



COUNCIL INFORMATION PACKAGE

Friday, February 13, 2026

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Advocating for long-term care in our community

Earlier this week, Niagara Health System announced changes related to the long-term care home at the Welland Hospital site. This news is understandably concerning for residents and families who depend on this home, as well as for the dedicated staff whose livelihoods are tied to the care they provide.

I want to reassure residents that the City of Welland is already taking steps to be part of what comes next. I have reached out directly to the Minister of Long-Term Care to discuss the situation and to begin important conversations about the path forward.

While it is still too early to know what upcoming discussions will look like, our goal is clear. The City will work collaboratively with the Ministry of Long-Term Care, Niagara Health System (NHS), and others involved to identify viable, long-term solutions that best serve our community. A key priority for us is retaining and increasing long-term care beds in Welland, so residents can continue to access care close to home.

We also recognize that there may be opportunities ahead, and we are preparing to explore them thoughtfully. This includes working with NHS and the Niagara Region to consider approaches that could support the development and operation of a new long-term care home. Our strong preference is for long-term care to continue at the existing Welland Hospital site, where care has long been an integral part of our community.

I also want to acknowledge the staff affected by this decision. Behind every announcement are people and families, and the City will work closely with our partners to support efforts that help affected workers through this period of uncertainty.

As more information becomes available, I remain committed to keeping residents informed.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Welland City Council

FROM: Lina DeChellis, Director of Economic Development & Strategic Initiatives

DATE: February 12, 2026

SUBJECT: Physician Recruitment Incentive – Dr. Ali Ali

I'm pleased to inform Council that Dr. Ali Ali has chosen Welland for his family practice and is practicing at King Street Medical Centre located at 244 King Street. Dr. Ali is currently accepting new patients. If you know of anyone looking for a family physician, they can become a patient by calling 289-820-5668 or registering online at www.kingstreetmedical.ca.

City staff have been working closely with the Region's Physician Recruitment Specialist and have been successful in attracting 19 new family physicians since the approval of the Physician Recruitment Incentive in June 2023.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the Public

FROM: Sarah Conidi, Manager of Legislative Services/Deputy Clerk

DATE: February 13, 2026

SUBJECT: Release of Confidential Report by Council Direction (February 10, 2026)

This memorandum is to advise the public that at its meeting of February 10, 2026, Welland City Council directed staff to release the previously confidential report entitled "South Niagara Hospital Contribution", together with Appendix I.

In accordance with Council's direction, the report and appendix are being included in the February 13, 2026, Council Information Package for public release.

Attachments:

1. South Niagara Hospital Contribution (Report)
2. Appendix I

CONFIDENTIAL

COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE

IN-CAMERA

FINANCE

**REPORT FIN-2026-01
February 10, 2026**

SUBJECT: South Niagara Hospital Contribution

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

**APPROVER: Stephanie Nagel, BBA, CGA, CPA, MPA
General Manager of Corporate and Enterprise
Services/CFO**

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Council receive the information in FIN-2026-01 South Niagara Hospital Contribution for information.

RELATIONSHIP TO STRATEGIC PLAN

This recommendation is aligned with Council's strategic priority of ensuring "**Health and Wellbeing**" to promote personal health and well-being by offering an abundance of activities that meet the diverse needs and interests all while, advocating for improved health care throughout the city, and supporting the need for safety and security.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This report provides Council with legal advice to support their decision-making process to enter into a contribution agreement to support the South Niagara Hospital.

BACKGROUND:

A report seeking Council's approval to formalize the City of Welland's local share contribution to the South Niagara Hospital, FIN-2026-02, is being considered at the open Council meeting of February 10th, 2026. To ensure Council has all the

information required to support their decision-making process, staff are providing additional information in closed session.

DISCUSSION:

Staff worked with legal counsel to provide an opinion with respect to the City's authority to enter into the funding agreement with Niagara Health System ("NHS") that will establish a multi-year funding framework for the City's financial commitment of its local share obligation. Given that such large-scale projects are not typically funded in a single year by a one-time significant levy or a draw on available reserves, municipalities accommodate the funding long-term via debenture issuance.

Appendix I provides Council with the legal advice that addresses the following questions:

1. Can the City contribute its local share of the funding for South Niagara Hospital and impose a levy to recover its expenditures?
2. Can the current Council bind the City's future Councils to a multi-year payment?
3. Do future Councils retain annual budget approval authority?
4. Can a "hospital levy" be included in the tax bill as a separate item?
5. Is the contractual arrangement consistent with common practice for large capital projects?

In summary, the legal advice is that the City has the authority to contribute its local share of the eligible costs to pay for the hospital project under the *Municipal Act, 2001*. The City is empowered to enter into a long-term funding agreement that will be subject to annual budget approval in future years. The funding for the proposed local share contribution is in keeping with standard or common practice for large capital projects, which require multi-year build-outs, annual budget approvals, and appropriate funding sources. Finally, the recovery of the local share contribution can be included as a separately identified item on the City's tax bills.



FINANCIAL:

There are no immediate financial implications to this report. All financial implications are discussed in the associated open session report FIN-2026-02.

ATTACHMENTS:

Appendix I Legal Opinion – Multi-Year Funding Agreement & Dedicated Hospital Levy



PRIVILEGED AND CONFIDENTIAL

February 2, 2026

Our File No.: 336204

Tara Stephens
Director of Legislative Services / City Clerk
The Corporation of the City of Welland
60 East Main Street
Welland, ON
L3B 3X4

Dear Ms. Stephens:

Re: Multi-Year Funding Agreement, South Niagara Hospital

We have been asked to provide a legal opinion on the matter of the City of Welland's authority to enter into a multi-year funding agreement to provide financial assistance towards the cost of the development and completion of a new hospital.

Background

We understand that the Province of Ontario has confirmed its support for renovations to the existing Welland Hospital and the provision of a planning grant for the new South Niagara Hospital ("SNH") as part of Niagara Health System's proposed three-hospital system in the region.

Niagara Health System ("NHS") has advised that the City's local share obligation for the South Niagara Hospital is \$17.8 million dollars.

NHS has provided a draft contribution agreement for the City to execute to secure its proposed financial contribution towards the eligible costs to pay for the hospital project with the full amount due by substantial completion of the project, which is expected on or about February 23, 2028.

We have been advised that Council will consider the draft funding agreement at an in-camera meeting.

NHS proposes to raise the additional funds for the new hospital from funding provided by the Ontario Ministry of Health, other municipalities, fundraising activities, and other sources.

We have been requested to provide an opinion with respect to the City's authority to enter into the funding agreement with NHS that will establish a multi-year funding framework for the City financial commitment of its local share obligation. Given that such large-scale projects are not typically funded in a single year by a one-time significant levy or a draw on available reserves, municipalities accommodate the funding long-term via debentures. We have been advised that the City proposes to include the contribution of the local share expenditure as a separate targeted levy on the City's tax bills.

Issues

We have been asked to address the following issues:

- (a) Can the City contribute its local share of the funding for SNH and impose a levy to recover its expenditures?
- (b) Can the current Council can bind the City's future Councils to a multi-year payments?
- (c) Do future Councils retain annual budget approval authority?
- (d) Can a "hospital levy" be included in the tax bill as a separate item?
- (e) Is the contractual arrangement consistent with common practice for large capital projects?

Analysis

(a) Authority to Contribute Local Share & Recover Through Levy

The City is entitled to enact by-laws respecting a wide variety of matters, including for the health, safety and well-being of persons under para. 11(2) 6 of the *Municipal Act, 2001*:

By-laws

11 (2) A lower-tier municipality and an upper-tier municipality may pass by-laws, subject to the rules set out in subsection (4), respecting the following matters:

...

6. Health, safety and well-being of persons.¹

Moreover, a municipality has broad by-law-making authority to enable it "to govern its affairs as it considers appropriate and to enhance the municipality's ability to respond to municipal issues" pursuant to subsection 8(1) of the *Municipal Act, 2001*.²

In our view, the City has a broad statutory authority to provide funding for the SNH within the *Municipal Act, 2001*. As part of its authority, it can enter into a funding agreement to facilitate the funding allocation for the development and construction of the SNH and then recover such expenditure by imposing municipal taxes equal to its contributions.

(b) Committing Future Councils

We understand that Council may have a concern that a multi-year plan to fund SNH may not be authorized as it would serve to bind future councils of the City beyond this term.

It is not illegal for Council to enter into a statutorily-authorized contract whereby there is an arrangement or commitment that funds may be expended in future years.

¹ [Municipal Act, 2001](#), S.O. 2001, c. 25.

² *Windsor Housing Providers Inc. v. Windsor (City)*, [2025 ONCA 78](#) at para. 9.

Provided that a council does not fetter a future council's legislative powers, there is nothing that precludes a council from entering into a contract with another party whereby financial commitments are made into the future.

The notion that a current council could not bind a future council was dispelled over 100 years ago in *Lawrason v. Dundas (Town)*:

That a municipal council of one year is not bound by the contract of the same council in a previous year is a proposition which has no merit but that of novelty. A corporation is as fully bound by a contract which it has power to make as an individual: *Halsbury's Laws of England*, vol. 8, p. 379; and the corporation in 1919, though the council was differently composed, was the identical corporation which contracted with the plaintiff.³

The same principle was reiterated more recently in *Holt v. Thunder Bay (City)*:

The leading case on this issue is *Pacific National Investments Ltd. v. Victoria (City)* (2000), 193 D.L.R. (4th) 385 (S.C.C.) where Lebel J. speaking for the majority at para. 51 held that while a municipality has no power to restrict or divest successor councils of legislative powers, the municipality does have "an implied power to bind successor councils by a contract in the exercise of ordinary proprietary or business powers". At para. 55 he made the same point accepting what is said in I.M. Rogers, *The Law of Canadian Municipal Corporations*, 2nd ed. Looseleaf (Toronto: Carswell, 1971), that the restriction on a municipality "does not mean that a council acting in its proprietary or business capacity cannot make contracts". In entering into the lease with the appellant the municipality was not divesting itself of any of its legislative powers. Rather, it was simply exercising ordinary proprietary or business powers.⁴

In our view, the proposed funding agreement with SNH would appear to be something within the exercise of the City's ordinary proprietary or business powers.

(c) Annual Budget Approval

Notwithstanding that Council may approve the contribution and enter into the funding agreement with SNH, the City still must include the expenditure in its annual budget. Accordingly, future councils will still retain the authority to make decisions with respect to the funding strategy via the municipal budget process.

The City's budget is now within the authority of the Mayor to propose pursuant to strong mayor powers in section 284.16 of the *Municipal Act, 2001* but Council retains the authority to make amendments to the proposed budget⁵ and to override the Mayor's veto of any budget amendments.⁶

³ *Lawrason v. Dundas (Town)*, [1920] O.J. No. 365 (Ont. H.C.) at para. 13.

⁴ *Holt v. Thunder Bay (City)* (2003), 38 M.P.L.R. (3d) 200 (Ont. C.A.) at para. 29, citing *Pacific National Investments Ltd. v. Victoria (City)*, [2000] 2 S.C.R. 919, 15 M.P.L.R. (3d) 1 at para. 51

⁵ *Municipal Act, 2001*, s. 284.16(3).

⁶ *Municipal Act, 2001*, s. 284.16(5).

(d) Hospital Levy as Separate Item on Tax Bill

The long-term financing for the City's local share obligation for SNH will be included as part of the "general local municipality levy" under section 312 of the *Municipal Act, 2001*.⁷ Subsection 312(2) provides as follows:

General local municipality levies

312(4) For purposes of raising the general local municipality levy, a local municipality shall, each year, pass a by-law levying a separate tax rate, as specified in the by-law, on the assessment in each property class in the local municipality rateable for local municipality purposes.

As noted above, the City has a broad statutory authority to provide funding for the SNH under the *Municipal Act, 2001* and can include the expenditure in its general local municipality levy.

We also understand that the City would like to include the proposed hospital levy as a separate levy or charge on its tax bills. There is nothing in O. Reg. 75/01 which prevents the inclusion of separately listed levies that comprise the general local municipality levy on a tax bill.⁸ There are specific requirements for what must be included in specific areas of a municipality's tax bill but there is nothing to preclude additional information, such as specifically listed itemized levies that comprise the total general local municipality levy, from being included. We have viewed examples of tax bills from the Cities of St. Catharines and Vaughan that include separate line items for hospital levies.

(e) Common Practice re Large-Scale Capital Projects

While health care funding is a primarily a provincial responsibility, municipalities are often called upon to fund what is commonly termed a "local share" of the cost of new or improved health care facilities, such as hospitals. Municipal contributions typically come only from the tax base, specially raised levies, borrowing, fund-raising or other local revenue sources.⁹

In our experience, the proposed contractual funding arrangement appears to be generally consistent with the standard or common practice for large-scale capital projects which require multi-year project approvals, annual budget commitments, and a funding sources such as debentures with repayment occurring over a number of years, extending to several or multiple terms of council.¹⁰

⁷ *Municipal Act, 2001*, s. 312(1):

"general local municipality levy" means the amount the local municipality decided to raise in its budget for the year under section 290 on all the rateable property in the local municipality.

⁸ O. Reg. 75/01: *Tax Matters – Property Tax Bills*.

⁹ The *Development Charges Act, 1997*, S.O. 1997, c. 27, made hospitals ineligible for development charge funding, thus eliminating the ability of municipalities to recover growth-related hospital capital costs from new development or redevelopment.

¹⁰ As an example of the funding for the local share of a hospital, see City of Mississauga Corporate Report, [Peter Gilgan Mississauga Hospital Municipal Contribution](#), dated October 9, 2024.

Conclusions

For all of the reasons set out above, the City has the authority to contribute its local share of the eligible costs to pay for the hospital project under the *Municipal Act, 2001*. The City is empowered to enter into a long-term funding agreement with that will be subject to annual budget approval in future years. The funding for proposed local share contribution is in keeping with standard or common practice for large capital projects which require multi-year build-outs, annual budget approvals, and appropriate funding sources. Finally, the recovery of the local share contribution can be included as a separately identified item on the City's tax bills.

Yours truly,

AIRD & BERLIS LLP



John Mascarin

JM/km

67046324.3

February 11, 2026

Mayor Frank Campion and Members of Council
City of Welland
60 East Main Street
Welland, ON L3B 3X4

Re: Thank You for Your Historic Commitment to South Niagara Hospital

Dear Mayor Campion and Members of Council,

We would like to extend our sincere appreciation for your historic decision to support the \$17.8 million local share contribution toward the new South Niagara Hospital.

This significant investment reflects strong municipal leadership and a shared commitment to ensuring residents across Niagara have access to modern, high-quality hospital care. Your support sends a powerful message about what is possible when we work together with a common purpose.

We are also deeply grateful for Council's support in advocating to the Province for the planning grant for the Welland Hospital site, as well as the renovations to support the opening of the South Niagara Hospital. Together, these commitments represent a comprehensive and forward-looking approach to strengthening hospital services across the region — investing both in new infrastructure and in the continued evolution of existing sites to meet the needs of our growing community.

I would also like to acknowledge CAO Jessica Ruddell and city staff for their diligence, thoughtful questions, and thorough preparation leading up to this decision. The care taken to review the materials and ensure a well-informed process reflects the strength of your organization and your dedication to residents.

It is truly remarkable what we can accomplish together to ensure high-quality hospital care for the residents of Niagara - today and for generations to come. Thank you for your partnership, leadership, and unwavering support of healthcare in our community.

With sincere appreciation.



Lynn Guerriero
President and CEO
Niagara Health



Harpreet Bassi
Executive Vice President, Strategy, Research and Redevelopment
Niagara Health



Putting People First



Delivering Safe and Quality Care



Transforming How we Work

February 11, 2026

City Clerks
Niagara Region Local Area Municipalities

Sent via email

Re: City Discontinuing the Use of Platform X
Our File: 10.12.1.

To whom it may concern,

At its meeting of February 9, 2026, St. Catharines City Council approved the following motion:

WHEREAS the City of St. Catharines unanimously adopted a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) motion on April 17, 2023, committing to make decisions that foster safety, inclusion, and respect for all residents; and

WHEREAS the X platform (formerly Twitter) has been widely criticized for enabling the sexualization and harassment of women and girls, including through AI-generated content, and for failing to moderate harmful material; and

WHEREAS continuing to use X is not consistent with the City's DEI commitments and may send a conflicting message about the City's values; and

WHEREAS other cities, including Cambridge, Ontario (July 2023), Halifax (September 2023), and Paris, France (November 2023), have left the platform due to similar concerns and continue to communicate effectively with residents through alternative channels;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of St. Catharines discontinue use of its X (formerly Twitter) accounts for all non-emergency communications no later than March 31, 2026; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that staff transition affected communications to platforms and tools that better reflect the City's values and public engagement goals; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that staff develop a plan to also transition emergency communications to platforms and tools that better reflect the City's values and public engagement goals; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City deactivate any remaining X (formerly Twitter) account(s) upon implementation of that plan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City publicly communicate this decision and its rationale, reinforcing its commitment to DEI, online safety, and inclusive community engagement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this be sent to all local area municipalities.

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



Kristen Sullivan, City Clerk
Legal and Clerks Services, Office of the City Clerk
:av

cc: Local Area Municipalities

February 6, 2026

Via Email

Right Honourable Mark Carney
Prime Minister of Canada
Mark.carney@parl.gc.ca

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

Re: Remove the GST/HST from all New Homes Purchased as Primary Residences in Ontario

Please be advised that at its meeting held on February 2, 2026, the Council of the Town of Whitby adopted the following as Resolution # 17-26:

Whereas housing affordability is one of the most pressing issues facing Ontario families; and,

Whereas the current HST rate on new homes in Ontario is 13%, which adds tens of thousands of dollars to the cost of a typical home; and,

Whereas existing federal and provincial HST rebates on new homes purchased from the builder are limited by purchase-price thresholds, with most new homes in Ontario priced above the level required to qualify for meaningful relief, thereby limiting their effectiveness in improving overall housing affordability; and,

Whereas the federal and provincial governments have proposed new GST/HST rebates only for first-time homebuyers purchasing from the builder a newly built or substantially renovated home; and,

Whereas according to research conducted by the Ontario Homebuilders' Association, first-time home buyers currently represent approximately 5% of the new home market; and,

Whereas the Ontario Homebuilders' Association estimates that a full HST exemption would stimulate the construction of an additional 53,000 new homes,

on top of the roughly 80,000 homes already expected to be available for sale by 2026 — bringing the total to approximately 132,000 units.

Now Therefore be it resolved:

1. That the Council of the Town of Whitby calls on the Government of Canada and the Government of Ontario to remove the GST/HST from all newly built or substantially renovated homes purchased from the builder as primary residences in Ontario up to \$1.5 million; and,
2. That this resolution be circulated to the Prime Minister of Canada, Minister of Finance and the Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities, and to the Premier of Ontario, the Ontario Minister of Finance, the Ontario Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, our local MP and MPP, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, and to all municipalities in Ontario.

Should you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact the Office of the Town Clerk at 905.430.4300.



Kathyn Douglas
Supervisor, Legislative Services
clerk@whitby.ca

Copy: C. Harris, Director of Legislative Services/Town Clerk – clerk@whitby.ca

The Honourable François-Philippe Champagne, Minister of Finance and National Revenue – francois-philippe.champagne@parl.gc.ca

The Honourable Gregor Robertson, Minister of Housing and Infrastructure – gregor.robertson@parl.gc.ca

The Honourable Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance – minister.fin@ontario.ca

The Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing - minister.mah@ontario.ca

Ryan Turnbull, MP, Whitby – ryan.turnbull@parl.gc.ca

Lorne Coe, MPP, Whitby - lorne.coe@pc.ola.org

Robin Jones, President, Association of Municipalities of Ontario –

amopresident@amo.on.ca

All Ontario Municipalities

February 6, 2026

Please be advised that during the regular Council meeting of January 29, 2026 the following resolution regarding support for Bill 21, Protect Our Food Act, 2025 was carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-32

DATE: January 29, 2026

MOVED BY: Councillor Prinzen

SECONDED BY: Councillor MacNaughton

WHEREAS arable land is a critical finite resource; and

WHEREAS Ontario has lost 2.8 million acres of farmland in the last three decades; and

WHEREAS Ontario loses as much as 319 acres of farmland a day; and

WHEREAS Ontario's farmland provides food, fiber and fuel to all of Ontario and beyond;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the County of Prince Edward support Bill 21, Protect Our Food Act, 2025 and strongly urges the provincial government to support this and every measure to protect our farmland, to aggressively prevent further losses and to ensure the future of agriculture in Ontario for future generations; and

THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to the Premier of Ontario; the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness, the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks; Guelph MPP Mike Schreiner, Haldimand-Norfolk MPP Bobbi Ann Brady, Bay of Quinte MPP Tyler Allsopp, the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, and all Municipalities in Ontario.

CARRIED

Yours truly,



Catalina Blumenberg, **CLERK**

cc: Mayor Steve Ferguson, Councillor Prinzen, Councillor Branderhorst



52 Seguin Street, Parry Sound, Ontario P2A 1B4
Tel: (705) 746-2101 • Fax: (705) 746-7461 • www.parrysound.ca

Office of the Mayor

February 9, 2026

The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario

The Honourable Prabmeet Sarkaria
Minister of Transportation Province of Ontario

Re: Municipal Support for School Bus Safety and Stop-Arm Camera Systems

Dear Premier Ford and Minister Sarkaria,

On behalf of the Town of Parry Sound, I am writing to express our strong support for enhanced school bus safety measures across Ontario, including the implementation of school bus stop-arm camera systems and other child-safety technologies.

Illegal passing of stopped school buses remains a serious and widespread issue throughout the province, occurring an estimated 30,000 times per day. These violations place children at unacceptable risk and continue to result in preventable injuries and fatalities. Municipalities require effective, modern enforcement tools to address this dangerous behaviour.

The Town of Parry Sound supports provincial investment in and expansion of school bus stop-arm camera systems under Part XIV.3 (School Bus Camera Systems) of the *Highway Traffic Act*. These systems have demonstrated success in deterring illegal passing, improving driver compliance, and strengthening accountability. Provincial funding and implementation support would help ensure municipalities of all sizes can deploy this technology equitably.

We also support the Let's Remember Adam – Stop for the School Bus campaign, launched in memory of Adam Ranger, a five-year-old child who tragically lost his life when a driver failed to stop for a school bus displaying its flashing lights and stop arm. This tragedy highlights the urgent need for continued public education, enforcement, and the use of technology to better protect children travelling to and from school.

...2

We respectfully call on the Province of Ontario to provide municipalities with the necessary funding tools, legislative support, and implementation guidance to advance school bus stop-arm camera systems and complementary child-safety initiatives across Ontario.

Protecting children on our roads is a shared responsibility. Through strong provincial leadership and municipal partnership, meaningful progress can be made to prevent further tragedies and enhance road safety for families across Ontario.

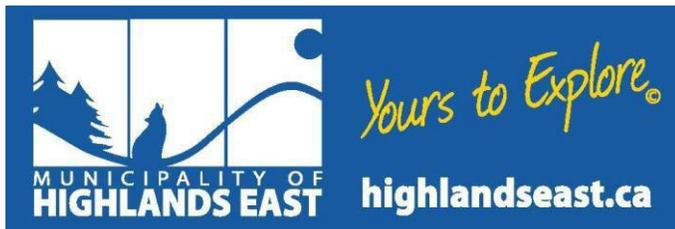
Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jamie McGarvey', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Jamie McGarvey
Mayor

cc: The Honourable Steve Clark, Government House Leader
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
Ontario Municipalities



Robyn Rogers, Municipal Clerk
Municipality of Highlands East
P.O. Box 295, 2249 Loop Road
Wilberforce, Ontario, Canada
K0L 3C0
705-448-2981 Ext.422

February 11, 2026

Via Email:

Prime Minister Mark Carney
Minister of Finance and National Revenue Francois-Philippe Champagne
Minister of Housing, Infrastructure Gregor Robertson
Premier of Ontario Doug Ford
Ontario Minister of Finance Peter Bethlenfalvy
Ontario Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing Rob Flack
Member of Parliament Jamie Schmale
Member of Provincial Parliament Laurie Scott
Associations of Ontario Municipalities
All Ontario Municipalities
Haliburton County Home Builders Association

Re: Resolution – Affordable Housing

The Council for the Municipality of Highlands East at their Regular Meeting of Council on February 10, 2026, approved the following resolution:

Resolution # 2026-63

That Council for the Municipality of Highlands East receive and supports the Haliburton County Home Builders Association motion pertaining to affordable housing and;

Further That Council put forward the following;

Whereas housing affordability is one of the most pressing issues facing Ontario families; Whereas the current HST rate on new homes in Ontario is 13%, which adds tens of thousands of dollars to the cost of a typical home;

Whereas the federal and provincial governments have announced GST relief only for first-time homebuyers on new-built homes; and

Whereas according to research conducted by the Ontario Homebuilders' Association, first-time home

Twitter: https://twitter.com/highlands_east #MyHighlandsEast

Like us on Facebook: <http://facebook.com/highlandseast>

Instagram: [highlandseast](https://www.instagram.com/highlandseast)



Robyn Rogers, Municipal Clerk
Municipality of Highlands East
P.O. Box 295, 2249 Loop Road
Wilberforce, Ontario, Canada
K0L 3C0
705-448-2981 Ext.422

buyers currently represent approximately 5% of the new home market; and

Whereas a full PST exemption would stimulate the construction of an additional 53,000 new homes, on top of the roughly 80,000 homes already expected to be available for sale by 2026 — bringing the total to approximately 132,000 units.

Therefore, Be It Resolved That the Council of the Municipality of Highlands East calls on the Government of Canada and the Government of Ontario to remove the GST/HST from all new homes purchased as primary residences in Ontario; and

Be It Further Resolved That this resolution be circulated to the Prime Minister of Canada, Minister of Finance, and the Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities; And to the Premier of Ontario, the Ontario Minister of Finance, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, our local MP and MPP, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, and to all municipalities in Ontario

Carried

If there is anything further that you require, please contact the undersign.

Sincerely,

Robyn Rogers

Twitter: https://twitter.com/highlands_east #MyHighlandsEast

Like us on Facebook: <http://facebook.com/highlandseast>

Instagram: [highlandseast](https://www.instagram.com/highlandseast)

Excerpt from the minutes of the Regular meeting held on February 9, 2026

Request for support - City of Welland, ref.: Call to Action for Justice and Protection of Canada's Children

R-20-26

Moved by Yves Paquette

Seconded by Julie Séguin

Be it resolved to support the City of Welland's call to action to all levels of government to review and strengthen legislation and policies related to violent and sexual offences against children, for justice and protection of Canada's children.

Carried.

Extrait du procès-verbal de la réunion ordinaire du 9 février 2026

Demande d'appui - Ville de Welland, réf. : Appel à l'action pour la justice et la protection des enfants au Canada

R-20-26

Proposé par Yves Paquette

Appuyé par Julie Séguin

Qu'il soit résolu de soutenir l'appel à l'action de la Ville de Welland auprès de tous les niveaux de gouvernement afin de réviser et de renforcer la législation et les politiques relatives aux actes de violence et aux agressions sexuelles contre les enfants, pour la justice et la protection des enfants au Canada.

Adoptée

COPIE CERTIFIÉE CONFORME / CERTIFIED TRUE COPY

Ce 10^e jour de février 2026
This 10th day of February 2026

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF NIPIGON

52 Front Street
 Nipigon, ON P0T 2J0
 Phone: 807-887-3275 Info@nipigon.net



COUNCIL RESOLUTION

AGENDA ITEM

5 d)

Date: February 10, 2026

Resolution 2026 – 21	
MOVED BY:	SECONDED BY:
<input type="checkbox"/> Anne Marie Cartwright <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Greg Harper <input type="checkbox"/> Glenn Hart <input type="checkbox"/> Suzanne Kukko <input type="checkbox"/> Gayle Westhaver	<input type="checkbox"/> Anne Marie Cartwright <input type="checkbox"/> Greg Harper <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Glenn Hart <input type="checkbox"/> Suzanne Kukko <input type="checkbox"/> Gayle Westhaver

WHEREAS the Conservation Authorities Act (1946) enables municipalities to establish local conservation authorities, and when municipalities choose to form such authorities, they assume responsibility for governance and funding through the appointment of a Board of Directors and the provision of an annual levy to cover expenses;

AND WHEREAS the municipalities within Lakehead Region established the Neebing Valley Conservation Authority in 1954 which enlarged to the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority (LRCA) in 1963;

AND WHEREAS local municipalities currently provide approximately 50% of total conservation authority funding, while the Province of Ontario provides approximately 5%;

AND WHEREAS municipalities have governed their respective conservation authorities for decades, tailoring programs and services to local watershed needs, maintaining accountable service standards, and ensuring fair and predictable costs for ratepayers;

AND WHEREAS conservation authorities collectively own and manage thousands of hectares of land, much of which was donated by local residents and entrusted to conservation authorities as a personal legacy for long-term protection, stewardship, and the public good, with the expectation that such lands would be cared for by locally governed conservation authorities;

AND WHEREAS Bill 68 (Schedule 3) proposes the creation of the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency, a Crown corporation that would assume governance responsibilities and consolidate Ontario’s 36 conservation authorities into seven regional authorities, with municipal cost apportionment yet to be defined;

AND WHEREAS the Province already possesses the authority to establish overarching legislation, regulations, and standards through the Conservation Authorities Act and the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the **Township of Nipigon** calls on the Government of Ontario to maintain local, independent, municipally governed, watershed-based conservation authorities to ensure strong local representation in decisions related to municipal levies, community-focused service delivery, and the protection and management of conservation lands;

AND THAT while the **Township of Nipigon** supports provincial goals for consistent permit approval processes, shared services, and digital modernization, imposing a new top-down agency structure

without strong local accountability and governance risks creating unnecessary cost, red tape, and bureaucracy, thereby undermining efficiency and responsiveness to local community needs;
AND THAT the Township of Nipigon supports efforts to balance expertise, capacity, and program delivery across the province, and requests that the Province work collaboratively with municipalities and local conservation authorities to determine the most effective level of strategic consolidation to achieve both provincial and local objectives;

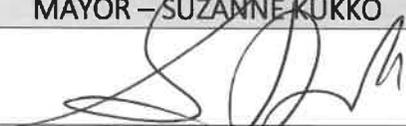
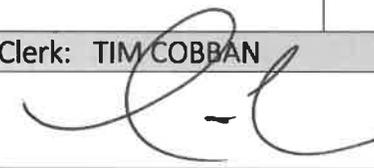
AND THAT the Township of Nipigon is opposed to the proposed “Huron-Superior Regional Conservation Authority” boundary configuration outlined in Environmental Registry Notice 025-1257;

AND THAT the Township of Nipigon recommends that the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority form the “Northwestern Ontario Regional Conservation Authority”;

AND THAT the Ministry engage directly with affected municipalities of the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority, before finalizing any consolidation boundaries or legislative amendments;

AND THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Environmental Registry of Ontario consultations and to:

- the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks and his Opposition critics;
- local Members of Provincial Parliament;
- local Members of Parliament;
- the Association of Municipalities of Ontario;
- Conservation Ontario;
- All local municipalities; and
- All Conservation Authorities in Ontario.

RESOLUTION RESULT	RECORDED VOTE		
	MAYOR AND COUNCIL	YES	NO
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CARRIED			
<input type="checkbox"/> DEFEATED	Anne Marie Cartwright	✓	
<input type="checkbox"/> DEFERRED*	Greg Harper	✓	
<input type="checkbox"/> REFERRED*	Glenn Hart	✓	
<input type="checkbox"/> PECUNIARY INTEREST DECLARED	Suzanne Kukko		
<input type="checkbox"/> RECORDED VOTE	Gayle Westhaver	✓	
<input type="checkbox"/> WITHDRAWN*			
MAYOR – SUZANNE KUKKO	Clerk: TIM COBBAN		
			



RESOLUTION NO. 2026- 20

FEBRUARY 11, 2026

Moved by: [Signature]

Seconded by: [Signature]

WHEREAS reliable, high-speed internet access is essential infrastructure that supports economic development, housing construction, healthcare, education, municipal operations, and overall community well-being;

AND WHEREAS the Province of Ontario has recognized the importance of digital infrastructure through the *Accelerating Access to Broadband for Ontario Act, 2021*, which seeks to expand broadband access to all Ontarians, particularly in underserved and rural communities;

AND WHEREAS access to affordable high-speed internet is a necessary precondition to achieving provincial and federal housing, economic development, and population growth targets;

AND WHEREAS Bell Canada currently offers dedicated fibre internet services at the following indicative rates under a five (5) year term within a regulated area: 100 Mbps / 100 Mbps \$1,010 per month, 500 Mbps / 500 Mbps \$3,090 per month and 1 Gbps / 1 Gbps \$3,250 per month.

AND WHEREAS such pricing structures place dedicated fibre services beyond the financial reach of many municipalities, small businesses, housing developments, non-profit organizations, and community facilities;

AND WHEREAS unaffordable broadband infrastructure costs undermine the intent of provincial and federal legislation aimed at universal access to high-speed internet, including federal programs administered by Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED) and regulatory oversight by the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC);

AND WHEREAS affordable, high-speed internet access is essential infrastructure and a foundational requirement for inclusive growth, housing delivery, and community resilience and municipalities are required to plan for growth, housing, and economic competitiveness, yet have no say in telecommunications pricing and market structures;

AND WHEREAS the Council of the Municipality of Magnetawan calls upon the CRTC to examine the affordability of dedicated fibre pricing and its impact on municipal infrastructure, housing development, and equitable internet access;

AND WHEREAS the Council of the Municipality of Magnetawan calls upon the Government of Ontario to work with telecommunications providers to ensure that broadband infrastructure costs do not impede the objectives of the *Accelerating Access to Broadband for Ontario Act, 2021* and the *Building Faster Homes and More Choice Act, 2022*;

AND WHEREAS the Council of the Municipality of Magnetawan calls upon Bell Canada to review and revise its dedicated fibre pricing models to ensure they are affordable, transparent, and scaled appropriately for municipalities, community institutions, and local development projects;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Municipality of Magnetawan calls upon the Government of Canada, including ISED, to strengthen affordability requirements tied to federal broadband funding and universal access programs;

AND FURTHER THAT this resolution be circulated to the Prime Minister of Canada Mark Carney, the Honourable Premier Doug Ford, the Honourable Melanie Joly, Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry, the Honourable Kinga Surma, Minister of Infrastructure, the Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Honourable Graydon Smith, MPP for Parry Sound–Muskoka, the Honourable Scott Aitchison, MP for Parry Sound–Muskoka, Bell Canada, the CRTC, FONOM, AMO, NOMA, and all Ontario municipalities through AMCTO.

Carried Defeated Deferred

[Signature]
Sam Dunnnett, Mayor

Recorded Vote Called by: _____

Recorded Vote

Member of Council	Yea	Nay	Absent
Bishop, Bill			
Hetherington, John			
Hind, Jon			
Kneller, Brad			
Mayor: Dunnnett, Sam			