



COUNCIL INFORMATION PACKAGE

Friday, February 20, 2026

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Welland City Council

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

DATE: February 19, 2026

SUBJECT: Clarification on Employment Lands

The purpose of this memo is to clarify the City's approach to employment lands, address recent misinformation and misunderstanding, and reinforce the importance of municipally owned employment lands in supporting economic development.

Since the 1970s, the City has maintained an inventory of municipally owned employment lands to support business growth and job creation. With the recent sale of the final lot in the River Road/Downs Drive Business Park, that supply has now been fully absorbed. This demonstrates the success of the City's approach while also highlighting the need to plan for future employment opportunities.

Municipal ownership of employment lands is a key economic development tool. It enables the City to align land use with Council's strategic priority of Economic Growth, supporting an investment-ready and welcoming city and responding quickly to investment opportunities as they arise. It also provides greater certainty with respect to timelines, pricing, and site readiness. These factors are critical for businesses making location decisions, particularly for projects that require shovel-ready land and clear development timelines.

While private sector partners play an important role in economic development, relying solely on privately owned employment lands presents challenges. These challenges may include misaligned development timelines, land speculation, fragmented ownership, and limited municipal influence over pricing and site readiness. As a result, these constraints can delay or limit Welland's ability to attract investment and remain competitive with other municipalities.

Our municipally owned business parks have a strong track record of job creation including:

- Southwell Business Park (Phases 1, 2 & 3): 550 jobs
- Enterprise Drive Business Park: 150 jobs
- Harry Diffin Business Park: 345 jobs
- River Road Business Park: 200 jobs (including new investment)

In June 2025, Council approved the purchase of 432 and 476 Ridge Road for the purpose of creating Welland's seventh business park, building on this success. Please refer to the October 31 [media release](#).

Maintaining a supply of City-owned, shovel-ready employment lands is essential to remaining competitive. Without available land, we risk missing opportunities for new investment and job creation due to timing or lack of availability. A continued pipeline of employment lands ensures that the City can respond proactively to opportunities, support business expansion, and create jobs for residents both now and in the future.

Municipally owned employment lands are a critical component of our economic development strategy. While private sector partnerships will continue to play an important role, maintaining City land enables a more proactive, coordinated, and

competitive approach. Continuing this approach will help ensure Welland is well positioned for long-term economic growth and job creation.

Economic Development Brief

February 13, 2026

Statistics and Trends

Labour Market Conditions

Seasonally adjusted labour market conditions in Niagara showed improvements across all indicators in January, with the exception of the unemployment rate. Niagara outperformed Ontario across most indicators with the exception of participation rate.

Month-over-month data from December 2025 to January 2026 show the following:

- Population: Niagara grew by 0.1% (400 people), while Ontario also grew by 0.02%.
- Labour force: Niagara increased by 0.8% (1,900 people), while Ontario decreased by 0.3%.
- Employment: Niagara increased by 0.5% (1,100 people), while Ontario decreased by 0.2%.
- Unemployment rate: Niagara increased by 0.2% to 7.3%, while Ontario decreased the by 0.1% to 7.5%.
- Participation rate: Niagara increased by 0.4% to 59.1%, while Ontario decreased by 0.2% to 64.9%.

Source: Statistics Canada, Table: 14-10-0459-01

Although Niagara's unemployment rate increased slightly, this reflected an increase in labour force participation that outpaced employment growth during the period. Employment levels did not decline; instead, new entrants to the labour force have not yet been absorbed.

Economic Development Updates

Welland's LIV Communities Arena entered in Kraft Hockeyville 2026

LIV Communities Arena has been entered into the Kraft Hockeyville 2026 competition, and the City is encouraging residents to share stories, photos, and memories to help show why Welland deserves the title of Canada's next Hockeyville. The national program celebrates the important role local arenas play in their communities, with the winning community receiving \$250,000 in arena upgrades and the chance to host an NHL pre-season game, along with additional prizes for finalists. If selected, Welland would use the funding to complete priority upgrades to make the arena safer, more accessible, and better equipped to serve the community's growing needs, with nominations open until March 1.

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.

Community grant program returns to fund initiatives that enrich Welland

The City of Welland invited artists, community groups, and not-for-profit organizations to apply for its 2026 Community Grants Program, with applications accepted from January 15 to February 16. The program funds projects in areas such as arts and culture, recreation, events, education, and social services to enhance livability, foster inclusivity, and strengthen community connections. Open to eligible non-profits, charitable organizations, and local service providers, the initiative supports the City's Livability priority by investing in diverse, creative projects that enrich Welland's vibrancy and well-being. For program details [CLICK HERE](#).

Town of Lincoln and City of St. Catharines win EDCO Award of Excellence

The Town of Lincoln, in partnership with the City of St. Catharines, has received the Economic Development Council of Ontario (EDCO) Award of Excellence in Visitor Attraction and Tourism Product Development – Urban category, recognizing the municipalities' innovative urban–rural tourism collaboration. The award highlights the success of their shared Destination Marketing Organization, which aligns urban and rural assets under a single regional tourism vision. The initiative continues to advance strategic planning and investment efforts, positioning the partnership as a leading and replicable model for municipal collaboration in Ontario.

Brock named among World's Top Universities by Time magazine

Brock University has been named one of the World's Top Universities by Time, ranking 472 overall and placing among the Top 15 in Ontario, Top 25 in Canada, and Top 500 globally. The inaugural rankings, conducted in partnership with Statista, evaluated more than 2,500 institutions based on academic performance, innovation and economic impact, and global engagement. The recognition highlights Brock's teaching, research excellence, and student experience, adding to its recent subject-level rankings in the Times Higher Education World University Rankings.

The St. Catharines–Lincoln Destination Partnership hold first AGM

The St. Catharines–Lincoln Destination Partnership (SCLDP) successfully hosted its first Annual General Meeting, marking an important milestone in advancing a coordinated regional approach to destination development, tourism growth, and economic impact. The AGM brought together municipal leaders and industry partners to review early accomplishments, approve governance foundations, elect the inaugural Board of Directors, and identify strategic priorities for 2026, formalizing shared leadership and accountability for the region's visitor economy.

Vineland Research and Innovation Centre launches new website and annual report

Vineland Research and Innovation Centre (VRIC) has launched a new website, designed to make it easier to connect with their research, innovation priorities, and partnership opportunities. To stay informed on the latest research outcomes, innovation initiatives, and upcoming events [CLICK HERE](#). VRIC also released the 2025-2026 Innovation Report. To view the report, [CLICK HERE](#).

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.

Town of Lincoln launches new podcast

The Town of Lincoln has launched The Lincoln Local, a new municipal podcast designed to improve community awareness while supporting local economic development. Funded through Niagara Region Economic Development, the podcast will feature twice-monthly episodes, including a dedicated focus on economic development topics such as local businesses, key industries, and initiatives shaping Lincoln's economy. The podcast creates a new platform to showcase Lincoln's business community, highlight investment and growth opportunities, and strengthen connections between residents, businesses, and the municipality. To listen to the podcast, [CLICK HERE](#).

Ministry of Tourism, Culture & Gaming issues RFI for new Niagara theme park

The Government of Ontario has launched a Request for Information to assess market interest and feasibility for a signature theme park in Niagara that could strengthen the local tourism ecosystem and drive economic growth. Home to Niagara Falls and attracting more than 13 million visitors annually, the region already supports a \$3 billion tourism industry, and a major new attraction could boost year-round visitation and create lasting family experiences. The RFI is seeking cross-industry input from developers, investors, and operators on preferred delivery and partnership models, infrastructure requirements, and key success factors for long-term viability, with submissions due by March 9.

New Leon's store to anchor multi-building retail and restaurant development in Welland

A major commercial development anchored by Leon's is set to reshape a Niagara Street property in Welland, featuring a new 4,090 m² showroom and 370 m² warehouse along with five additional buildings offering up to 14 retail units. Located across from Seaway Mall, the project will include at least four restaurants and potentially up to six, with several tenants already confirmed but not yet announced. The development replaces the former Leon's location and reflects the company's historic roots in Welland, where founder Ablan Leon first opened his store in 1909.

Three-year Welland Canal investment includes winter repairs to locks and bridges

Winter maintenance is underway on two Welland Canal locks and three bridges, causing temporary closures, as part of a \$180 million investment in the Welland Canal region by the St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation to maintain and upgrade locks, bridges, and energy systems for safety and reliability. Key projects include structural repairs and closures at the Clarence Street and Carlton Street Bridges, installation of hands-free mooring units at Lock 8, new floor anchors at Lock 1, and upgrades at several other bridges and pedestrian structures, with work expected to be completed before the 2026 navigation season. Rankin Construction Inc. is handling much of the work, deploying over 100 skilled workers in multiple shifts to ensure projects are finished safely and on schedule despite winter challenges and delayed ship traffic due to ice conditions.

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.

Innovate Niagara and Intellectual Property Ontario sign MOU

Innovate Niagara and Intellectual Property Ontario (IPON) are pleased to announce the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding to support innovators and growing companies across the region. This collaboration brings together IPON's expertise in intellectual property with Innovate Niagara's entrepreneur support services to help founders understand, protect, and strategically leverage intellectual property as they scale. Together, they are expanding access to education, resources, and practical guidance that support long-term business growth while bringing new opportunities to Niagara's innovation ecosystem.

Niagara Falls receives \$2.8 million for exceeding provincial housing target

Niagara Falls led the region in 2024 by achieving 116 percent of its provincial housing target, constructing 774 new units and surpassing its goal of 667, while Welland reached 114 percent and St. Catharines achieved 85 percent. New development in Niagara Falls included a mix of single and semi-detached homes, townhouses, apartments, additional dwelling units, long-term care beds, and retirement suites, reflecting a broad range of housing options. As a result of exceeding its target, the city received \$2.8 million through the Building Faster Fund, on top of \$1.7 million from 2023, to support infrastructure and projects that advance affordable and attainable housing.

Niagara-on-the-Lake recognized as inaugural recipient of Rural Partnership Award

MPP Oosterhoof recognized the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake with the inaugural Rural Partnership Award at the 2026 Rural Ontario Municipal Association Annual Conference for its innovative municipal asset-sharing agreement with Minto. Using the GruShare platform to share underutilized equipment, both municipalities improved services, reduced costs, and generated savings for residents. Officials highlighted the collaboration as a model of rural innovation and efficiency, demonstrating how communities can work together to enhance service delivery and strengthen local prosperity.

Ontario supporting new primary care teaching clinic in Niagara

The Ontario government is investing up to \$8 million to plan sixteen new and expanded primary care teaching clinics, including one in Niagara, as part of its \$2.1 billion Primary Care Action Plan to connect 300,000 more people to primary care by 2029. These clinics, in partnership with Ontario's medical schools, will train family medicine residents and other health professionals in team-based care while providing hands-on patient services, with initial openings targeted for 2027-28.

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.

February 16, 2026

Re: Item for Discussion – Elect Respect

At its meeting of February 11, 2026, the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Bracebridge ratified motion #26-GC-009, regarding Elect Respect, as follows:

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

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

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

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

AND WHEREAS better decisions are made when democracy is respectful and constructive and the voices of diverse genders, identities, ethnicities, races, sexual orientation, ages and abilities are heard and represented around municipal council tables;

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

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

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

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

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Town of Bracebridge 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 FURTHER THAT Bracebridge 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 FURTHER THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario (AMCTO) the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, the Muskoka Parry Sound MP and MPP, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Ontario Provincial Police (Bracebridge Detachment), the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and all Ontario municipalities.”

In accordance with Council's direction, I am forwarding you a copy of the resolution for your reference.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can provide any additional clarification in this regard.

Yours truly,



Lori McDonald
Director of Corporate Services/Clerk



The Corporation of the Municipality of Wawa

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

RESOLUTION

Tuesday, February 17th, 2026

Resolution # RC26027	Meeting Order: 5
Moved by: <i>M Hatfield</i>	Seconded by: <i>S. W. Opato</i>

WHEREAS LifeLabs has announced its intention to close its Greater Sudbury laboratory, and the transfer of medical specimen processing from Northern Ontario to laboratories in southern Ontario; and

WHEREAS the Greater Sudbury laboratory provides essential diagnostic services to communities across Northern Ontario, including urban, rural, and remote municipalities, and plays a critical role in ensuring timely and reliable medical testing for Northern residents; and

WHEREAS patients with chronic illness, newborns, long-term care residents, and individuals on time-sensitive medications depend on predictable laboratory turnaround times to support clinical decision-making; and

WHEREAS transporting medical specimens long distances to southern Ontario increases the risk of delays, specimen degradation, and retesting, particularly during frequent winter highway closures—potentially jeopardizing patient outcomes; and

WHEREAS Northern Ontario is already experiencing shortages of health-care professionals, and the closure of this laboratory further undermines regional workforce stability, training capacity, and recruitment and retention efforts;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Corporation of the Municipality of Wawa call on the Province of Ontario and the Ministry of Health to take immediate action to ensure that essential medical laboratory services remain accessible within Northern Ontario, including maintaining local laboratory processing capacity in Greater Sudbury; and

Page 2...



The Corporation of the Municipality of Wawa

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

RESOLUTION

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Province be urged to ensure reliable, timely, and medically appropriate laboratory turnaround times for Northern Ontario patients, recognizing the unique geographic and climatic challenges of the region; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Province be requested to protect and support the Northern Ontario health-care workforce, including medical laboratory technologists, by preventing further service centralization that disproportionately impacts Northern communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Minister of Health, local Members of Provincial Parliament, FONOM, AMO, and ROMA.

RESOLUTION RESULT		RECORDED VOTE	
<input type="checkbox"/>	CARRIED	MAYOR AND COUNCIL	YES NO
<input type="checkbox"/>	DEFEATED	Mitch Hatfield	
<input type="checkbox"/>	TABLED	Cathy Cannon	
<input type="checkbox"/>	RECORDED VOTE (SEE RIGHT)	Melanie Pilon	
<input type="checkbox"/>	PECUNIARY INTEREST DECLARED	Jim Hoffmann	
<input type="checkbox"/>	WITHDRAWN	Joseph Opato	

Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and the general nature thereof.

Disclosed the pecuniary interest and general name thereof and abstained from the discussion, vote and influence.

Clerk: _____

MAYOR – MELANIE PILON	DEPUTY CLERK – HEATHER RAINVILLE

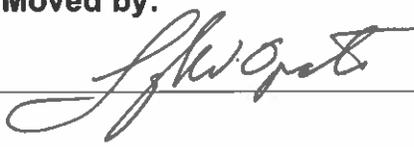
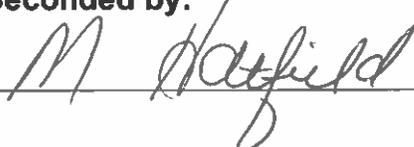


The Corporation of the Municipality of Wawa

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

RESOLUTION

Tuesday, February 17th, 2026

Resolution # RC26028	Meeting Order: 6
Moved by: 	Seconded by: 

WHEREAS illegal passing of stopped school buses remains a serious and widespread issue throughout the Province of Ontario, occurring an estimated 30,000 times per day; and

WHEREAS these violations place children at unacceptable risk and continue to result in preventable injuries and fatalities; and

WHEREAS municipalities require effective, modern enforcement tools to address this dangerous and unlawful behaviour; and

WHEREAS Part XIV.3 (School Bus Camera Systems) of the *Highway Traffic Act* authorizes the use of school bus stop-arm camera systems as an enforcement mechanism; and

WHEREAS such systems have demonstrated success in deterring illegal passing, improving driver compliance, and strengthening accountability; and

WHEREAS provincial funding and implementation support would help ensure municipalities of all sizes are able to equitably deploy this technology; and

WHEREAS 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, underscores the urgent need for continued public education, enforcement, and technological solutions to better protect children travelling to and from school;

Page 2...



The Corporation of the Municipality of Wawa

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

RESOLUTION

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of The Corporation of the Municipality of Wawa hereby expresses its support for increased provincial investment in and expansion of school bus stop-arm camera systems under Part XIV.3 of the Highway Traffic Act; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Council respectfully calls upon 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; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT protecting children on Ontario's roads is a shared responsibility, and that through strong provincial leadership and municipal partnership, meaningful progress can be made to prevent further tragedies and enhance road safety for families across the province; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Transportation, the Minister of Education, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM), and all Ontario municipalities for their information and consideration.

RESOLUTION RESULT		RECORDED VOTE		
<input type="checkbox"/>	CARRIED	MAYOR AND COUNCIL	YES	NO
<input type="checkbox"/>	DEFEATED	Mitch Hatfield		
<input type="checkbox"/>	TABLED	Cathy Cannon		
<input type="checkbox"/>	RECORDED VOTE (SEE RIGHT)	Melanie Pilon		
<input type="checkbox"/>	PECUNIARY INTEREST DECLARED	Jim Hoffmann		
<input type="checkbox"/>	WITHDRAWN	Joseph Opato		

Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and the general nature thereof.

Disclosed the pecuniary interest and general name thereof and abstained from the discussion, vote and influence.

Clerk: _____

MAYOR – MELANIE PILON	DEPUTY CLERK – HEATHER RAINVILLE



Hon. Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
823 Albion Road
Etobicoke, ON
M9V 1A3
VIA EMAIL:
premier@ontario.ca

Hon. Peter Bethlenfalvy,
Minister of Finance
VIA EMAIL:
peter.bethlenfalvy@pc.ola.org

Township of Puslinch
7404 Wellington Road 34
Puslinch, ON N0B 2J0
www.puslinch.ca

February 18, 2026

Hon. Victor Fedeli,
Ministry of Economic
Development, Job Creation
and Trade
VIA EMAIL:
vic.fedeli@pc.ola.org

Hon. Graydon Smith
MPP for Parry Sound –
Muskoka, Associate Minister
of Municipal Affairs and
Housing
VIA EMAIL:
graydon.smith@pc.ola.org

RE: 6.12 Municipality of Magnetawan Council Resolution regarding Invest Ready Certified Site Designation

Please be advised that Township of Puslinch Council, at its meeting held on January 21, 2026 considered the aforementioned topic and subsequent to discussion, the following was resolved:

Resolution No. 2026-004:

Moved by Councillor Sepulis and
Seconded by Councillor Bailey

That the Consent Agenda item 6.12 regarding Municipality of Magnetawan Council Resolution regarding Invest Ready Certified Site Designation be received for information; and,

That Council directs staff to send a draft a support resolution accordingly.

CARRIED



As per the above resolution, please accept a copy of this correspondence for your information and consideration.

Sincerely,

Justine Brotherston
Municipal Clerk

CC: Honourable Scott Aitchison, MP for Parry-Sound Muskoka; FONOM; AMO; NOMA; and all Ontario Municipalities



RESOLUTION NO. 2025- 333

DECEMBER 10, 2025

Moved by:



Seconded by:



WHEREAS staff submitted an application for Invest Ready–Certified Site Designation, which was denied due to the absence of water, wastewater, and natural gas infrastructure;

AND WHEREAS staff subsequently met with representatives of the associated grant funding program, who advised that additional funding opportunities for rural communities would be forthcoming;

AND WHEREAS the Site Readiness Program for Industrial Properties has since been launched, with eligibility requirements stipulating that any missing infrastructure must be in place and serviceable within two years of acceptance into the grant funding program;

AND WHEREAS it is not financially feasible nor in the best interest of our ratepayers to install full municipal water, wastewater, and natural gas services, as the associated capital and operating costs would impose an undue financial burden on the Municipality’s ratepayers;

AND WHEREAS alternative servicing solutions commonly used in rural and northern Ontario—such as properly designed and maintained septic systems for wastewater, drilled wells for drinking water, and propane or hydro for heat—are proven, reliable, and effective forms of infrastructure that can safely and efficiently support industrial and commercial development;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Municipality of Magnetawan urges the Province of Ontario to revise its grant funding criteria to recognize and accept these alternative servicing methods as eligible infrastructure, and to ensure that rural and northern municipalities lacking municipal gas, water, and wastewater systems are not excluded from support;

AND FURTHER THAT this resolution be circulated to Premier Doug Ford; the Honourable Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance; the Honourable Victor Fedeli, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade; the Honourable Graydon Smith, MPP for Parry Sound–Muskoka; the Honourable Scott Aitchison, MP for Parry Sound–Muskoka; FONOM; AMO; NOMA; and all Ontario municipalities.

Carried Defeated Deferred

Sam Dunnett, Mayor

Recorded Vote Called by: _____

Recorded Vote

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



OFFICE OF THE CLERK

Phone: (807) 274-5323 | Fax: (807) 274-8479

Mailing Address: 320 Portage Avenue
Fort Frances, ON P9A 3P9

Email: town@fortfrances.ca

Website: www.FortFrances.ca

February 18, 2026

To Whom It May Concern;

This letter is to formally inform you that at the Regular Council Meeting of February 9, 2026, the following oral motion was carried by Mayor and Council:

Oral Motion:

THAT Council make a resolution of support for the "Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund" Edwardsburgh Cardinal resolution.

Mover: Wendy Brunetta

Seconder: John McTaggart

Result: CARRIED

Thank You / Merci / Miigwech,

Ally Lewis
Deputy Clerk



TOWNSHIP OF JOLY

P.O. Box 519 , Sundridge , Ontario , P0A 1Z0
Tel: 705-384-5428

February 10, 2026

RESOLUTION

Resolution # 2026-061

Agenda Item # 5.2 Support for steel and lumber sectors

Moved By : Bill Black

Seconded By : Tom Bryson

Council for the Corporation of the Township of Joly hereby Supports The Township of Nairn and Hyman Resolution #2025-14-247;

WHEREAS the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) has issued a media release dated November 26, 2025, welcoming the Government of Canada's new measures to support the steel and softwood lumber sectors in response to ongoing U.S. tariff pressures; and

WHEREAS the federal actions-including strengthened protections for domestic producers, expanded financial supports, and increased incentives to utilize Canadian steel and lumber in federal infrastructure and housing projects-represent important steps in stabilizing industries that are vital to Northern Ontario's economy; and

WHEREAS municipalities across the North continue to experience the economic impacts of industry closures, including the recent shutdown of Domtar a pulp and paper mill in the neighboring Town of Espanola, which has demonstrated the vulnerability of resource-dependent communities and the need for coordinated intergovernmental support; and

WHEREAS the Township of Joly recognizes the significant role of Interfor, our local soft-wood lumber mill, as a major employer and economic anchor in our region, and further recognizes that any threat to its continued operation would have devastating consequences for workers, families, and local businesses; and

WHEREAS the Province of Ontario has a shared responsibility to ensure the long-term sustainability of the forestry, lumber, and steel sectors, which are foundational to the economic wellbeing of Northern and rural communities;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council of the Township of Joly commends the Government of Canada for its leadership and for implementing substantial measures to support Canada's steel and softwood lumber industries during this period of trade volatility; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Council respectfully urges the Government of Ontario to introduce additional financial, regulatory, and policy-based supports to ensure that Ontario's steel, forestry, and lumber sectors remain competitive, resilient, and able to withstand ongoing international trade pressures; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Council specifically calls upon the Province of Ontario to work directly with industry stakeholders, including municipalities and major employers such as Interfor, to create programs and investments that will help protect jobs, maintain production capacity, and support long-term industry growth in Northern Ontario; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Prime Minister of Canada, the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry, the Minister of Northern Development, FONOM, MP, MPP all Ontario Municipalities.

Carried

Original Copy Signed _____

Mayor

Township of Joly



TOWNSHIP OF JOLY

P.O. Box 519 , Sundridge , Ontario , P0A 1Z0
Tel: 705-384-5428

February 10, 2026

RESOLUTION

Resolution # 2026-060

Agenda Item # 5.1 Nation Building Improvements to Highways 11/17

Moved By : Budd Brown

Seconded By : Bill Black

WHEREAS Canada's east-west trade and national mobility rely on the Trans-Canada Highway system, including Highways 17 and 11 across Northern and Eastern Ontario, which carry significant freight volumes but remain predominantly two-lane corridors;

AND WHEREAS four-laning the entirety of Highway 17 is the ultimate goal of the communities along the corridor;

AND WHEREAS the proven "2+1" highway design - alternating passing lanes with a continuous median barrier - delivers safety outcomes comparable to full twinning at substantially lower cost, land, and environmental impact, and can be scaled or converted to four lanes (2+2) as volumes grow;

AND WHEREAS the Government of Ontario has announced a 2+1 pilot between North Bay and Temagami and a further extension toward Cochrane, creating a near-term implementation pathway;

AND WHEREAS modernizing Highways 17 and 11 will improve safety, reduce closures, strengthen supply-chain reliability for mining, forestry, agriculture, tourism and manufacturing, and enhance national resilience and emergency response capacity;

AND WHEREAS a phased 2+1 build - prioritizing Highway 11 (North Bay --> Cochrane, then Cochrane --> Nipigon) and key sections of Highway 17 (western border of County of Renfrew--> Sudbury; Sault Ste. Marie--> Sudbury; Thunder Bay--> Kenora) - aligns with nation-building criteria, supports economic reconciliation with indigenous partners, and enables integrated EV charging and low-carbon construction practices;

AND WHEREAS analysis summarized by the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities, (FONOM) demonstrates high freight demand on these routes and strong safety / economic rationale for a 2+1 program;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the Council for the Corporation of the Township of Joly formally endorses the adoption and phased implementation of a 2+1 highway program on Highways 17 and 11 as a nation-building project;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Government of Canada be urged to designate this initiative as a project of national interest under the Building Canada Act and to partner with Ontario to co-fund and accelerate planning, design, procurement, and construction;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Government of Ontario be urged to expand the announced pilot to a corridor-wide program, sequencing works according to readiness, safety benefit and economic importance;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Government of Ontario prioritize these projects into the Ministry of Transportation's Major Projects Division;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT both governments ensure early, ongoing, and capacity supported engagement with affected Indigenous Nations, with opportunities for Indigenous training, contracting, and equity participation ;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the program incorporate corridor-wide safety features (barrier-separated 2+1 cross-sections, controlled passing frequency, wildlife considerations), resilience measures (closure mitigation, climate adaptation), and clean-growth elements (EV charging readiness, recycled aggregates, lower-carbon materials) ;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this Resolution be sent to the Prime Minister of Canada, the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Transport (Canada), the Minister of infrastructure (Canada), the Ontario Minister of Transportation, our local MP and MPP, Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM), Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA), Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA), Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus (EOWC) for support, and the County of Renfrew for information.

Carried

Original Copy Signed

Mayor

Township of Joly



**The Corporation of the
Township of Perry**

Box 70 1695 Emsdale Road Emsdale, Ontario P0A 1J0

Date: February 18, 2026

Resolution No.: 2026- 078

Moved By: Joe Lumley **Seconded By:** Paul Sowrey

Whereas public libraries play a vital role in ensuring equitable access to information, literacy, education, and culture for all residents;

And whereas interlibrary loan services are an essential component of public library operations, particularly for small and rural communities with limited local collections;

And whereas reduced postal rates for library materials have historically enabled libraries to share resources efficiently and affordably across Canada;

And whereas recent amendments to the Canada Post Corporation Act have removed the legislative requirement to provide reduced postal rates for library materials, creating uncertainty for the continued delivery of this essential service;

Now therefore be it resolved that the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Perry calls upon the Government of Canada to maintain and protect reduced-rate postal distribution for library materials through legislation;

And that Council requests that the Minister responsible for Canada Post ensure continued, affordable postal access for libraries and interlibrary loan services;



February 19, 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 Council of the Corporation of the County of Peterborough, 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 County of Peterborough 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.

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,



Bonnie Clark

Warden

County of Peterborough

cc:

The Honourable Steve Clark, Government House Leader

Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)

Ontario Municipalities



TOWNSHIP OF JOLY

P.O. Box 519 , Sundridge , Ontario , P0A 1Z0
Tel: 705-384-5428

February 10, 2026

RESOLUTION

Resolution # 2026-062

Agenda Item # 5.3 Support Opposition to consolidation of Conservation Authorities

Moved By : Tom Bryson

Seconded By : Chris Nicholson

Council for the Corporation of the Township of Joly hereby support the Town of Kingsville Resolution number 195-11172025.

Whereas the Conservation Authorities Act, 1990 (the "Act"), originally enacted in 1946, was established to allow municipalities to form conservation authorities that are equipped to develop and deliver local, watershed-based conservation, restoration and natural resource management programs on behalf of the province and municipalities;

And whereas there are thirty-six (36) conservation authorities in Ontario, each of which is distinct and reflects the unique environmental, geographic and community needs of its watershed;

And whereas on October 31, 2025, the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks announced the Government's intention to introduce legislation which would amend the Act to create the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency and consolidate Ontario's 36 conservation authorities into seven (7) regional conservation authorities.

NOW Therefore Be It Resolved Council for the Corporation of The Township of Joly:

- Wishes to formally state that it opposes the consolidation of Ontario's conservation authorities without knowing the full financial and operational impact to municipalities and the conservation authorities; and,
- Directs the Municipal Administrator to forward a copy of this resolution to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, the Honourable Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, Todd McCarthy, the Honourable Rob Flack, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Anthony Leardi, MPP, AMCTO, AMO and all Ontario Municipalities.

Carried

Original copy Signed
Mayor
Township of Joly