



COUNCIL INFORMATION PACKAGE

Friday, October 18, 2024

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PENDING MOTION REFERRAL/DEFERRAL SUMMARY AS OF OCTOBER 1, 2024					
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.	
19-28	CAO	July 9, 2019	Report regarding a partnership between all 4 Service Clubs to a General Committee meeting. (Kiwanis, Lions, Optimist and Rotary Clubs).	Status: In progress To Complete: CAOs office is awaiting a response from the community groups.	
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.	

CLERKS REF. NO.	DIVISION RESPONSIBLE FOR ITEM	DATE APPROVED BY COUNCIL	SUBJECT/ACTION	STATUS OF THE ITEM	COMMENTS/ COMPLETION INFORMATION
99-99	Community Services	September 3, 2019	Staff to start a public consultation process on the design of a new park area and that a report to include public replacement of the current park infrastructure and enhancements due to the loss of parkland come to General Committee by the end of 2019.	<u>Status:</u> In progress <u>To Complete:</u>	
17-19	Planning & Development Services	September 17, 2019	Staff to consult with public, agencies and other stakeholders regarding tree preservation.	<u>Status:</u> Staff in process of drafting the guidelines. <u>To Complete:</u>	
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.	<u>Status:</u> In progress <u>To Complete:</u> 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.	<u>Status:</u> In progress <u>To Complete:</u> 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.	<u>Status:</u> In progress <u>To Complete:</u> Ontario Land Tribunal matter at this time.	

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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.	
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:	

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23-122	Clerks Division	September 19, 2023	Refers back to staff Notice of Motion regarding the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Report recommendation #57.	<u>Status:</u> City Clerk is exploring training opportunities. <u>To Complete:</u>	
21-121	Engineering Division/Planning Division	November 21, 2023	Report to increase the funding for SWAP Program to soften costs to the homeowner.	<u>Status:</u> <u>To Complete:</u>	
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	Community 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>	
23-29	Clerk's Division	April 9, 2024	Staff to prepare a report for Council to consider a "Councillor Information Report".	<u>Status:</u> <u>To Complete:</u>	

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24-14	Clerk's Division	April 9, 2024	Staff to provide council with options on a reduced council size, with the sole objective to reduce the cost on to the taxpayer and to conduct a public engagement strategy for input from residents regarding a reduction of council size. September 3 rd – Report CLK-2024-11 – referred back to staff with direction to conduct public engagement regarding reducing the number of councillors with residents.	Status: In progress To Complete:	
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.	Status: To Complete:	
24-22	Planning & Development Services Traffic and By-laws Division	April 23, 2024	Refers back to staff notice of motion regarding lowering 50km per hour speed limits to 40km per hour speed limits to reduce accident impacts.	Status: To Complete:	
21-121	Infrastructure Services	May 7, 2024	Refers back to staff Report ENG-2024-13: Increasing Sewage Water Alleviation Program (SWAP) Grant Allocations.	Status: To Complete:	
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.	Status: To Complete:	
02-160	Clerk's Division	May 28, 2024	Staff to find a suitable provider to begin streaming Welland City Council Meetings on Facebook.	Status: To Complete:	

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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>	
05-51	Finances Division	July 30, 2024	Refers back to staff Report FIN-2024-18: Purchasing Policy Update.	<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>	
				-	
24-19	Planning & Development Services	September 17, 2024	Staff to prepare a policy in conjunction with the Green Advisory Committee, in accordance with the Municipal Act, Section 270(1)-7 The manner in which the municipality will protect and enhance the tree canopy and natural vegetation in the municipality for Council's review and approval and that this policy be incorporated into the Official Plan being revised for 2024.	<u>Status:</u> <u>To Complete:</u>	
				-	



Municipal Finance Officers
Association of Ontario
VIA EMAIL:
general@mfoa.on.ca

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

Township of Puslinch
7404 Wellington Road 34
Puslinch, ON N0B 2J0
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October 10, 2024

MP Ryan Williams
Bay of Quinte
VIA EMAIL:
ryan.williams@parl.gc.ca

Finance Minister Chrystia
Freeland
200-622 College Street
Toronto, Ontario
M6G 1B4
VIA EMAIL:
chrystia.freeland@parl.gc.ca

MP Michael Chong
Wellington-Halton Hills
VIA EMAIL:
michael.chong@parl.gc.ca

RE: City of Quinte West Council resolution regarding The Canada Community-Building Fund

Please be advised that Township of Puslinch Council, at its meeting held on September 3, 2024 considered the aforementioned topic and subsequent to discussion, the following was resolved:

Resolution No. 2024-271:

Moved by Councillor Sepulis and
Seconded by Councillor Goyda

That the Consent Agenda item 6.27 list on the September 3, 2024 agenda meeting be received for information; and

Whereas the Township of Puslinch Council supports the resolution from the City of Quinte West, that Council direct staff to send a support resolution accordingly and that MPP Michael Chong be copied on the correspondence.



CARRIED

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

Sincerely,

Justine Brotherston
Municipal Clerk

CC: All Ontario Municipalities

P.O. Box 490
7 Creswell Drive
Trenton, Ontario K8V 5R6
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A Natural Attraction

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Virginia LaTour, Deputy City Clerk

August 15, 2024

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2
Via Email - justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca

RE: Notice of Motion – Councillor Stedall – The Canada Community-Building Fund

Dear Prime Minister:

This letter will serve to advise that at a meeting of City of Quinte West Council held on August 14, 2024 Council passed the following resolution:

Motion No 24-366 – Notice of Motion - Councillor Stedall - The Canada Community-Building Fund

Moved by Councillor Stedall

Seconded by Councillor McCue

Whereas the City of Quinte West is entering into an agreement to receive Canada Community-Building Funds, which is administered by the Association of Ontario Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) on behalf of the Federal government;

And whereas the funding allocations are less than 2% year over year for the next 5 years;

And whereas the amounts allocated in the past 5 years were less than 2% year over year;

And whereas non-residential construction price inflation has risen by 29% since the end of 2020 and municipalities are facing soaring costs for infrastructure projects without a corresponding growth in revenue;

And whereas there is a requirement for municipalities to complete an asset management plan and a housing needs analysis;

And whereas both of these plans show the large funding gap between infrastructure and housing needs and funds available from property taxation;

And whereas The City of Quinte West has over \$1.5 billion in core infrastructure assets and, like other municipalities, its infrastructure is aging and in need of upgrades and replacement;

And whereas The City's Asset Management Plan requires \$37 million annually to maintain existing assets which, based on current available funding, is resulting in an annual infrastructure deficit of over \$17.1 million;

And whereas municipalities are facing a gap in federal infrastructure funding as the 10-year Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program has come to an end;

Now therefore be it resolved that the City of Quinte West calls on the Federal Government to provide a supplement to the allocations provided to municipalities under the AMO CBBF agreement for 2024 - 2028 for the same amount that was allocated, effectively doubling the allocation for those years;

And further that this resolution be forwarded to MFOA, AMO, MP Ryan Williams, and Federal Finance Minister Chrystia Freeland, and all Municipalities in Ontario.
Carried

We trust that you will give favourable consideration to this request.

Yours Truly,

CITY OF QUINTE WEST



Virginia LaTour,
Deputy City Clerk

cc: Donna Herridge, Executive Director, MFOA
Colin Best, President, AMO
Ryan Williams, MP, Bay of Quinte
Hon. Chrystia Freeland, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance
All Municipalities of Ontario



Association of
Municipalities of Ontario
VIA EMAIL:
amo@amo.on.ca

Ontario Medical Association
VIA EMAIL
info@oma.org

Township of Puslinch
7404 Wellington Road 34
Puslinch, ON N0B 2J0
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October 10, 2024

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

RE: AMO OMA Joint Health Resolution Campaign for the Province to recognize the physician shortage in Ontario

Please be advised that Township of Puslinch Council, at its meeting held on September 3, 2024 considered the aforementioned topic and subsequent to discussion, the following was resolved:

Resolution No. 2024-268:

Moved by Councillor Sepulis and
Seconded by Councillor Bailey

That the Consent Agenda item 6.9 list on the September 3, 2024 agenda meeting be received for information; and

Whereas Puslinch Council supports the correspondence provided by AMO and OMA, that staff be directed to prepare correspondence 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: All Ontario Municipalities

Justine Brotherston

From: Kimberly Moran and Colin Best <amopresident@amo.on.ca>
Sent: Tuesday, July 09, 2024 12:00 PM
To: Justine Brotherston
Subject: AMO/OMA Joint Health Resolution Campaign



Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)

155 University Ave., Suite 800
Toronto, Ontario M5H 3B7
Telephone: 416.971.9856
Toll-free in Ontario: 1.877.426.6527
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150 Bloor St. West, Suite 900
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TF: 1.800.268.7215
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F: 416.533.9309
E: info@oma.org
oma.org

Dear Heads of Council and Clerks,

Communities across Ontario have been facing critical healthcare challenges, including long waitlists for primary care, shortages of doctors and other healthcare workers; and emergency room closures. These cracks in Ontario's health care system are impacting economic development, health, and well-being at the local level.

In response, the Ontario Medical Association (OMA) and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) are working collaboratively to advocate for a better healthcare system for Ontario's residents and communities.

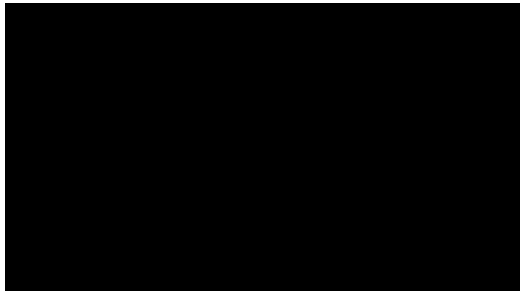
We have jointly developed the attached draft council resolution (Appendix A - Also in [PDF](#) and [Word](#) Versions), urging the provincial government to recognize the physician shortage in your municipality and the rest of Ontario. By adopting this resolution, your municipality can play a crucial role in highlighting the urgent need for more healthcare resources and support.

AMO is excited to welcome everyone to Ottawa for our annual conference from August 18-21, 2024. We are pleased to inform you that the OMA will be participating at this year's conference. Along with sponsoring the Rural Caucus Lunch on August 20, the OMA has reserved meeting room at the Fairmont Château Laurier for both August 20 and 21 to meet directly with municipal leaders. During these meetings, we would like to hear what you are seeing on the ground and discuss opportunities to work closer with you. We believe that collaboration between Ontario's doctors and all 444 municipalities is essential in addressing the healthcare needs of your community.

To set up a meeting with the OMA, please reach out to Tarun.Saroya@OMA.org (Senior Advisor for Government Relations and Advocacy) to book a 15-30 minute time slot at your earliest convenience.

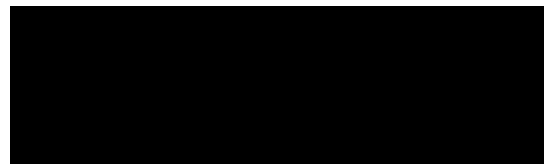
We look forward to your positive response and to working together towards a healthier future for all Ontarians.

Yours sincerely,



Kimberly Moran

CEO, Ontario Medical Association



Colin Best

AMO President

Appendix A:

WHEREAS the state of health care in Ontario is in crisis, with 2.3 million Ontarians lacking access to a family doctor, emergency room closures across the province, patients being de-rostered and 40% of family doctors considering retirement over the next five years; and

WHEREAS it has becoming increasingly challenging to attract and retain an adequate healthcare workforce throughout the health sector across Ontario; and

WHEREAS the Northern Ontario School of Medicine University says communities in northern Ontario are short more than 350 physicians, including more than 200 family doctors; and half of the physicians working in northern Ontario expected to retire in the next five years; and (Northern Ontario only)

WHEREAS Ontario municipal governments play an integral role in the health care system through responsibilities in public health, long-term care, and paramedicine.

WHEREAS the percentage of family physicians practicing comprehensive family medicine has declined from 77 in 2008 to 65 percent in 2022; and

WHEREAS per capita health-care spending in Ontario is the lowest of all provinces in Canada, and

WHEREAS a robust workforce developed through a provincial, sector-wide health human resources strategy would significantly improve access to health services across the province;

- NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of (the name of municipality) urge the Province of Ontario to recognize the physician shortage in (name of municipality) and Ontario, to fund health care appropriately and ensure every Ontarian has access to physician care.

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155 University Ave Suite 800 | Toronto, ON M5H 3B7 CA

This email was sent to jbrotherston@puslinch.ca.

To continue receiving our emails, add us to your address book.

October 10, 2024

Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
Via Email

Re: Provincial Updates to the Municipal Elections Act

Please be advised that Council of the Town of Halton Hills at its meeting of Monday, October 7, 2024, adopted Resolution No. 2024-0168 regarding Provincial Updates to the Municipal Elections Act.

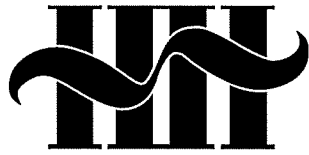
Attached for your information is a copy of Resolution No. 2024-0168.

Respectfully,



Melissa Lawr, AMP
Deputy Clerk – Legislation

cc. Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Minister of Education
Minister of Public and Business Service Delivery
Minister of Finance
Halton MPPs
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario (AMCTO)
All Ontario Municipalities



TOWN OF HALTON HILLS

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF HALTON HILLS

Resolution No.: 2024-0168

Title: Provincial Updates to the Municipal Elections Act

Date: October 7, 2024

Moved by: Councillor A. Hilson

Seconded by: Mayor A. Lawlor

Item No. 12.1

WHEREAS elections rules need to be clear, supporting candidates and voters in their electoral participation and election administrators in running elections;

AND WHEREAS legislation needs to strike the right balance between providing clear rules and frameworks to ensure the integrity of the electoral process;

AND WHEREAS the legislation must also reduce administrative and operational burden for municipal staff ensuring that local election administrators can run elections in a way that responds to the unique circumstances of their local communities;

AND WHEREAS the Municipal Elections Act, 1996 (MEA) will be 30 years old by the next municipal and school board elections in 2026;

AND WHEREAS the MEA sets out the rules for local elections, the Assessment Act, 1990 and the Education Act, 1990 also contain provisions impacting local elections adding more places for voters, candidates, and administrators to look for the rules that bind the local democratic process in Ontario;

AND WHEREAS with rules across three pieces of legislation, and the MEA containing a patchwork of clauses, there are interpretation challenges, inconsistencies and gaps to fill;

AND WHEREAS the Act can pose difficulties for voters, candidates, contributors and third-party advertisers to read, to interpret, to comply with and for election administrators to enforce;

AND WHEREAS while local elections are run as efficiently and effectively as can be within the current legislative framework, modernization and continuous improvement is needed to ensure the Act is responsive to today's needs and tomorrow's challenges;

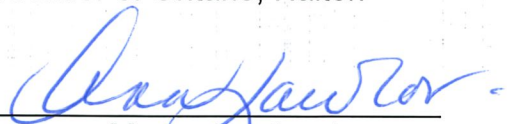
AND WHEREAS to keep public trust and improve safeguards the Act should be reviewed considering the ever-changing landscape which impacts elections administration including privacy, the threats of foreign interference, increased spread of mis-disinformation and the increased use of technologies like artificial intelligence and use of digital identities;

AND WHEREAS the Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario (AMCTO) reviewed the Act and has provided several recommendations including modernizing the legislation, harmonizing rules, and streamlining and simplifying administration;

AND WHEREAS AMCTO put forward recommendations for amendments ahead of the 2026 elections and longer-term recommendations for amendments ahead of the 2030 elections;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council for the Town of Halton Hills calls for the Province to update the MEA with priority amendments as outlined by AMCTO before Summer 2025 and commence work to review and re-write the MEA with longer-term recommendations ahead of the 2030 elections;

AND FURTHER THAT this resolution be forwarded to all municipalities in Ontario for support and that each endorsement be then forwarded to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Minister of Education, the Minister of Public Business Service Delivery, Ministry of Finance, the Premier of Ontario, Halton MPPs, AMO and AMCTO.



Mayor Ann Lawlor

Memo

To: Ruchi Parkash, Municipal Finance Policy Branch
From: Town of Grimsby
Date: **October 16, 2024**
Re: **Town of Grimsby Comments on Pay on Demand Surety Bond Regulation Proposal (ERO 019-9198)**

On September 16th, 2024, the Province released an Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO) posting seeking feedback on the development of the regulation to address the yet un-proclaimed section (S. 70.3.1) of the Planning Act respecting surety bonds. The ERO provided a 30-day comment period, with a deadline for comments on October 16, 2024.

At the October 3rd meeting of [Finance Committee](#) a Notice of Motion was put forward and approved for staff to prepare comments on the ERO regarding surety bonds, and the Notice was further approved at [Council](#) on October 7th. A copy of the motion has also been appended to this memo.

Accordingly, the Town of Grimsby respectfully provides the following comments and questions on the ERO for consideration:

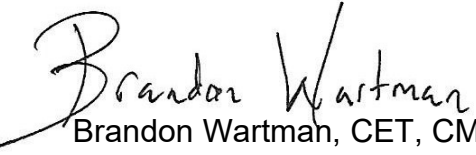
1. The ERO speaks to a wider acceptance of surety bonds as a targeted step to support the increase of housing. It also states: *The Minister may prescribe the instruments that landowners and other applicants can choose from as well as the circumstances in which the authority can be exercised.*
 - a) What are those circumstances being considered?
 - b) If the focus is only on housing, will commercial and industrial operations be excluded?
 - c) Similarly, will mixed-use facilities be excluded?
 - d) Will a municipality have the right to deny certain surety bonds should a developer or insurance company have a history of default?
2. The regulation requires credit ratings of insurers.
 - a) What happens if one of the insurers loses their credit rating during the time of the surety bond and is unable to pay?
 - b) While banks have more stringent regulations, will there be further risk management tools considered regarding insurance companies who offer pay on demand surety bonds?
 - c) Will there be language in the regulation to protect municipalities?

- d) Given that these bonds can be held for a significant period of time, how will the Province ensure those funds might be available for the long-term?
 - e) Is there a requirement that the insurance company hold funds for potential claims by a municipality, especially if a natural disaster or some other catastrophe happens?
 - f) What if a cancellation notice is received and no other insurance company can be found, and it defaults to the original who no longer has funds available?
3. The surety bonds agreements are between three parties, the insurance company, municipality, and developer.
- a) What if the developer meets financial challenges and defaults on their obligations with the municipality and insurance company?
 - b) How would the situation be resolved?
 - c) Does this have an impact to the surety bond and the municipality's ability to draw on it should works be incomplete?
 - d) What would happen if a developer sold their interest in the project mid-project?
 - e) Will there be standardized language in the agreements protecting municipalities should this occur?
 - f) Would the new developer be required to attain a new surety bond?
 - g) What if the developer or insurance company has defaulted in the past?
4. The proposal outlines that the municipality, in its sole discretion, can demand payment if the developer is in default.
- a) Will the Province be providing standardized language with respect to the agreements that assures municipalities that there are not lengthy or difficult processes to gain those funds?
 - b) Will there be a dispute mechanism provided should the agreement be unclear, alternative language is used, or the insurance company refuses to pay?
5. The government assumes that the cost to municipalities would be approximately \$1,400.
- a) Some municipalities do not have legal counsel internally for their operations, especially smaller municipalities.
 - b) The requirement to follow this will require ongoing legal support to not only build the materials from insurance companies and developers, but also when payment is required for a default, proving to the insurance company that a default has occurred, and if the insurance company tries to pull out of the arrangement.
 - c) Further, should legal recourse have to be sought for payment, that will also have a cost. This can lead to significant costs for smaller municipalities that have not been considered.



Thank you for considering these comments and questions. The Town looks forward to working with the Province to ensure that the risk to municipalities is limited with respect to surety bonds, while also achieving our shared housing goals.

Respectfully,


Brandon Wartman, CET, CMMII
Director of Public Works



Notice of Motion

INTRODUCTION DATE: Thursday October 3, 2024
SUBJECT: Pay-on-Demand Surety Bonds
REQUESTED BY: Councillor Davoli
SECONDED BY: Councillor Vardy

Whereas the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing has introduced a proposal which would create a new regulation under the Planning Act that would enable developers to use of pay-on-demand surety bonds to secure land-use planning obligations under Section 70.3.1 of the Planning Act.

Whereas municipalities need an effective method to ensure developers meet their financial obligations as established through their respective development agreements.

Whereas a Letter of Credit provides a guarantee directly from a certified financial institution (i.e. Bank, etc.) which allows the municipality to draw on the funds as needed;

Whereas pay-on-demand surety bonds used a third-party surety (insurance company) rather than a financial institution to provide these guarantees, financial institutions are subject to more stringent financial regulations, which introduces additional risk to the municipality and the tax payer;

Whereas the process to call on these funds is more complex, and may involve significant legal fees, and the proposed regulation does not adequately address downgrading of credit ratings of these insurance companies, renewals and defaults, related thereto.

Whereas it is estimated that the costs for developing, implementing, and maintaining these surety bonds could have significant financial impact to the municipality;

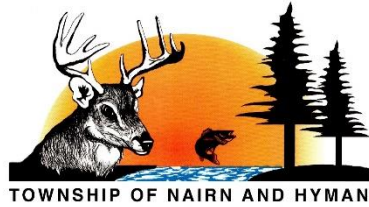
Whereas the proposal takes the decision for the type of guarantee being provided out of the municipalities hands, and into the developer's hands;

Whereas the proposal was published on the Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO #019-9198), on September 16, 2024, with a 30-day comment period ending October 16, 2024;

Therefore be it resolved that Council direct staff to prepare detailed comments on the impact of this proposed change and submit the comments to the ERO by October 16, 2024 together with this resolution.

Be it further resolved that the same be shared with Mr. Sam Oosterhoff, MPP and other municipalities within the Regional Municipality of Niagara.

I request, contingent on a 2/3 majority vote, that this Notice of Motion be given consideration at the October 3, 2024 Finance Committee Meeting.



October 11, 2024

Sent via email: premier@ontario.ca

The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Premier's Office, Room 281
Legislative Building, Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

RE: Opposition to the Transportation and Deposition of Naturally Occurring Radioactive Material (NORM) and Mine Tailings from the Former Beaucage Mine and Waste Site

On behalf of the Councils of the Corporation of the Township of Nairn and Hyman and the Corporation of the Township of Baldwin, we are formally submitting the attached joint resolution regarding our serious concerns over the proposed transportation and deposition of radioactive naturally occurring materials (NORM) to the Agnew Lake Tailings Management Area (ALTMA).

Our Councils recently convened a Joint Emergency Meeting on October 2, 2024, to discuss this matter in response to information presented at a Town Hall Meeting on September 11, 2024, by the Ministry of Mines, the Ministry of Transportation, and the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission. During our deliberations, it became evident that the materials slated for transport are not correctly categorized as NORM, but rather as mine tailings containing not only radioactive substances like niobium and uranium but also other hazardous heavy metals.

We are gravely concerned about the potential environmental and health impacts this project may have, particularly on Agnew Lake—a critical drinking water source for our communities. Our position is that ALTMA should be remediated using clean materials to mitigate existing contamination rather than accepting additional hazardous materials that could exacerbate environmental harm.

This joint resolution calls upon your government and relevant ministries to halt any further actions related to the transportation of this hazardous product to the ALTMA site. The resolution reads as follows:

RESOLUTION # 2024-EM2-12

DATED: October 2, 2024

MOVED BY: Vern Gorham

SECONDED BY: Jason Cote

WHEREAS the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Nairn and Hyman and the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Baldwin convened a Joint Emergency Meeting on Wednesday, October 2, 2024 to discuss the proposed plan to transport and deposit radioactive naturally occurring materials (NORM) at the Agnew Lake Tailings Management Area (ALTMA); and

WHEREAS the Councils reviewed information received from the Ministry of Mines, the Ministry of Transportation and the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission regarding this proposed plan at the Town Hall Meeting dated September 11, 2024; and

WHEREAS the Councils strongly agree that the materials that are planned to be deposited are not correctly defined as naturally occurring radioactive materials but rather mine tailings that contain not only the radioactive substance Niobium and uranium but also contain heavy metals that pose significant environmental and health risks; and

WHEREAS there are significant concerns regarding the potential contamination of drinking water sources, particularly Agnew Lake, which many residents rely on for safe drinking water; and

WHEREAS the Councils agree that the Agnew Lake Tailings Management Area (ALTMA) needs to be remediated using clean materials to mitigate the existing environmental impacts, rather than being used for the deposition of additional hazardous materials; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Nairn and Hyman and the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Baldwin formally oppose the transportation and deposition of these materials from the former Beaucage Mine and Waste Site, Nipissing First Nations lands and adjacent lands operated by the Ministry of Transportation to the Agnew Lake Tailings Management Area; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Nairn and Hyman and the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Baldwin respectfully demand that the Province of Ontario, the Ministry of Mines, the Ministry of Transportation, the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission provide answers to our questions and that the municipalities receive notification of all forward movements of this project; and

THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario; the Honourable George Pirie, the Minister of Mines; the Honourable Prabmeet Sarkaria, the Minister of Transportation; the Honourable Andrea Khanjin, the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks; Chief Toulouse and Sagamok Anishnawbek Council Members; Chief Nootchtai and Atikameksheng Anishnawbek Council Members; Chief Rodney Nahwegahbow and the Whitefish River First Nation Council Members; Chief Patsy Corbiere and the Aundeck Omni Kaning First Nation Council Members; the United Chiefs and Council of Mniidoo Mnising; Ontario Ombudsman; the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission; the Canadian Environmental Law Association; MP Carol Hughes; MPP Michael Mantha; the Association of Ontario Municipalities and all Ontario Municipalities.

CARRIED

We respectfully request your immediate attention to this matter and urge the Province of Ontario to prioritize the protection of our community's health, safety, and environmental integrity.

For more information regarding this matter, please contact our municipal office by email at belindaketchabaw@nairncentre.ca or by phone at (705) 869-4232.

Yours truly,



Belinda Ketchabaw
CAO Clerk Treasurer
Township of Nairn and Hyman

Cc:

Honourable George Pirie, the Minister of Mines
Honourable Prabmeet Sarkaria, the Minister of Transportation
Honourable Andrea Khanjin, the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
Chief Toulouse and the Sagamok Anishnawbek Council Members
Chief Nootchtai and the Atikameksheng Anishnawbek Council Members

Chief Rodney Nahwegahbow and the Whitefish River First Nation Council Members
Chief Patsy Corbiere and the Aundeck Omni Kaning First Nation Council Members
The United Chiefs and Council of Mniidoo Mnising
Ontario Ombudsman
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission
Canadian Environmental Law Association
MP Carol Hughes
MPP Michael Mantha
Association of Ontario Municipalities
All Ontario Municipalities



Justin Trudeau
justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca
(sent via e-mail)

October 10th, 2024

Re: Solve the Humanitarian Crisis

Please be advised that the Council of the Town of Plympton-Wyoming, at its Regular Council meeting on October 9th, 2024, passed the following motion supporting the resolution from the Municipality of Waterloo regarding solving the humanitarian crisis.

Motion #14

Moved by Councillor Kristen Rodrigues

Seconded by Councillor John van Klaveren

That Council support correspondence item 'g' from the Municipality of Waterloo regarding Solve the Humanitarian Crisis.

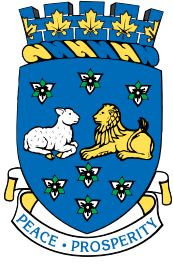
Carried.

If you have any questions regarding the above motion, please do not hesitate to contact me by phone or email.

Sincerely,

Ella Flynn
eflynn@plympton-wyoming.ca
Executive Assistant – Deputy Clerk
Town of Plympton-Wyoming

Cc: Hon. Sean Fraser, Minister of Housing, Infrastructure & Communities of Canada
sean.fraser@parl.gc.ca
Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario doug.fordco@pc.ola.org
Hon. Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health Sylvia.Jones@pc.ola.org
Hon. Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing Paul.Calandra@pc.ola.org
Hon. Michael Parsa, Minister of Children, Community & Social Services Michael.Parsaco@pc.ola.org
Hon. Michael Tibollo, Associate Minister of Mental Health & Addictions Michael.Tiboloco@pc.ola.org
Marilyn Gladu, Sarnia-Lambton MP marilyn.gladu@parl.gc.ca
Bob Bailey, Sarnia-Lambton MPP bob.baileyco@pc.ola.org
AMO resolutions@amo.on.ca



September 26, 2024

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada

Dear Prime Minister:

Re: Solve the Crisis

Please be advised that the Council of the Regional Municipality of Waterloo at their regular meeting held on September 25, 2024, approved the following motion:

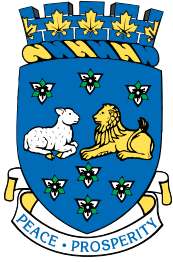
Whereas there is a humanitarian crisis in cities, large and small, urban and rural, across Ontario. We need immediate action at all levels of government, starting with the Province; and

Whereas the homelessness, mental health and addictions crisis continues to grow with 3432 drug related deaths in Ontario in 2023 as well as with an estimated 234,000 Ontarians experiencing homelessness and over 1400 homeless encampments across Ontario communities in 2023; and

Whereas the province has provided additional funding for mental health, addictions and homelessness programs, including the recently announced Homelessness and Addiction Recovery Treatment (HART) Hubs, it does not adequately address the growing crisis and the financial and social impact on municipalities and regions across the province; and

Whereas municipalities and regions are stepping up and working with community partners to put in place community-specific solutions to address this crisis, but municipalities and regions lack the expertise, capacity, or resources to address these increasingly complex health care and housing issues alone; and

Whereas this is primarily a health issue that falls under provincial jurisdiction and municipalities and regions should not be using the property tax base to fund these programs; and



Whereas there is no provincial Minister focused on this crisis leading to unanswered questions that span over a dozen ministries, and a lack of support to manage the increasing needs of those who are unhoused.

Now Therefore be it resolved that the Region of Waterloo supports the Solve the Crisis Campaign;

And calls on provincial and federal governments to commit to immediate action to solve the Humanitarian Crisis that Ontario is facing as the numbers of unhoused individuals and those suffering with mental health & addictions grows exponentially;

AND that the province officially makes Homelessness a Health Priority;

AND appoints a responsible Minister and Ministry with the appropriate funding and powers as a single point of contact to address the full spectrum of housing needs as well as mental health, addictions and wrap around supports;

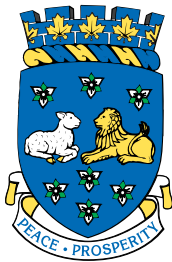
AND request that the provincial government strike a task force with broad sector representatives including municipalities, regions, healthcare, first responders, community services, the business community and the tourism industry to develop a *Made in Ontario Action Plan*;

AND that this provincial task force reviews current programs developed by municipalities, regions and community partners that have proven successful in our communities, to ensure that solutions can be implemented quickly and effectively to tackle this crisis.

AND provides the adequate, sufficient and sustainable funding to ensure that municipalities have the tools and resources to support individuals suffering with mental health and addictions, including unhoused people and those from vulnerable populations that may be disproportionately impacted;

And that this Council calls on the residents across the Region of Waterloo to join us in appealing to the provincial and federal governments for support by visiting SolveTheCrisis.ca and showing your support;

And further that a copy of this motion be sent to:



REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF WATERLOO

OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL CLERK

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

- **The Honourable Sean Fraser, Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities of Canada**
- **The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario**
- **The Honourable Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health**
- **The Honourable Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing**
- **The Honourable Michael Parsa, Minister of Children, Community and Social Services**
- **The Honourable Michael Tibollo, Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions**
- **Local and area MPs, MPPs and Heads of Council**
- **The Association of Municipalities of Ontario, Ontario's Big City Mayors and Mayors and Regional Chairs of Ontario**

Please accept this letter for information purposes only. If you have any questions please contact Regional Councillor Dorothy McCabe Dorothy.McCabe@waterloo.ca

Please forward any written responses to this letter to William Short, Director, Council & Administrative Services/Regional Clerk
regionalclerk@regionofwaterloo.ca

Yours sincerely,

William Short, Director Council and Administrative Services/Regional Clerk

cc: Region of Waterloo Councillor Dorothy McCabe Dorothy.McCabe@waterloo.ca

October 11, 2024

Minister of Transportation
Hon. Prabmeet Singh Sarkaria
Email: minister.mto@ontario.ca

MPP Oxford
Ernie Hardeman
Email: Ernie.Hardeman@pc.ola.org

SCOR EDC
Email: do@scorregion.com

Re: Continued Funding Support - Southwest Community Transit

Please be advised that the Town of Tillsonburg Council, at its meeting held on October 7, 2024 considered the aforementioned topic and subsequent to discussion, the following was resolved:

Resolution # 2024-474

Moved By: Councillor Luciani

Seconded By: Councillor Spencer

Whereas the County of Brant, Middlesex County, Municipality of Strathroy Caradoc, Norfolk County, Municipality of East Zorra Tavistock, Grey County, Perth County, City of Stratford, Municipality of Lambton Shores, and Wellington County have successfully utilized government funding to create and sustain local community transit through Southwest Community Transit; and

Whereas 85,000 riders have utilized the Southwest Community Transit services in the first half of 2024 alone, demonstrating significant community reliance on these services; and

Whereas the economic impact of this transit system is estimated to be \$748,800,000 annually, largely due to its role in providing transportation to employment opportunities; and

Whereas the current funding for this critical small urban and rural

inter-community transit service is set to expire in March 2025, putting the sustainability of the service at risk:

Therefore be it resolved that the Town of Tillsonburg council urges the provincial government to continue funding Southwest Community Transit beyond March 2025 to ensure the ongoing viability of this essential service for small urban and rural Ontario

Be it further resolved that this resolution be circulated to the County of Brant, Elgin County, Middlesex County, Norfolk County, Oxford County, Municipality of Strathroy Caradoc, Municipality of East Zorra Tavistock, Perth County, City of Stratford, Municipality of Lambton Shores, Wellington County, Bruce County, Municipality of Bayham, Municipality of Thames Centre and other relevant stakeholders for their support and advocacy.

Carried

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

Sincerely,



Laura Pickersgill
Executive Assistant
Town of Tillsonburg

Cc: All Ontario municipalities



October 8, 2024

Resolution No. 310/2024

**THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MCGARRY
P.O. BOX 99,
VIRGINIATOWN, ON. P0K 1X0**

MOVED BY Alaine Fier

SECONDED BY Francine Plante

WHEREAS elections rules need to be clear, supporting candidates and voters in their electoral participation and election administrators in running elections.

WHEREAS legislation needs to strike the right balance between providing clear rules and frameworks to ensure the integrity of the electoral process,

WHEREAS the legislation must also reduce administrative and operational burden for municipal staff ensuring that local election administrators can run elections in a way that responds to the unique circumstances of their local communities.

WHEREAS the Municipal Elections Act, 1996 (MEA) will be 30 years old by the next municipal and school board elections in 2026.

WHEREAS the MEA sets out the rules for local elections, the Assessment Act, 1990 and the Education Act, 1990 also contain provisions impacting local elections adding more places for voters, candidates, and administrators to look for the rules that bind the local democratic process in Ontario.

WHEREAS with rules across three pieces of legislation, and the MEA containing a patchwork of clauses, there are interpretation challenges, inconsistencies, and gaps to fill.

WHEREAS the Act can pose difficulties for voters, candidates, contributors and third-party advertisers to read, to interpret, to comply with and for election administrators to enforce.

WHEREAS while local elections are run as efficiently and effectively as can be within the current legislative framework, modernization and continuous improvement is needed to ensure the Act is responsive to today's needs and tomorrow's challenges.

WHEREAS to keep public trust and improve safeguards the Act should be reviewed considering the ever-changing landscape which impacts elections administration including privacy, the threats of foreign interference, increased spread of mis/disinformation and the increased use of technologies like artificial intelligence and use of digital identities.

WHEREAS the Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks, and Treasurers of Ontario (AMCTO) reviewed the Act and has provided several recommendations including modernizing the legislation, harmonizing rules and streamlining and simplifying administration.

AND WHEREAS AMCTO put forward recommendations for amendments ahead of the 2026 elections and longer-term recommendations for amendments ahead of the 2030 elections.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT The Township of McGarry calls for the Province to update the MEA with priority amendments as outlined by AMCTO before Summer 2025 and commence work to review and re-write the MEA with longer- term recommendations ahead of the 2030 elections.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution will be forwarded to all municipalities in Ontario for support and that each endorsement be then forwarded to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing (minister.mah@ontario.ca), the Minister of Education (minister.edu@ontario.ca) the Minister of Public and Business Service Delivery (todd.mccarthy@ontario.ca), Minister of Finance (Minister.fin@ontario.ca) the Premier of Ontario (premier@ontario.ca) , Sylvia Jones MPP (sylvia.jones@ontario.ca) and AMCTO (advocacy@amcto.com)

Defeated _____ / Carried Bonita Culhane
Mayor Mayor

Recorded Vote Requested by _____

YES

NO

Mayor Bonita Culhane
Councillor Louanne Caza
Councillor Elaine Fic
Councillor Annie Keft
Councillor Francine Plante

October 15, 2024

Re: Item for Discussion – AMCTO Recommendations for Updates to the Municipal Elections Act

At its meeting of October 9, 2024, the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Bracebridge ratified motion #24-GC-184, regarding the AMCTO Recommendations for Updates to the Municipal Elections Act, as follows:

“WHEREAS elections rules need to be clear, supporting candidates and voters in their electoral participation and election administrators in running elections;

AND WHEREAS legislation needs to strike the right balance between providing clear rules and frameworks to ensure the integrity of the electoral process;

AND WHEREAS the legislation must also reduce administrative and operational burden for municipal staff ensuring that local election administrators can run elections in a way that responds to the unique circumstances of their local communities;

AND WHEREAS the Municipal Elections Act, 1996 (MEA) will be 30 years old by the next municipal and school board elections in 2026;

AND WHEREAS the MEA sets out the rules for local elections, the Assessment Act, 1990 and the Education Act, 1990 also contain provisions impacting local elections adding more places for voters, candidates, and administrators to look for the rules that bind the local democratic process in Ontario;

AND WHEREAS with rules across three pieces of legislation, and the MEA containing a patchwork of clauses, there are interpretation challenges, inconsistencies, and gaps to fill;

AND WHEREAS the Act can pose difficulties for voters, candidates, contributors and third-party advertisers to read, to interpret, to comply with and for election administrators to enforce;

AND WHEREAS while local elections are run as efficiently and effectively as can be within the current legislative framework, modernization and continuous improvement is needed to ensure the Act is responsive to today’s needs and tomorrow’s challenges;

AND WHEREAS to keep public trust and improve safeguards the Act should be reviewed considering the ever-changing landscape which impacts elections administration including privacy, the threats of foreign interference, increased spread of mis/disinformation and the increased use of technologies like artificial intelligence and use of digital identities;

1000 Taylor Court
Bracebridge, ON
P1L 1R6 Canada

telephone: (705) 645-5264
corporate services and finance fax: (705) 645-1262
public works fax: (705) 645-7525
planning & development fax: (705) 645-4209

AND WHEREAS the Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks, and Treasurers of Ontario (AMCTO) reviewed the Act and has provided several recommendations including modernizing the legislation, harmonizing rules, and streamlining and simplifying administration;

AND WHEREAS AMCTO put forward recommendations for amendments ahead of the 2026 elections and longer-term recommendations for amendments ahead of the 2030 elections;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Town of Bracebridge calls for the Province to update the MEA with priority amendments as outlined by AMCTO before Summer 2025 and commence work to review and re-write the MEA with longer-term recommendations ahead of the 2030 elections.

AND FURTHER THAT that this resolution will be forwarded to all municipalities in Ontario for support and that each endorsement be then forwarded to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing; the Minister of Education; the Minister of Public and Business Service Delivery; Minister of Finance; the Premier of Ontario; the Local Member of Provincial Parliament; AMCTO; the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO); 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,

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

Lori McDonald
Director of Corporate Services/Clerk



SMITHS FALLS

RISE AT THE FALLS

October 15, 2024

sent via email

Minister Paul Calandra
Municipal Affairs and Housing
777 Bay Street
College Park 17th Floor,
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3
minister.mah@ontario.ca

Dear Minister Calandra:

I am writing to you as the Town Clerk at the Town of Smiths Falls and as the municipal officer responsible for the administration of the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996* in support of [AMCTO's recommendations](#) calling for the comprehensive changes to *MEA*.

AMCTO members, as municipal leaders, support the interests and well-being of 235,000 municipal employees across all municipalities in this Province.

Local election administrators care about running fair and accessible elections. We care about ensuring that candidates, voters, and third-party advertisers understand their responsibilities. We care that those that may knowingly break the rules are held to account. We care that the *MEA* and the accompanying *Education Act* and *Assessment Act* are complicated pieces of legislation on their own, and more so read together.

That is why AMCTO reviews the *Act* after every local election and why the Province should be making the necessary changes to make election administration easier and the *Act* clearer to follow for candidates and voters within the timelines AMCTO has set out.

Never has there been a more important moment to ensure the *Act* is working well, closes gaps and provides the right enforcement tools and mechanisms to safeguard our local electoral processes from threats of foreign interference, misinformation and bad actors. Local clerks need support and guidance on how to manage these threats and deal with potential events especially considering the federal government's recent legislation on foreign interference (Bill C-70).

AMCTO convened a group of municipal staff with experience and expertise in administering local elections to present you with several recommendations for making improvements to *MEA* and calling for an overhaul of the *Act* in the long-term.



SMITHS FALLS

RISE AT THE FALLS

I support AMCTO's recommendations and call on you to update the *MEA* with priority and secondary recommendations by mid 2025 ahead of the 2026 election so that I can make the necessary adjustments for planning and implementation well ahead of statutory timelines imposed upon me to administer an election.

There is a provincial interest in ensuring the health of local democracy and the time to act is now – proactively instead of reactively. Election administrators face several uncertainties as we look ahead to 2026. We observe that in other jurisdictions with elections there is an increasing use of artificial intelligence (AI) and other technology to spread misinformation. There are increased levels of electoral interference. Even in Canada, we are seeing reports of more candidates and elected officials stepping back from public life because of concerns for their safety and reputations.

There also is a provincial interest for reducing administrative and operational burdens to help free up staff time to focus on other critical statutory and operational tasks such as those related to planning and development processes, municipal governance, as well as service innovation, in support of provincial priorities.

I look forward to seeing legislation introduced to update the *MEA* in the coming months to address current challenges, streamline processes, and make legislation easier to understand and administer.

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

Yours truly,

Kerry Costello
Town Clerk

cc: Paul Shipway, President, AMCTO president@amcto.com
Martha Greenberg, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
martha.greenberg@ontario.ca
All Municipalities in Ontario
Honourable Jill Dunlop, Minister of Education minister.edu@ontario.ca
Honourable Todd McCarthy, Minister of Public and Business Service Delivery and
Procurement todd.mccarthy@ontario.ca
Honourable Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance Minister.fin@ontario.ca
Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario Premier@ontario.ca
Honourable John Jordan, M.P.P. Lanark-Frontenac-Kingston John.jordan@pc.ola.org

Attachment: Resolution



SMITHS FALLS

RISE AT THE FALLS

**Resolution passed October 7, 2024:
Provincial Updates to the Municipal Elections Act**

WHEREAS elections rules need to be clear, supporting candidates and voters in their electoral participation and election administrators in running elections.

WHEREAS legislation needs to strike the right balance between providing clear rules and frameworks to ensure the integrity of the electoral process,

WHEREAS the legislation must also reduce administrative and operational burden for municipal staff ensuring that local election administrators can run elections in a way that responds to the unique circumstances of their local communities.

WHEREAS the Municipal Elections Act, 1996 (MEA) will be 30 years old by the next municipal and school board elections in 2026.

WHEREAS the MEA sets out the rules for local elections, the Assessment Act, 1990 and the Education Act, 1990 also contain provisions impacting local elections adding more places for voters, candidates, and administrators to look for the rules that bind the local democratic process in Ontario.

WHEREAS with rules across three pieces of legislation, and the MEA containing a patchwork of clauses, there are interpretation challenges, inconsistencies, and gaps to fill.

WHEREAS the Act can pose difficulties for voters, candidates, contributors and third-party advertisers to read, to interpret, to comply with and for election administrators to enforce.

WHEREAS while local elections are run as efficiently and effectively as can be within the current legislative framework, modernization and continuous improvement is needed to ensure the Act is responsive to today's needs and tomorrow's challenges.

WHEREAS to keep public trust and improve safeguards the Act should be reviewed considering the ever-changing landscape which impacts elections administration including privacy, the threats of foreign interference, increased spread of mis/disinformation and the increased use of technologies like artificial intelligence and use of digital identities.

WHEREAS the Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks, and Treasurers of Ontario (AMCTO) reviewed the Act and has provided several recommendations including modernizing the legislation, harmonizing rules, and streamlining and simplifying administration.

AND WHEREAS AMCTO put forward recommendations for amendments ahead of the 2026 elections and longer-term recommendations for amendments ahead of the 2030 elections.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Smiths Falls calls for the Province to update the MEA with priority amendments as outlined by AMCTO before Summer 2025 and commence work to review and re-write the MEA with longer-term recommendations ahead of the 2030 elections.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution will be forwarded to all municipalities in Ontario for support and that each endorsement be then forwarded to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Minister of Education, the Minister of Public and Business Service Delivery, Minister of Finance the Premier of Ontario, our local MPP and AMCTO.

Economic Development Brief

September 13, 2024

Statistics and Trends

Labour force conditions

Labour force conditions in Niagara (unadjusted) continued to improve for the third consecutive month in August 2024, despite weakening trends in Ontario and Canada. Niagara outpaced Ontario in improvement across most indicators, except for population growth, where they were tied. Ontario also has historically higher participation rate although Niagara improved at higher rate.

Month-over-month data from July to August 2024 show the following:

- Population: Niagara increased by 0.3% (1,200 people) while Ontario also increased by 0.3%.
- Labour force: Niagara increased by 0.8% (2,000 people) while Ontario increased by 0.4%.
- Employment: Niagara increased by 1.0% (2,200 people) while Ontario decreased by 0.03%.
- Unemployment rate: Niagara decreased by 0.1% to 7.5% while Ontario increased by 0.5% to 7.6%.
- Participation rate: Niagara increased by 0.4% to 6.1% while Ontario increased by 0.1% to 66.2%.

Niagara continues to show positive momentum across labor force indicators, despite a decrease in employment at the provincial and national levels. It remains to be seen if these broader trends will affect Niagara. However, given the reduction in the policy interest rate to 4.25% and the high level of industrial investment and job creation in the region, further improvements are expected.

Bank of Canada's lowers key interest rate

The Bank of Canada has lowered its key interest rate to 4.25% in its third consecutive cut since June, in response to easing inflation. Although the move was expected, some economists believe more significant cuts are needed to stimulate the economy. Governor Tiff Macklem indicated that while the current cut was deemed appropriate, the bank is prepared to take more substantial action if necessary. Despite these cuts, concerns persist about rising unemployment and the slow pace of economic recovery, with some experts suggesting further rate reductions are required to make a noticeable impact.

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

Economic Development Updates

Niagara Economic Development hosted the Consular Corps Association of Toronto

Niagara Economic Development hosted the Consular Corps Association of Toronto on Saturday, August 24th, with 18 countries represented by their Consul Generals, Deputy Consul Generals, and Honorary Consul Generals. The program began with a visit to Big Head Winery, winner of the 2024 Lieutenant Governor's Award for Excellence in Ontario Wines, followed by lunch at Trius Winery. The delegation then attended the World Rowing Championships in St. Catharines, where they witnessed some of their countries win medals. A guided tour of the Niagara Power Station, led by David Adames, CEO of the Niagara Parks Commission, was a highlight of the afternoon. The day concluded with dinner at the World Rowing Championships gala, the Nations Dinner.

Food Plus More joins Welland Enterprise Industrial Park

Food Plus More has opened a 27,000 SF Halal meat processing plant on Enterprise Road in Welland's Enterprise Industrial Park. With roots in Edmonton where the Tawachi family originally opened a donair restaurant, the facility specializes in producing Halal donair meat, using a secret blend of 28 spices, and imports about 60,000 pounds of beef monthly from Australia. The Welland plant, equipped with advanced technology, aims to expand its customer base by exporting to the U.S. and potentially beyond. The company emphasizes the growing demand for Halal meat due to its clean and humane processing standards.

City of Welland offers updated Community Grant Program

The City of Welland's updated Community Grant Program offers financial assistance to individuals and groups that provide services and programs enhancing the lives of Welland residents. The program supports a wide range of initiatives, including cultural, recreational, educational, and social services, with the goal of fostering community well-being and civic engagement. An information session will be held on September 18 to guide potential applicants, and the application period runs from September 13 to October 15. [CLICK HERE](#).

Ontario Investing \$10 Million to train workers in shipbuilding and repair

The Ontario government is investing \$10 million through the Skills Development Fund to train and upskill workers in the shipbuilding and repair sector, partnering with Ontario Shipyards Inc. This initiative is part of a broader \$1.4 billion SDF investment aimed at connecting job seekers with employers and growing Ontario's workforce. The training programs will focus on trades such as millwright, welding, electrical, and painting, with courses offered in St. Catharines, Hamilton, and Thunder Bay. This investment aligns with Ontario's strategy to strengthen its leadership in marine transportation and ensure a skilled workforce for the future.

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Destiny Copper awarded over \$900,000 grant

Destiny Copper, located in the Thorold Multimodal Hub, has been awarded over \$900,000 in grant funding from NGen Canada supported by the Canadian Space Agency. The company will partner with the Canadian Space Mining Corporation to develop Sustainable Copper Oxide for Lunar Applications.

SmartCentres Welland adding six tenants to Woodlawn Road site

Ongoing construction at SmartCentre Welland will add 15,000 SF of commercial space by spring 2025, including six new units and additional parking. Committed tenants include Pet Valu and Taco Bell, with discussions underway to fill the remaining spaces. SmartCentres is optimistic about further commercial interest in the Welland market, and the expansion reflects confidence in the area's growth potential.

Coworking space comes to St. Catharines as demand for hybrid work rises

A new coworking space under the HQ brand will open in downtown St. Catharines in December, offering 9,000 SF of fully furnished workspaces, meeting rooms, and private offices at 39 Queen St. This expansion by International Workplace Group addresses the growing demand for hybrid work environments in the region. The new space will provide flexible options for workers, allowing them to reduce their commute by working closer to home instead of traveling to central offices in Hamilton or Toronto.

GM machinery await installation for switch to EV unit production in St. Catharines

General Motors announced over 1,000 layoffs globally, including a small number in its Canadian technical centres, causing concern among St. Catharines workers about potential ripple effects. The plant is facing layoffs due to retooling for electric vehicle production. The St. Catharines factory, which will shift from V-6 to Ultium electric drive units, has significant machinery awaiting installation in crates onsite, with no clear timeline for the transition. Local workers are preparing for additional layoffs by the end of summer, while the union continues to seek new work to sustain the plant's operations.

Mega Worlds in St. Catharines a spectacular success

St. Catharines hosted the 2024 World Rowing Senior, Under 23, and Under 19 Championships, otherwise known as the Mega Worlds, from August 18-25, attracting over 1,183 athletes from 60 countries to the Royal Canadian Henley Rowing Course. The event, marked by record-breaking performances and weather-related challenges, highlighted the city's strong rowing tradition and hospitality. Mayor Mat Siscoe and Chair Bill Schenck praised the event's success, acknowledging the contributions of volunteers and supporters in making the Mega Worlds a memorable international sporting celebration.

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St. Catharines among Canada's "best affordable" places to live

Maclean's Magazine has named St. Catharines as one of Canada's best affordable places to live, highlighting its attractive housing market where the benchmark price is \$598,000, below the national average of \$700,000. The magazine praises the city for offering good-sized, high-value homes and a vibrant local scene with economic growth, innovative businesses, and cultural attractions. St. Catharines is noted for its beauty and quality of life, with abundant green spaces and convenient access to Toronto via daily Go Transit service.

Niagara Economic Development received bronze award by the International Economic Development Council

Niagara Economic Development has been awarded a bronze award by the International Economic Development Council. This recognition is for the Global Startups Bootcamp, a dynamic initiative developed in partnership with Hamilton Economic Development, aimed at attracting international startups to Hamilton and Niagara. By fostering regional collaboration and showcasing our innovation ecosystem, we've successfully positioned our communities as top destinations for global entrepreneurs.

New attraction to simulate flying over Niagara Falls

A new flying theatre attraction will replace Niagara's Fury at Niagara Falls' tourist district, with the transformation set to be completed by summer 2025. The new attraction will simulate a flight over Niagara Falls and the Niagara River corridor, using the same space and infrastructure as the former 4D motion theatre. The update aims to offer a refreshed experience with new drone photography, immersive pre-shows, and engaging storytelling, and will be developed by the Taiwanese company Brogent.

Over \$1.3 million in federal funds announced for 11 tourism projects in Niagara

The Government of Canada's Tourism Growth Program is investing over \$1.3 million into 10 tourism projects in Niagara, including funding for Indigenous tourism initiatives. Recipients include the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum (\$100,000), Foster Festival (\$40,000), Heartland Forest (\$100,000), Niagara Parks Foundation (\$100,000), Landscape of Nations 360 (\$180,000), 13th Street Winery (\$120,000), Niagara South Coast Tourism (\$78,000), Urban Tractor Farm Winery (\$120,000), Town of Lincoln's Sho'arishon Indigenous Cultural Park (\$250,000), and the City of St. Catharines to develop and implement a strategic plan with the Town of Lincoln for the newly created Destination Marketing Organization (\$30,000). These investments aim to strengthen Niagara's attractions and support local businesses and cultural organizations, enhancing the region's appeal to the over 14 million annual visitors.

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Niagara College's brand gets a refresh

Niagara College has unveiled a refreshed brand "NC Life" to mark the start of the Fall 2024 Term, reflecting the institution's growth, innovative spirit, and vibrant campus life. The new brand, developed through consultations with students and employees, emphasizes the energy and dedication of the NC community and incorporates design changes such as a refined logo and fresh colors to highlight diversity and sustainability. The updated branding is showcased on the Niagara College website and aims to enhance the student experience and reinforce the College's commitment to academic excellence and community support.

Niagara Angel Network partners with Venture Niagara

The Niagara Angel Network (NAN) has announced a partnership with Venture Niagara Community Futures Development Corporation, which will provide management services to enhance NAN's support for entrepreneurs and investors in Niagara. Venture Niagara will use its expertise in community development and business financing to improve NAN's operational efficiency and strategic direction, aiming to foster a more robust ecosystem for startups and investors. This collaboration will expand NAN's outreach and investment opportunities, benefiting early-stage companies and driving economic growth in the area.

Niagara to host Ontario ParaSport Games

Sport Niagara announced Niagara will welcome athletes, managers, coaches, officials, and volunteers from across Ontario for the 44th Ontario Parasport Games in May 2025. The Ontario Parasport Games were first delivered in 1975 by the City of Cambridge. Since then, the Games have grown to over 500 participants competing in 10+ sports including wheelchair basketball, sledge hockey, goalball and more. The last Ontario Parasport Games were held in Durham in 2023. Between May 29 to June 1, events will be held at sporting facilities across the Niagara region including Canada Games Park.

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

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