moved By:

	Jacques Fortin
	Janet Little
	Jessie Denommé
	Bruno Trudel
	Guy Labonté

Seconded By:

	Jacques Fortin
	Janet Little
	Jessie Denommé
	Bruno Trudel
	Guy Labonté

No: 2025-

146 (cont.)

Date: 8-Oct-2025

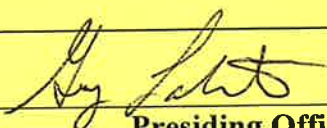
343/22 to a minimum of two years beyond the final release date of the Ontario Seal programs offered in the regulation for all affected certification categories;

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), MPP John Vanthof, and all municipalities in Ontario for support and endorsement.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CARRIED
<input type="checkbox"/>	TABLED

<input type="checkbox"/>	AMENDED
<input type="checkbox"/>	DEFEATED


Presiding Officer

Recorded Vote		
Council Member	For Motion	Against Motion
Jacques Fortin		
Janet Little		
Jessie Denommé		
Bruno Trudel		
Guy Labonté		