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Minutes

Sustainable Communities Advisory Group

10:00 AM - Monday, January 26, 2026

99 Lone Pine Road, Port Severn Ontario



Present: Member Lisa Hutchinson
Councillor Brian Bocek
Member Delaina Arnold
Member Paul Wiancko
Member Steven Predko

Absent: Member Jon Main
Member Mitra Doherty

Staff Present: Jennifer Schnier, Director of Sustainability
Karen Way, Director of Corporate Services / Clerk
Sydney Levesque, Deputy Clerk
Trish Walton, Communications and Sustainability Assistant

1. Call to Order

10:00 a.m.

2. Land Acknowledgement Statement

We acknowledge that we are working on the lands traditionally occupied by the Indigenous peoples. Indigenous people continue to care for this land and continue to shape our Township. We show our respect, and will continually honour the treaties that were signed as we consider our decisions and actions.

3. Strategic Directions

Environmental Protection
Fiscal Responsibilities and Technology Efficiencies
Streamline Planning Policies and Procedures
Customer Experience and Community Engagement
District and Township Relationship
Engage with Indigenous Communities

4. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest or Conflict of Interest

Nil.

5. Adoption of Minutes

- (a) Adoption of August 25, 2025 Minutes

SCAG-2026-001

Moved by Member Paul Wiancko

Seconded by Member Steven Predko

BE IT RESOLVED THAT The Township of Georgian Bay Sustainable Communities Advisory Group approves the minutes of August 25, 2025 as circulated.

6. Open Forum

Nil.

7. Staff Reports

- (a) Food Bank Update and 2025 Sleighing Hunger Campaign Outcomes Sustainability & Communications 2026-001

T. Walton provided an update on the 2025 Sleighing Hunger campaign, advising that \$56,000 was raised in 2025.

SCAG-2026-002

Moved by Member Paul Wiancko

Seconded by Member Steven Predko

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Sustainable Communities Advisory Committee receive the report regarding Food Bank Update and 2025 Sleighing Hunger Campaign Outcomes for information.

- (b) Recognition of Climate Action Sustainability & Communications 2026-003

The Committee discussed Climate Action Week, proposed for June 1–7 annually.

Members requested consideration of a flag raising or other commemorative event and expressed interest in dedicating resources to plan activities in recognition of Climate Action Week.

The Committee suggested coordinating with local schools, the District of Muskoka, and community organizations.

J. Schnier suggested the sustainability flag be raised during Climate Action Week.

It was noted that the Georgian Bay Biosphere is organizing a Climate Action Forum the following week which is designed to connect people with a wide range of local products and services that improve energy efficiency, reduce waste, and make transportation more sustainable.

SCAG-2026-003

Moved by Member Paul Wiancko

Seconded by Member Steven Predko

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Sustainable Communities Advisory Group recommends to Council that the first week of June be designated annually as Climate Action Week in the Township of Georgian Bay, beginning in 2026.

- (c) Invasive Phragmites Control Fund
Sustainability & Communications 2026-002

It was confirmed that Lake Joseph Road is under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Transportation (MTO). The Committee noted that the MacTier Lions Club currently conducts roadside cleanup along Lake Joseph Road in conjunction with the MTO.

J. Schnier confirmed that phragmites removal is conducted by hand, with no chemicals involved. While acknowledging the importance of the work, the Committee indicated that further investigation by staff is required.

J. Schnier will report back to Committee with further information regarding the eradication process and the permissions required for phragmites removal along an MTO roadway.

SCAG-2026-004

Moved by Member Steven Predko

Seconded by Member Paul Wiancko

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Sustainable Communities Advisory Group recommend Council to invite MacTier community members to

volunteer in the removal of phragmites along the border of MacTier and Seguin Township, where phragmites have been detected.

8. New Business

(a) SMDHU Advocacy for Ontario's Poverty Reduction Strategy

Monica Bovett, Public Health Nurse with the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU), provided an overview of the Province's current poverty reduction approach, noting that it is primarily focused on employment outcomes.

M. Bovett advised that SMDHU is advocating for a more comprehensive poverty reduction strategy, recognizing that there are circumstances beyond unemployment that may prevent individuals from entering the workforce.

The Committee requested that this matter be included in the Council Information Package.

T. Walton advised that the Sustainability Department provides quarterly reports to Council on economic issues affecting the Township and continues to advocate for increased social supports through District and Provincial channels.

T. Walton also noted that free income tax return services have been organized at the Food Bank for residents and encouraged community participation in the annual Rethink Poverty Conference held in Barrie.

9. Adjournment

(a) Adjournment of January 26, 2026 Sustainable Communities Advisory Group

SCAG-2026-005

Moved by Member Paul Wiancko

Seconded by Member Steven Predko

BE IT RESOLVED that the January 26, 2026 Sustainable Communities Advisory Group now adjourns at 11:05 a.m. until the call of the chair.



Corporation of the Township of Black River - Matheson

421 Fifth Avenue
P.O. Box 601
Matheson, Ontario
P0K 1N0

**ITEM # 2026-10.d)
RESOLUTION**

DATE: March 10, 2026

2026-81

Moved by Councillor Bree Allen
Seconded by Councillor Scott McCutcheon

WHEREAS safe, reliable transportation corridors are essential to the economic prosperity, public safety, and supply chain resilience of Northern Ontario communities;

AND WHEREAS Highways 11 and 17 form the primary east–west transportation corridor across Northern Ontario and serve as a critical link for trade, resource development, emergency services, and community connectivity;

AND WHEREAS the expansion and modernization of these highways would strengthen national supply chains, support mining and resource development projects including those associated with the Ring of Fire, and improve safety for residents, commercial transport, and travelers;

AND WHEREAS Member of Provincial Parliament John Vanthof has introduced a motion in the Legislative Assembly of Ontario calling upon the Government of Ontario to work with the Government of Canada to declare the expansion and modernization of Highways 11 and 17 a project of national significance;

AND WHEREAS Member of Parliament Gaétan Malette has introduced a motion in the House of Commons advocating for federal recognition and support of strategic national infrastructure priorities;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Township of Black River-Matheson formally express its support for the motion introduced by MPP John Vanthof requesting that the Government of Ontario work with the Government of Canada to declare the expansion and modernization of Highways 11 and 17 a project of national significance;

AND FURTHER THAT Council express its support for the motion introduced by MP Gaétan Malette currently before the House of Commons;

AND FURTHER THAT Council call upon both the Government of Ontario and the Government of Canada to prioritize investments that strengthen transportation infrastructure, supply chain reliability, and economic development opportunities across Northern Ontario;

AND FINALLY THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to:

- The Honourable Gaétan Malette, Member of Parliament
- John Vanthof, MPP Timiskaming–Cochrane
- All Members of Parliament
- All Members of Provincial Parliament

- The Northern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA)
- The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
- Northern Ontario municipalities for their consideration.

CARRIED DEFEATED



CHAIR SIGNATURE

Original Amendment Refer Defer Reconsider Withdrawn

Recorded Vote-TO BE COMPLETED BY CLERK ONLY

	YEAS	NAYS
Mayor Dave Dymont		
Councillor Allen		
Councillor Morrish		
Councillor Campsall		
Councillor McCutcheon		
Councillor Gadoury		
Councillor Bouchard		



Hong Ji Lei
Clerk

March 20, 2026

The Right Honourable Mark Carney
Prime Minister of Canada
Via email: Pm@pm.gc.ca

The Honourable Marjorie Michel
Minister of Health
Via email: Marjorie.michel@parl.gc.ca

The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Via email: Premier@ontario.ca

The Honourable Sylvia Jones
Minister of Health
Via email: Sylvia.Jones@ontario.ca

Dear Prime Minister Carney, Minister Michel, Premier Ford and Minister Jones:

Re: Food Insecurity Emergency Declaration

The following motion was passed by Council declaring food insecurity an emergency in our community. This declaration reflects our growing concern about the impact of food insecurity on the health and well-being of residents across Chatham-Kent.

In passing this motion, we have joined other cities in Ontario who have declared food insecurity an emergency and hope it will initiate collaborative action and policy development at the provincial and federal levels of government.

“Whereas food insecurity is defined as, the inadequate or insecure access to food due to financial constraints, a marker of material deprivation (poverty), and a serious public health problem because it increases the risk of non-communicable and infectious diseases, and premature death.

Whereas chronic stressors like disability, precarious work, and acute shocks like COVID-19, illness or eviction, make it more difficult to afford life’s basic needs and live free from poverty. Whereas income-based policies are necessary to effectively reduce household food insecurity, which Chatham-Kent Public Health reports is experienced by at least 1 in 5 households in Chatham-Kent. Whereas the income provided through provincial and federal programs has not kept up with rising costs of food, housing and other basic needs.

Cont’d...

Whereas Ontario Works rates have been frozen since 2018: the maximum single person monthly benefit for basic needs is \$343 and \$390 for shelter, totalling \$733 per month.

Whereas Chatham-Kent Public Health reports a single person on Ontario Works spends ~134% of their income on food and rent. Whereas the Municipality of Chatham-Kent provides programs and services that decrease the impacts of poverty and income inequality and provides participants with a better quality of life which can positively improve health and well-being.

Whereas the number of individuals using Chatham-Kent Outreach for Hunger has increased by ~38% from 2022 to 2024, from 2781 unique individuals in 2022, to 3752 unique individuals in 2024, with a ~51% increase in families with children.

Whereas the number of households using the food assistance program within the Village Pantry has increased by ~124%, from 76 unique households in 2022, to 170 unique households in 2024.

Whereas the number of meals served to under-housed people by Reach Out Chatham-Kent has increased by ~17% from 2022 to 2024, from 43,594 meals in 2022, to 51,313 meals 2024.

Whereas Hope Haven has already had 4000 more visits in 2025 compared to 2024.

Whereas poverty costs Ontario around \$27.1 – 33 billion dollars per year: justice system \$1.1 billion; health care \$3.9 billion; lost income \$19.4 – 25 billion; lost tax revenue \$2.7 – 3 billion.

Whereas the provincial Poverty Reduction Strategy's (Building a Strong Foundation for Success: Reducing Poverty in Ontario (2020-2025)) primary measure of success is that more social assistance recipients move into employment, despite people with employment income being one of the fastest growing groups at food banks.

Whereas the Chatham-Kent Food Policy Council's mission is to lead in the development of relevant policies and to advocate for our local food system, and values that all people should have physical and economic access to healthy, culturally diverse, local food.

Whereas the Chatham-Kent Food Policy Council's Strategic Plan for 2025-2027 highlights the need to advocate for government-level policies that impact food systems, and specifically, to advocate for income-based solutions to food insecurity to provide families with more agency in food choices.

Therefore, be it resolved that the Mayor and Council support the advocacy of the Chatham-Kent Food Policy Council by declaring food insecurity an emergency in the Municipality of Chatham-Kent.

Cont'd...

And that Mayor and Council request the Provincial Government focus its upcoming 2026-2030 Poverty Reduction Strategy around reducing measures of material deprivation, such as food insecurity.

And that Mayor and Council request the Provincial Government immediately raise social assistance rates to meet life's basic needs.

And that Mayor and Council request the Provincial and Federal Governments to address the causes of food insecurity by establishing a Guaranteed Livable Basic Income for those living in poverty.

And that Mayor and Council request the Provincial and Federal Governments to increase the rates of income support programs to ensure they are adequate to address the basic needs of individuals and families.

And that Mayor and Council request that the Provincial and Federal Governments include the reduction of food insecurity as a component of all appropriate government policies. And that a copy of this motion be forwarded to the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (ALPHA), Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), Federation of Municipalities of Canada (FCM), Ontario Municipal Social Services Association (OMSSA), all Ontario Municipalities, all Members of Provincial Parliament and Parliament, The Right Honourable Mark Carney, Prime Minister of Canada, all federal party leaders, the Honourable M.P.P. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, the Ontario Minister of Health Sylvia Jones, and the Federal Minister of Health Marjorie Michel.”

Sincerely,



Darrin Canniff, Mayor/CEO
Municipality of Chatham-Kent

C: All Members of Provincial Parliament and Parliament
Association of Local Public Health Agencies (ALPHA)
Federation of Municipalities of Canada (FCM) Association of
Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
Ontario Municipal Social Services Association (OMSSA)
Ontario Municipalities



Sent Via Email

March 27, 2026

The Honorable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building, Queen's Park
Toronto ON, M7A 1A1.

**The Regional
Municipality of
Durham**

Corporate Services
Department –
Legislative Services
Division

605 Rossland Rd. E.
Level 1
PO Box 623
Whitby, ON L1N 6A3
Canada

905-668-7711
1-800-372-1102

durham.ca

**Alexander Harras
M.P.A.
Director of
Legislative Services
& Regional Clerk**

Dear Premier Ford:

RE: Correspondence from Mike Bradley, Mayor, City of Sarnia to The Premier of Ontario regarding Requesting the Province to consider giving municipal councils more authority to adjust Police Service Budget Proposals to reduce Municipal Financial Vulnerability, Our File: A00

Council of the Region of Durham, at its meeting held on March 25, 2026, adopted the following resolution:

That Council Correspondence CC 08 from Mike Bradley, Mayor, City of Sarnia to The Premier of Ontario regarding requesting the province to consider giving municipal councils more authority to adjust police service budget proposals to reduce municipal financial vulnerability be received for information and endorsed.

Please find enclosed a copy of the Correspondence for your information.


Alexander Harras

Alexander Harras, M.P.A.
Director of Legislative Services & Regional Clerk
AH/nb

c: Hon. Michael S. Kerzner, Solicitor General
Hon. R. Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Hon. P. Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance
Heads of Council for Municipalities across Ontario
B. Bailey, MPP Sarnia-Lambton
E. Baxter-Trahair, Chief Administrative Officer
N. Pincombe, Commissioner of Finance
A. Burgess, Director, Communication and Engagement

If you require this information in an accessible format, please contact Legislative Services at clerks@durham.ca or at 1-800-372-1102 ext. 2097.

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

 Corporate Services Department Legislative Services Division	
Date & Time Received:	February 26, 2026 9:29 am
Original To:	CIP
Copies To:	
Take Appropriate Action	<input type="checkbox"/> File <input type="checkbox"/>
Notes/Comments:	

February 19, 2026

Re: Mayoral Authority and Municipal Police Budget Sustainability

Dear Premier Ford,

I am writing to express concern regarding the province's current position that limits a mayor and council's ability to meaningfully reduce or amend police service budget proposals once they have advanced through local police governance structures.

Municipal leaders across Ontario are operating within an increasingly constrained fiscal environment. Escalating administrative costs, combined with sustained growth in police budgets, are placing significant pressure on municipal finances. Without the tools to influence or moderate these expenditures, municipalities are left financially vulnerable, undermining long-term stability and responsible budget planning.

Mayors and members of council are accountable to residents for overall municipal fiscal health. However, under the province's current interpretation, they lack sufficient authority to address one of the fastest-growing areas of local spending. This creates a clear imbalance in accountability, where elected leadership bears responsibility for budget outcomes without the ability to manage risk, respond to local conditions, or ensure alignment with broader municipal priorities.

You have recently noted that education costs have become unsustainable, and the Minister of Finance has expressed similar concerns regarding health care expenditures. Policing costs present the same challenge, with the added constraint that mayors are now unable to intervene. This limits a municipality's capacity to balance competing service demands, invest in preventative and social supports, and respond flexibly to emerging community priorities, including housing. Over time, this approach risks crowding out essential services and capital projects while placing increased pressure on taxpayers.

In Sarnia, veto authority was used for the first time, and only with respect to capital funding. The operational police budget, which has increased by 40% over the past four years, was left untouched. The mayoral veto removed a proposed \$5 million capital item that would have committed the municipality to a long-term financial obligation estimated to reach \$120 million. Allowing such exposure without intervention would have been fiscally irresponsible and inconsistent with the principles of responsible municipal governance. The existing building was reported to be suitable for upgrades and maintenance at a cost of approximately \$5 million; however, the Sarnia Police Board and Chief have insisted that the Cadillac of all buildings is required. Proceeding with this option would saddle the taxpayers with substantial long-term debt and sustained tax increases for decades to come.

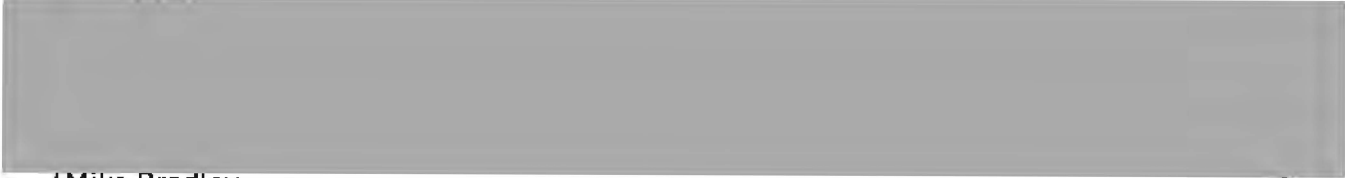
After 21 years of carrying municipal debt, the City of Sarnia has just recently achieved the distinction of being one of the few debt-free cities in Ontario. Under the current framework, renewed debt will become unavoidable, with financial impacts extending to future generations.

While this issue may not yet have arisen in every municipality responsible for funding and overseeing its own police service, the experience in Sarnia illustrates a challenge that other mayors may reasonably face in future budget years. As policing and capital costs continue to escalate, circumstances will emerge where elected municipal leaders are required to intervene to protect long-term fiscal sustainability. This is a critical issue that warrants careful reconsideration. I have therefore copied Heads of Council for municipalities across Ontario to unite in encouraging an approach that better aligns accountability with decision-making and supports more sustainable municipal governance across Ontario.

Given the practical implications for municipal budget deliberations and fiscal planning, I believe this matter should be addressed in advance of the next municipal council taking office. I respectfully urge the province to engage with municipalities on this issue and to explore legislative or policy adjustments that would provide local elected leaders with the tools necessary to manage fiscal pressures responsibly, transparently, and in the best interests of their communities.

I appreciate your attention to this issue and look forward to the province's consideration of next steps.

Sincerely,



Mike Bradley
Mayor, City of Sarnia

Cc: The Honourable Michael S. Kerzner, Solicitor General
The Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
The Honourable Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance
Heads of council for municipalities across Ontario
Bob Bailey, MPP for Sarnia-Lambton
Sarnia City Council

Encl.: [CBC News February 18, 2026 - Province tells Ontario mayors they can't use 'strong powers' on police budgets | CBC News](#)

[CTV News February 18, 2026 - Sarnia Police Board weighing options in efforts to build new headquarters](#)

London

Province tells Ontario mayors they can't use 'strong powers' on police budgets

Finance expert says province needs to review fiscal relationship with municipalities to keep up with costs

Isha Bhargava - CBC News - Posted: Feb 18, 2026 5:00 AM EST | Last Updated: February 18



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Estimated 5 minutes



A file photo of a police officer walking in downtown Hamilton, Ont. (Bobby Hristova/CBC)

The Ontario government is reminding municipal leaders that they cannot use their provincially granted "strong mayor powers" to challenge or limit police budgets.

This comes two months after Sarnia's mayor vetoed his city's police budget request of \$5 million for a new police headquarters, in what's led to an ongoing battle over the city's police funding.

In a letter sent to mayors and police board chairs in January, the province reiterated that municipalities are required to provide police boards with "sufficient funding" to comply with the Community Safety and Policing Act (CSPA).

"The Head of Council's strong mayor budget powers do not include the power to limit police service board budget increases or veto estimates submitted by police service boards," Solicitor General Michael Kerzner and Municipal Affairs Minister Rob Flack wrote in their Jan. 12 letter.

"Although municipalities are not required to adopt the board's estimates as submitted, they cannot approve or reject specific line items within the estimates."

- **Less than half of 'strong mayors' were using powers before Ontario expanded system: reports**

Municipal budgets include estimates of amounts required during the year and includes various boards, the letter explains. A police service board must submit their operating and capital costs to municipalities, which then establish the service's overall budget.

Premier Doug Ford's government created the strong mayor system in 2022 and it now applies to 216 mayors. The powers give the leaders control over appointments, the ability to hire and fire most city staff, vetoes over some council votes and the ability to pass some bylaws with support of only a third of council support.

'We can't chop public safety' says Premier

When asked by CBC about the issue of strong mayor powers relating to police budgets on Tuesday, Ford said investments in public safety need to be a top priority.

"We can't chop safety and protecting communities," Ford told reporters. "We need to make sure our priority is keeping our community safe because right now people don't feel safe. So we have to continue investing in our police, give them the tools they need to keep our community safe."

Sarnia Mayor Mike Bradley disagrees arguing the legislation prevents municipalities from balancing the needs of police and taxpayers. He said Sarnia police has received a 45 per cent operational increase over the last four years, and he only vetoed one capital spending item which the city cannot afford this year.



Sarnia's Mayor Mike Bradley says police budget increases in recent years have led to spending cuts in other city projects. (Facebook)

"The province has just wiped out our ability to control spending in our own communities. In most cases [police budgets] run from 30 to 40 per cent of the

municipal budget, so what the Ford government is saying is that councils and mayors cannot touch it," he said.

"So the message is, police boards who are unaccountable, can now just set the budget and the taxpayers have to pay. That's a pretty shocking statement from Queens Park."

Bradley argues he has supported increasing police budgets for frontline services, which have been substantial over the years and have led the city to cut back on spending for other projects.

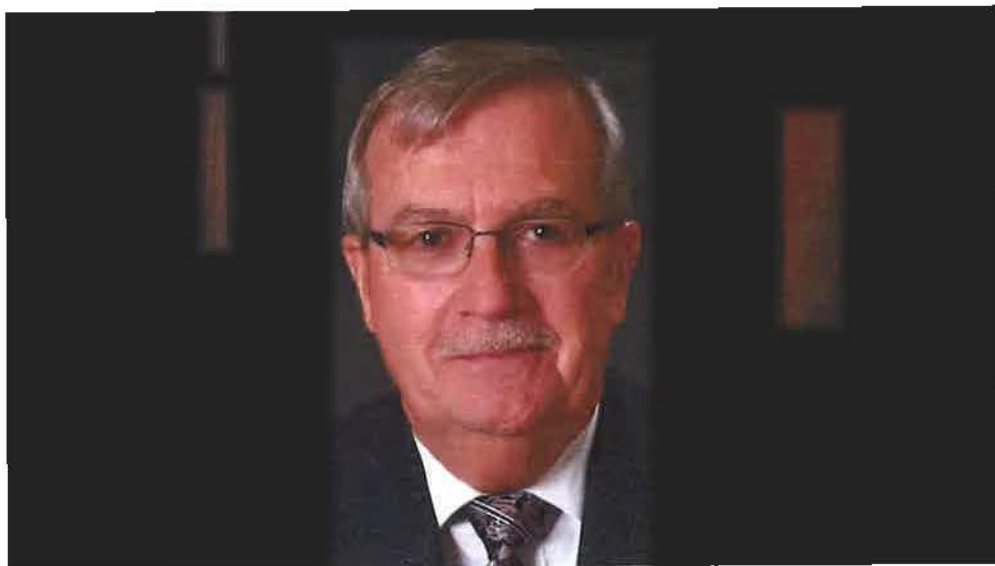
In its letter, the province clarifies that there are dispute resolution mechanisms under the CPSA, namely arbitration, when a council disagrees with a police board's budget request.

Municipalities limited in challenging police budgets

However, proving a case against the police can be difficult for municipal councils who don't often have the capacity or technical knowledge to offer a challenge, said Nigel Bellchamber, a London, Ont., consultant specializing in municipal finances.

"It's a high bar that the municipality has to meet in order to succeed in an arbitration," he said, noting that municipalities are tasked with funding a variety of services whose costs outpace inflation.

"As a result, there are some significant challenges and tough decisions being made as to prioritizing capital expenditures in municipal budgets. So councils and municipal staff, whether you're in a strong mayor situation or not, they're all caught in a very difficult situation."



Nigel Bellchamber is a consultant in London, Ont., who specializes in municipal finances (Nigel Bellchamber/LinkedIn)

Bellchamber said the provincial and municipal fiscal relationship hasn't been properly reviewed in about 25 years and it needs to be revisited to respond to changing economic demands.

London's Mayor Josh Morgan agrees. His council approved a historic \$672-million investment in police spending during the last four-year budget, and while he's satisfied with the results of crime trending lower in the city, ballooning police budgets are a concern for municipalities, he said.

"Obviously when the largest portion of your budget is increasing by a fair amount, that's concerning in multiple ways," said Morgan.

"It's difficult for a municipality to shoulder all of the necessary investments in public safety that we need to make with all of the other things that we're obligated to do, and with the revenue streams we have available to us."

Morgan said it's important for municipalities to partner with provincial and federal governments to seek "broad-based, stable multi-year support for public safety funding."

In London's case, Morgan notes the police returned more than \$2.3 million to city coffers in the budget's first two years.

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Questions of 'strong mayor' veto powers remain after province attempts to clarify police budgets

By [Bryan Bicknell](#)

Published: February 18, 2026 at 5:14PM EST



The provincial government says municipalities can't use strong mayor powers to limit police budgets. CTV's Bryan Bicknell visits local reaction.

The chair of the Sarnia Police Service Board says the board is still weighing options in its bid to build a new police headquarters.

The comments follow a letter from Ontario's Solicitor General to municipalities that mayors cannot use so-called strong mayor powers to challenge police budgets.

"We sent the letter to council requesting that the veto to be vetoed, basically, and that the five million [dollars] be added back into the budget," explained Board Chair Kelly Ash. "We are re-evaluating, looking to see what we can get accomplished with the funds that we do have, while still hoping that council does deliberate over the \$5 million so that we can get started."



Sarnia Police Board Chair Kelly Ash speaks to CTV News via Zoom on Feb. 16, 2025. (Byron Bickell/CTV News London)

Late last year Sarnia Mayor Mike Bradley vetoed the city's police budget request of \$5 million to begin work on a new police headquarters. Bradley insists he's not about to re-open the city budget.

"This idea that police boards now, without any accountability, they're not elected and they don't report to the public and you can't remove them, will now be able to say to any town, 'This is how much money we want each year, and govern yourself accordingly. You're going to have to find money or kill other projects that are really important to your community because we're number one,'" he said.

In London, the police budget has also been a sensitive item.



London City Mayor Josh Morgan speaks to CTV News on Feb. 5, 2026. (Byron Bickell/CTV News London)

The most recent police budget passed two years ago in the city's four-year budget cycle increased police spending by \$672 million.

The London Police Service has since returned \$2.3 million in a bid to keep municipal property taxes at bay, explains London Mayor Josh Morgan.

"It's a pretty high bar to set for a municipality to not supply the budget, which is why my approach has been to work closely with the police board as a member of the board. And this board has returned dollars for the past two years," Morgan said.

Introduced in 2022 for Ontario's largest urban centres, strong mayor powers were expanded last year to include all 216 Ontario mayors. At least one legal opinion suggests this was when questions of interpretation began to arise.



London (Oni) (Gerr) Sam Trosow speaks to CTV News in Feb. 18, 2024. (By: win Br. net/CTV News London)

London Coun. Sam Trosow is a retired Western University law professor. He believes the strong mayor legislation was rushed.

"I think if it was the intention of the legislature to categorically exempt police services matters from the act they would have or they should have said so. And they probably rushed this through so quickly, maybe they didn't even bother to think about it," he explained.

"But I think that the mayor of Sarnia is within his rights to challenge this part of the budget," Trosow said.



Sarnia Mayor Mike Reed speaks to CTV News via Zoom on Feb. 18, 2024. (By: win Br. net/CTV News London)

Related Stories

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- > [Sarnia police headquarters funding reduced by city council](#)
- > ['A vanity project': Sarnia police offer compromise as city's mayor threatens strong mayor powers](#)

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



Friday, March 27, 2026

Mandy Cannon
Interim CAO/Clerk
Township of McNab/Braeside
2473 Russett Drive
Arnprior, ON
K7S 3G8

SENT VIA EMAIL: mcannon@mcnabbraeside.com

RE: Resolution – Ontario Heritage Organization Development Grant Advocacy

Dear M. Cannon,

Please be advised of the following motion passed at the Monday, March 23, 2026, Goderich Town Council Meeting:

Moved By: Councillor Petrie
Seconded By: Councillor McMillan
That Goderich Town Council supports the resolution from the Township of McNab/Braeside regarding the Ontario Heritage Organization Development Grant Advocacy.

CARRIED

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

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrea Fisher".

Andrea Fisher
Director of Legislative Services/Clerk
/js

Enclosed: Ontario Heritage Organization Development Grant Advocacy Resolution

cc: Hon. Stan Cho, Minister of Tourism, Culture and Gaming, stan.cho@pc.ola.org
Association of Municipalities of Ontario, amo@amo.on.ca
All Ontario Municipalities



Regular Council Meeting Resolution Form

Date: February 17, 2026 No: RESOLUTION - 56-2026
 Moved by Councillor Kevin Rosien Disposition: CARRIED
 Seconded by Deputy Mayor Scott Brum Item No: 14.2

Description: Ontario Heritage Organization Development Grant Advocacy

RESOLUTION:

WHEREAS Ontario municipalities are legislated to preserve records of enduring and historical value, and community archives play a critical role in fulfilling this responsibility, particularly in rural and smaller municipalities; and

WHEREAS The Heritage Organization Development Grant (HODG) is the only provincial operating grant available to grassroots, non-profit heritage organizations, including community archives and historical societies across Ontario; and

WHEREAS The maximum annual HODG grant of \$1,545 per organization has remained effectively unchanged for more than 15 years, resulting in a significant erosion of its real value due to inflation, such that its current purchasing power is approximately two-thirds of what it was in 2010; and

WHEREAS Rising operating costs related to insurance, utilities, records preservation, digitization, accessibility, and volunteer coordination have increased financial pressure on heritage organizations, often requiring municipalities to absorb additional costs to ensure continuity of service; and

WHEREAS Strengthening HODG would represent a modest but high-impact provincial investment that would help stabilize community archives, reduce pressure on municipal budgets, and safeguard Ontario's public records and local heritage for future generations;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council formally support a review and modernization of the Heritage Organization Development Grant, including restoring its real purchasing power through inflationary adjustment and exploring options for increased or multi-year operating stability; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT This resolution be forwarded to the Minister of Tourism, Culture and Gaming, local Members of Provincial Parliament, AMO, and Ontario municipalities for consideration and support.

MAYOR

Recorded Vote Requested by:	_____	
	Yea	Nay
Mayor Lori Hoddinott	_____	_____
Deputy Mayor Scott Brum	_____	_____
Councillor Kevin Rosien	_____	_____
Councillor Robert Campbell	_____	_____
Councillor Jill Campbell	_____	_____

Declaration of Pecuniary Interest: _____
 Disclosed his/her/their interest(s), vacated he/her/their seat(s),
 abstained from discussion and did not vote



Council Resolution Form

Date: 19 Mar 2026 No: Resolution No.58-26
 Moved By: Councillor Thomson Disposition: CARRIED.
 Seconded By: Councillor Tripp
 Item No: 13.1

Description: Canada Post Rate Reductions for Libraries - Motion brought forward by Councillor Thomson

RESOLUTION:

That Council support Resolution #2026-078 carried by the Council of the Township of Perry on February 18, 2026, calling upon the Government of Canada to maintain and protect reduced-rate postal distribution for library materials, and;

That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Township of Perry, Minister of Government Transformation, Public Services and Procurement Joel Lightbound, MP Cheryl Gallant, MPP Billy Denault, and all Ontario Municipalities for support.

MAYOR

Recorded Vote Requested by:		
.....NA.....		
	Yea	Nay
J. Levesque	___	___
T. Popkie	___	___
L. Thomson	___	___
R. Tripp	___	___
R. Weir	___	___

Declaration of Pecuniary Interest:
.....NA.....
Disclosed his/her/their interest(s), vacated he/her/their seat(s), abstained from discussion and did not vote



**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;

And that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to The Honourable Joel Lightbound, Minister of Government Transformation, Public Works and Procurement, Scott Aitchison, MP Parry Sound-Muskoka, Hon. Graydon Smith, MPP Parry Sound-Muskoka, and all Ontario municipalities for support.

Carried: Defeated:


 Norm Hofstetter, Mayor

RECORDED VOTE		
Council	For	Against
Councillors Jim Cushman		
Joe Lumley		
Margaret Ann MacPhail		
Paul Sowrey		
Mayor Norm Hofstetter		



Council Resolution Form

Date: 19 Mar 2026 No: Resolution No.59-26
 Moved By: Councillor Thomson Disposition: CARRIED.
 Seconded By: Councillor Popkie
 Item No: 13.2

Description: Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (OCIF) Extension - Motion brought forward by Councillor Thomson

RESOLUTION:

That Council support Resolution #7 carried by the Council of the Township of North Glengarry on February 23, 2026, calling for an extension and review of the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (OCIF), and;

That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Township of North Glengarry, the Premiere of Ontario Doug Ford, the Minister of Infrastructure Kinga Surma, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing Rob Flack, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, and all Ontario Municipalities.

MAYOR

Recorded Vote Requested by:		
.....NA.....		
	Yea	Nay
J. Levesque	___	___
T. Popkie	___	___
L. Thomson	___	___
R. Tripp	___	___
R. Weir	___	___

Declaration of Pecuniary Interest:
.....NA.....
Disclosed his/her/their interest(s), vacated he/her/their seat(s), abstained from discussion and did not vote

**CORPORATION OF THE
TOWNSHIP OF NORTH GLENGARRY
Council Meeting**

Resolution # 7

Date: Monday February 23, 2026

Moved by: Michael Madden

Seconded by: Carma Williams

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

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

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

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

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

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

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

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

**CORPORATION OF THE
TOWNSHIP OF NORTH GLENGARRY
Council Meeting**

Resolution #

Date: Monday February 23, 2026

-
5. A dedicated contingency reserve equal to 5 percent of the annual OCIF envelope be created within the fund to address extraordinary cost escalations, emergency repairs, or project overruns without reallocating core funding.
 6. The Ministry of Infrastructure publish an annual OCIF performance report—including program disbursements, allocation adjustments, and reserve expenditures—in a transparent, publicly accessible online dashboard.

FURTHER THAT the Council of the Township of North Glengarry supports the September 29, 2025 resolution of the Township of Edwardsburgh Cardinal, the October 20, 2025 resolution of the Municipality of South Huron, and the November 19, 2025 resolution of the Township of Pulsinch regarding the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (OCIF); and

FURTHER THAT this supporting resolution and the originating correspondence be circulated to the Premier of Ontario, the Leader of the Official Opposition, the Minister of Infrastructure, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), and all Ontario municipalities.

CARRIED

DEFEATED

DEFERRED



MAYOR / DEPUTY MAYOR

Deputy Mayor: Carma Williams
Councillor: Jacques Massie
Councillor: Brian Caddell
Councillor: Jeff Manley
Councillor: Michael Madden
Councillor: Gary Martin
Mayor: Jamie MacDonald

YEA

NEA

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF HUNTSVILLE

Huntsville Town Council

Date: March 23, 2026

No. 33-26

Moved by: Scott Morrison

Seconded by: Dan Armour

WHEREAS: chloride concentrations have increased by at least 0.5 mg/L in 80 of 274 (29%) of the lakes sampled by the District of Muskoka between 2018 and 2022, and by 15-fold in Lake Muskoka since 1970;

AND WHEREAS: Queen's University scientist, Dr. Shelley Arnott, a leader in global research on the effects of road salt on lakes, has demonstrated that in Muskoka lakes, some important aquatic organisms are negatively affected at chloride exposure levels as low as 10 mg/L, far below the 120 mg/L long term or chronic exposure guideline;

AND WHEREAS: roughly ¼ of lakes sampled by the District of Muskoka now have chloride levels above 10 mg/L;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Town of Huntsville commits to ongoing efforts toward the reduction of road salt as much as possible, while maintaining safety on roads, including public reporting on annual use, supporting local efforts to research the ongoing impacts of road salt, and assisting education efforts;
2. The Town of Huntsville urges the province of Ontario to work urgently with key stakeholders to develop limited liability legislation, including enforceable contractor training and a single set of provincially-endorsed standard Best Management Practices for snow and ice management on private lands;
3. The Town of Huntsville urges the province of Ontario to create and fund an expert stakeholder advisory committee to advise the province and municipalities on the best courses of action to protect freshwater ecosystems, drinking water and infrastructure from the impacts of salt pollution and;


4. This resolution be sent to the District Municipality of Muskoka, other lower-tier municipalities in Muskoka, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), our local MPP, Conservation Ontario, the Ontario Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, the Attorney General of Ontario, and the Premier of Ontario.

RECORDED VOTE

MEMBERS OF COUNCIL	YEA	NAY
Mayor Alcock		
Deputy Mayor Armour		
Councillor Clarke		
Councillor Clouthier		
Councillor FitzGerald		
Councillor Morrison		
Councillor Renwick		
Councillor Schumacher		
Councillor Stone		
TOTAL:		

DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

MEMBERS OF COUNCIL	PERSONAL	BUSINESS	EMPLOYMENT	OTHER
Mayor Alcock				
Deputy Mayor Armour				
Councillor Clarke				
Councillor Clouthier				
Councillor FitzGerald				
Councillor Morrison				
Councillor Renwick				
Councillor Schumacher				
Councillor Stone				

Carried. 



STATUTORY PUBLIC MEETING
CONCERNING A NEW TOWNSHIP OF LAKE OF BAYS OFFICIAL PLAN
In accordance with Sub-section 17(17) of the *Planning Act*

As required, under Section 26(1.1) of the *Planning Act*, the Township of Lake of Bays is preparing a new Official Plan to conform to the updated District of Muskoka Official Plan and provincial policy changes, including several amendments to the *Planning Act* and a new Provincial Planning Statement. The process of preparing a new Official Plan for the Township will not only address the various changes to the Township's planning framework introduced by the Province and the District, but will also satisfy the requirements of the *Planning Act* to revise an Official Plan at least every 10 years after it comes into effect as a new official plan, and every five years thereafter.

Based on comments and direction received on the Draft Official Plan, a revised version of the new Official Plan is now available on the Township's project webpage for public review and comment. The revised new Official Plan has been prepared from the recommendations in the Discussion Papers and Policy Directions Report compiled during previous phases of the project, and considering input from key stakeholders, community members, Indigenous communities, Township staff and Council, and District staff. **Interested parties are encouraged to review the revised new Official Plan on the Township's website at lakeofbays.on.ca/OfficialPlan.**

The new Official Plan applies to all lands within the Township.

STATUTORY PUBLIC MEETING (in-person or via Zoom)

TUESDAY, APRIL 28th, 2026
at 11:00 a.m.

COUNCIL CHAMBERS – TOWNSHIP OF LAKE OF BAYS MUNICIPAL OFFICE
1012 Dwight Beach Rd Dwight, ON P0A 1H0 or via Zoom (please contact April, Director of Planning Services, for the participation link. Details below)

PURPOSE: To give the public an opportunity to provide comments to Council (Planning Matters) about the revised new Official Plan.

Staff Report available on the Township's website at www.lakeofbays.on.ca or from Planning Services on or after April 21st, 2026.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND MATERIALS are available at the following:

Website: lakeofbays.on.ca/OfficialPlan

In Person: Township of Lake of Bays Municipal Office - 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday to Friday

Phone: 705.635.2272 ext. 1252 or 1-877-566-0005 or fax 705-635-2132.

Email: aschnurr@lakeofbays.on.ca

To provide comments or questions, interested parties can use the [comment form](#) on the Township's website or contact April Schnurr (contact details above).

If you wish to be notified of the decision of the Township of Lake of Bays on the proposed Official Plan, you must make a written request to:

April Schnurr, MCIP, RPP
Director of Planning Services
Township of Lake of Bays
1012 Dwight Beach Road
Dwight, ON P0A 1H0

If a person or public body would otherwise have an ability to appeal the decision of the Council (Planning Matters) of the Township of Lake of Bays to the Ontario Land Tribunal but the person or public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting or make written submissions

to The Township of Lake of Bays before the proposed official plan is adopted, the person or public body is not entitled to appeal the decision.

If a person or public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting, or make written submissions to The Township of Lake of Bays before the proposed official plan is adopted, the person or public body may not be added as a party to the hearing of an appeal before the Ontario Land Tribunal unless, in the opinion of the Tribunal, there are reasonable grounds to do so.

Personal information collected in response to this planning notice will be used to assist staff and Council through the new Official Plan process and will be made public.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION RELATED TO ELECTRONIC PARTICIPATION

Although this is a public hearing, you are not required to attend unless you wish to speak to the proposed official plan.

To participate in the hybrid Council (Planning Matters) meeting, you will need access to a computer, tablet or telephone with internet service or a telephone. For information on how to register for the meeting or if you have specific comments regarding this planning notice, please contact the planning contact listed above.

How to Submit Written Comments to be considered

Applicants, agents and members of the public can provide written comments to the planning contact listed above, to be read aloud at the public meeting. All written comments related to the proposed official plan must be received by the Planning Department prior to the start of the public meeting to be considered.

Where to Watch a Meeting

All Council (Planning Matters) meetings will be streamed live and available on the Township of Lake of Bays YouTube page (link will be provided on the agenda posted one week prior to the meeting).

If you cannot Participate Virtually

Where applicants, agents and members of the public are not able to utilize virtual conferencing (i.e. Zoom), existing participation measures outlined in the *Planning Act* will continue to be available, these include telephone communication with planning staff and written correspondence, via e-mail, fax or letter, to express land use planning information related to the proposed official plan before Council (Planning Matters), as outlined above.



4800 SOUTH SERVICE RD.,
BEAMSVILLE, ON L3J 1L3

905-563-2799

March 25, 2026

SENT VIA EMAIL: graham.mcgregor@pc.ola.org

Hon. Graham McGregor
Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism
10215 Kennedy Rd. N
Brampton, ON L6Z 0C5

RE: Town of Lincoln Resolution – Request to the Province of Ontario to Extend the Deadline for Notices of Intention to Designate Listed Heritage Properties

Please be advised that Council of the Corporation of the Town of Lincoln at its Committee of the Whole Meeting held on March 23, 2026, passed the following resolution:

Resolution Number: PED-2026-22
Moved by: Councillor Lynn Timmers

WHEREAS amendments to the Ontario Heritage Act under the More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022 introduced timelines requiring municipalities to issue Notices of Intention to Designate for properties listed on municipal heritage registers as of December 31, 2022, originally requiring action by January 1, 2025; and

WHEREAS the Province subsequently amended the legislation through the Homeowner Protection Act, 2024 to extend the deadline to January 1, 2027 in response to concerns raised by municipalities and heritage stakeholders; and

WHEREAS municipalities require sufficient time and resources to undertake research, documentation, consultation, and evaluation to determine whether listed properties warrant designation under the Ontario Heritage Act; and

WHEREAS the removal of listed properties from municipal heritage registers if the prescribed timelines are not met may place cultural heritage resources at increased risk of demolition or irreversible alteration before municipalities have the opportunity to properly evaluate their cultural heritage value or interest; and

WHEREAS many municipalities, including the Town of Lincoln, do not have dedicated heritage planning staff and must rely on volunteer Heritage Advisory Committee members or external heritage consultants to undertake property evaluations, which can result in additional financial and administrative pressures; and

WHEREAS municipalities across Ontario are facing significant workloads associated with evaluating listed properties; and

WHEREAS the Town of Lincoln Heritage Advisory Committee, at its meeting of March 12, 2026, recommended that Council advocate to the Province of Ontario for a further extension to the current deadline;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Council of the Town of Lincoln endorse the recommendation of its Heritage Advisory Committee and respectfully request that the Province of Ontario further amend the Ontario Heritage Act to extend the January 1, 2027 deadline for issuing Notices of Intention to Designate for properties listed on municipal heritage registers as of December 31, 2022; and
2. The Province consider extending the deadline to January 1, 2030, or another reasonable timeframe that would provide municipalities with adequate time to complete heritage evaluations and make informed designation decisions; and
3. This resolution be circulated to the Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the local Member of Provincial Parliament, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Ontario Municipal Heritage Committee Association, and all Ontario municipalities for their information and consideration.

CARRIED

If you require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Regards,



Julie Kirkelos
Town Clerk

jkirkelos@lincoln.ca

JK/dp

- c.c. Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
- Niagara West Member of Provincial Parliament
- Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
- Community Heritage Ontario
- All Ontario Municipalities
- Manager of Planning and Development
- Chair of the Heritage Advisory Committee

DATE: MONDAY MARCH 23, 2026

RESOLUTION NO: 26-66

THE CORPORATION TOWN OF MATTAWA

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR LAURA ROSS

SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR MATHEW GARDINER

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council for the Town of Mattawa supports the Township of Papineau-Cameron regarding the Ontario Veterinary College's Enrollment Capacity.

AND FURTHER THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Ontario Veterinary College; the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association; the Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade; the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness; Minister of Colleges, Universities, Research Excellence and Security; the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and all Ontario Municipalities.

Recorded Vote – Yes No

Recorded Vote Requested by:

	Yea	Nay
Mayor Bélanger	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Councillor Gardiner	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Councillor Levesque	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Councillor Mick	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Councillor Ross	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Councillor Thibert	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Councillor Bigelow	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

RA Bélanger

Mayor Raymond A. Bélanger

Deferred Tabled Lost Carried

Declaration of Pecuniary Interest:

Disclosed his/her/their interest(s), vacated he/her/their seat(s), abstained from discussion and did not vote



THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF PAPINEAU-CAMERON

4861 Highway 17, P.O. Box 630, Mattawa ON P0H 1V0
Office: (705) 744-5610 • Fax: (705) 744-0434 • Garage: (705) 744-5072
E-mail: admin@papineaucameron.ca Website: www.papineaucameron.ca

February 26, 2026

The Ontario Veterinary College
50 Stone Road East
Guelph, ON N1G 2W1

RE: Ontario Veterinary College expansion of enrollment capacity

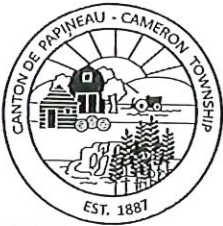
The Council of The Corporation of The Township of Papineau-Cameron met at their Regular Council Meeting on February 24, 2026 and passed the attached resolution 2026-50 that relates to the Ontario Veterinary College's enrollment capacity.

Yours truly,

Venessa Wilson
Administrative Assistant

Encl: Resolution 2026-50, Township of Papineau-Cameron

Cc: The Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness
The Canadian Veterinary Medical Association
The Honorable Victor Fedeli, MPP, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade
The Honorable Trevor Jones, MPP, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness
The Honorable Nolan Quinn, MPP, Minister of Colleges, Universities, Research Excellence and Security
Association of Municipalities of Ontario
All Ontario Municipalities



THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF PAPINEAU-CAMERON

4861 Highway 17, P.O. Box 630, Mattawa ON P0H 1V0
Office: (705) 744-5610 • Fax: (705) 744-0434 • Garage: (705) 744-5072
Website: www.papineaucameron.ca

DATE: **February 24, 2026** RESOLUTION NUMBER: **2026-50**

MOVED BY: *Shelley Belanger* SECONDED BY: *M Chenier*

WHEREAS large animal livestock owners in Northern Ontario have extremely limited access to large animal veterinary services;

AND WHEREAS the cost of large animal veterinary services in Northern Ontario is significantly higher due to long travel distances and the limited number of large animal veterinarians available to service the region;

AND WHEREAS it has come to the attention of the Council of Papineau-Cameron Township that three qualified individuals within our community have applied to the Ontario Veterinary College for large animal veterinary, but were denied admission due to limited enrollment capacity;

THAT the Council of Papineau-Cameron Township formally requests that the Ontario Veterinary College, the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness, and the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association consider expanding enrollment capacity at the Ontario Veterinary College to allow more qualified applicants to pursue certification as large animal veterinarians.

AND FURTHER THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Ontario Veterinary College, the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness, the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association, the Hon. Victor Fedeli MPP Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade, the Hon. Trevor Jones MPP Minister of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness, the Hon. Nolan Quinn MPP Minister of Colleges, Universities, Research Excellence and Security, Association of Municipalities of Ontario, and Ontario Municipalities for their consideration and support.

CARRIED: *Robert Corriveau*
(Mayor)

NOT CARRIED: _____
(Mayor)

Recorded Vote (Upon Request of Councillor _____) Section 246 (1) Municipal Act

RECORDED DIVISION VOTE	YES Signature	NO Signature	ABSTAIN Signature
Mayor Robert Corriveau			
Deputy Mayor Shelley Belanger			
Councillor Keith Dillabough			
Councillor Jason Bélanger			
Councillor Mélanie Chenier			

COPY



The Corporation of the Township of
NORTH STORMONT
RESOLUTION

Date: March 24, 2026

Resolution No. 068-2026

MOVED BY:

Mayor F. Landry
Deputy Mayor S. Densham
Councillor A. Bugelli
Councillor A. McDonald
Councillor C. Shane

[Signature]

SECONDED BY:

Mayor F. Landry
Deputy Mayor S. Densham
Councillor A. Bugelli
Councillor A. McDonald
Councillor C. Shane

[Signature]

WHEREAS the Township of North Stormont acknowledges the municipal infrastructure including roads, bridges, water and wastewater systems support public safety, vitality and quality of life in Ontario's rural and small urban communities; and

WHEREAS the Ontario Municipal Infrastructure Fund (OCIF) was created in 2015 to assist these communities facing infrastructure deficits that exceed their local revenues; and

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

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

WHEREAS predictable multi-year funding indexed to real work costs is critical for municipalities to develop, finance and execute long range asset management plans, reduce emergency repair work and leverage complementary federal and private infrastructure funding; and

WHEREAS the Township of North Stormont requires a dedicated provincial partner to extend and enhance OCIF funding beyond 2026, ensuring fiscal stability to ensure infrastructure resilience and equitable access for all small and rural municipalities;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. The Township of North Stormont calls upon the Government of Ontario to extend the annual OCIF allotment of not less than \$400 million beyond its five year term ending in 2026 with no reductions in subsequent provincial budgets.
2. The Province be requested to index the annual OCIF envelope and each individual municipal allotment to the Ontario Consumer Price Index (CPI) calculated on a calendar year basis and disbursed in the first quarter of each year.
3. The Ministry of Infrastructure establish a new five year OCIF funding framework that

guarantees allocation percentages to municipalities enabling long term capital planning and stable cash flow management.

4. The Province undertake a form review of the OCIF allocation at least once every four years incorporating municipal asset management, demographic projections, climate resilience metrics and rural equity considerations.

5. A dedicated contingency reserve of five percent of the annual OCIF envelope be created within the fund to address extraordinary cost escalations, emergency repairs of project overruns without reallocating core funding.

6. The Ministry of Infrastructure publish an annual OCIF performance report including program disbursements, allocation adjustments and reserve expenditures in a transparent publicly acceptable online dashboard.

FURTHERMORE, that the Council of the Township of North Stormont supports the resolution of the Township of Edwardsburgh Cardinal dated September 29, 2025; the resolution of the Municipality of South Huron dated October 20, 2025, the resolution of the Township of Puslinch dated November 15, 2025; the resolution of the County of North Cumberland dated January 28, 2026 resolution of the Township of North Glengarry dated February 23, 2026 regarding the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (OCIF); and

FURTHERMORE that this supporting resolution and be circulated to the Premier of Ontario, the Leader of the Official Opposition, the Minister of Infrastructure, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and all Ontario municipalities.

CARRIED DEFEATED DEFERRED


Chair

Declaration of Conflict of Interest: A. Bugelli

Disclosed His/Her/Their Interest

Vacated His/Her/Their Seat

RECORDED VOTE	
Councillor C. Shane	_____
Councillor A. McDonald	_____
Councillor A. Bugelli	_____
Deputy Mayor S. Densham	_____
Mayor F. Landry	_____

**CORPORATION OF THE
TOWNSHIP OF NORTH GLENGARRY
Council Meeting**

Resolution # 7

Date: Monday February 23, 2026

Moved by: Michael Madden

Seconded by: Carma Williams

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

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

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

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

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

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

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

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

**CORPORATION OF THE
TOWNSHIP OF NORTH GLENGARRY
Council Meeting**

Resolution #

Date: Monday February 23, 2026

-
5. A dedicated contingency reserve equal to 5 percent of the annual OCIF envelope be created within the fund to address extraordinary cost escalations, emergency repairs, or project overruns without reallocating core funding.
 6. The Ministry of Infrastructure publish an annual OCIF performance report—including program disbursements, allocation adjustments, and reserve expenditures—in a transparent, publicly accessible online dashboard.

FURTHER THAT the Council of the Township of North Glengarry supports the September 29, 2025 resolution of the Township of Edwardsburgh Cardinal, the October 20, 2025 resolution of the Municipality of South Huron, and the November 19, 2025 resolution of the Township of Pulsinch regarding the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (OCIF); and

FURTHER THAT this supporting resolution and the originating correspondence be circulated to the Premier of Ontario, the Leader of the Official Opposition, the Minister of Infrastructure, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), and all Ontario municipalities.

CARRIED

DEFEATED

DEFERRED



MAYOR / DEPUTY MAYOR

Deputy Mayor: Carma Williams

Councillor: Jacques Massie

Councillor: Brian Caddell

Councillor: Jeff Manley

Councillor: Michael Madden

Councillor: Gary Martin

Mayor: Jamie MacDonald

YEA

NEA



Box 608, Little Current, POP 1K0
705-368-3500

Please see below a Resolution passed by the Council of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands.

If your Council supports this motion please share with the appropriate Ministries and Organizations.

Thank You

Resolution No. 75-03-2026

Moved by: B. Wood

Seconded by: P. Aelick

Whereas the Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands, like many municipalities, utilizes chip-and-tar surface treatment on a significant portion of its road network; and

Whereas the Town has observed a substantial decrease in the length of time these treated roads remain in acceptable condition; and

Whereas the quality and durability of the oil used in the surface treatment appears to be a contributing factor; and

Whereas the Ministry of the Environment amended its regulations several years ago, permitting only lighter-grade oils for environmental considerations; and

Whereas the reduced durability of the lighter-grade product has resulted in more frequent resurfacing cycles and has consequently led to increasing maintenance costs;

Now therefore be it resolved that the Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands respectfully requests that the Ministry of the Environment reconsider its decision regarding the lighter grade of oil, taking into account the increased number of applications required, as well as the associated additional time, energy, and financial burden placed on municipalities or develops a better alternative oil.

And Further that this motion be forwarded to the Ministry of Environment, AMO, Good Roads, FONOM, MPP Bill Rosenberg, and all other municipalities.

Carried

Generic Review of the Model Franchise Agreement for Natural Gas

On October 15, 2025, the Chief Commissioner of the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) issued a **letter** indicating the OEB's intention to commence a generic proceeding to conduct a limited review of the **Model Franchise Agreement**. The OEB is now initiating this proceeding on its own motion pursuant to section 19 of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998*.

What is a Model Franchise Agreement?

Before a natural gas utility can provide gas service within a municipality, it must enter into a franchise agreement with that municipality. A franchise agreement is an operational contract between a municipality and a gas utility that sets out the rights and obligations of both parties. All franchise agreements must be approved by the OEB.

The OEB adopted the Model Franchise Agreement to ensure fairness, transparency and consistency among individual franchise agreements across Ontario. The OEB expects that gas utilities and municipalities will use the terms of the Model Franchise Agreement without amendment, unless there is a compelling reason for deviation.

Why is the OEB Initiating this Proceeding?

In recent years, several municipalities and local community-based interest groups in Ontario have challenged certain terms of the Model Franchise Agreement during individual gas franchise proceedings. Many of these challenges raised issues of a generic nature, focusing on certain sections of the Model Franchise Agreement itself, rather than unique municipality-specific circumstances.

In response, the OEB is initiating this proceeding to examine certain sections and components of the Model Franchise Agreement that have emerged as issues of concern. This proceeding will review the templated form of the Model Franchise Agreement; it will not entail a review of individual franchise agreements that have been signed by specific municipalities and gas utilities.

This proceeding takes place within the context of Ontario's current energy landscape and the objectives outlined in Ontario's Natural Gas Policy Statement, which establishes that natural gas remains a vital component of Ontario's energy mix.

Draft Issues List

Each issue in the draft issues list relates to provisions within the current Model Franchise Agreement that have been recently contested. The OEB will provide information on how parties can comment on the draft issues list at a later date.

- **Section 11 Alternative Easement:** Are changes required to the provisions in section 11 of the Model Franchise Agreement pertaining to notice, the availability of easements and cost sharing in the event of the proposed sale or closing of any highway or any part of a highway where there is a gas line in existence?
- **Section 12 Pipeline Relocation:** Are changes required to the cost-sharing provisions as between municipalities and utilities in section 12 of the Model Franchise Agreement relating to the costs associated with pipeline relocations? Are changes required in relation to the time requirements for the completion of relocation under section 12 (e.g., should a time be specified)? If so, what would be an appropriate amount of time?
- **Section 15 Disposition of the Gas System & Section 16 Use of Decommissioned Gas System:** Are changes required in section 15 and section 16 of the Model Franchise Agreement relating to the removal of decommissioned pipelines?
- **Non-substantive administrative updates to the Model Franchise Agreement:** What terminologies (e.g., job titles) in the Model Franchise Agreement require an update to reflect current operations?
- **Implementation of possible updates to the Model Franchise Agreement:** If changes to the Model Franchise Agreement are made, how should the updated terms affect existing gas franchise agreements and applications currently before the OEB (e.g., how and when should such changes be integrated into existing agreements)?

The scope of this proceeding does not include potential legislative or regulatory amendments, such as the payment of fees by utilities to municipalities for the use of right of way. Such fees are currently prohibited by *O. Reg. 584/06: Fees and Charges*. The relationship between the *Drainage Act* and municipal gas franchise agreements is also outside the scope of this proceeding.

YOU SHOULD KNOW

There are three types of OEB Hearings: oral, electronic and written. If you have a preference for the type of hearing, you can write to us to explain why. The OEB will decide on the format of the hearing at a later date.

Ce document est aussi disponible en français.

Information Session

OEB staff will hold a virtual information session about this proceeding on the morning of **April 15, 2026, beginning at 9:30 AM**. This information session will not be transcribed, nor will it form part of the public record. Its purpose is to provide general information about the Model Franchise Agreement and the regulatory framework for municipal gas franchises and the typical steps in an OEB proceeding. OEB staff will not be addressing specific feedback on the draft issues list during the session as there will be an opportunity to provide comments at a later date. To sign up for the virtual information session scheduled for the morning of April 15, 2026 please complete the form at **Information Session Registration** by **April 10, 2026**. Details on how to login to the information session will be provided at a later date.

Intervention Requests

Municipalities, gas utilities, and other interested parties who wish to actively participate in this proceeding must apply for intervenor status and, where applicable, cost eligibility using the OEB's online **Intervention Form** by **April 20, 2026**. Municipalities and gas utilities will be granted intervenor status. Other interested parties may be granted intervenor status and, in their intervenor requests, are required to clearly identify and explain their substantial interest in the issues to be addressed within the scope of this proceeding.

Collaborating as a group, rather than participating individually, can support a more efficient and coordinated regulatory process. Municipalities in particular are encouraged to work together and consider a group approach where common interests exist. For the purposes of this proceeding, the term Municipal Group refers to a group of municipalities organized together with a common interest. The OEB will consider requests for intervenor status from more than one Municipal Group.

Cost Awards

Under section 3.05 of the OEB's **Practice Direction on Cost Awards**, a municipality (whether participating individually or as part of a group) is not eligible for a cost award. However, given the unique nature of this proceeding, the OEB is making an exception to this rule and will allow municipalities or Municipal Groups to receive cost awards for their participation. The OEB is making this exception pursuant to section 3.07 of the *Practice Direction on Cost Awards*.

Other interested parties that seek intervenor status in this proceeding may also seek cost award eligibility in accordance with the *Practice Direction on Cost Awards*.

Interested parties should note that being eligible for a cost award does not guarantee that all costs claimed will be recovered. Cost awards are determined by the OEB at the conclusion of the proceeding. All parties are encouraged to review the OEB's *Practice Direction on Cost Awards* for guidance on eligible costs and disbursements and on the OEB's considerations in awarding costs.

Parties that are approved as intervenors, including those approved for cost eligibility, will be advised by the OEB at a later date in Procedural Order No. 1.

LEARN MORE

You have the right to information about this proceeding and to participate in the process. Visit www.oeb.ca/participate and use file number **EB-2026-0009** to:

- Review proceeding documents
- Apply to become an intervenor
- File a letter with your comments
- Register to follow the proceeding

IMPORTANT DATES: You must engage with the OEB on or before **April 20, 2026** to:

- Provide input on the hearing type (oral, electronic or written)
- Apply to become an intervenor

If you do not, the hearing will move forward without you, and you will not receive any further notice of the proceeding.

PRIVACY: If you write a letter of comment, your name and the content of your letter will be put on the public record and the OEB website. If you are a business or if you apply to become an intervenor, all the information you file will be on the OEB website.

To learn more about this proceeding, you can also visit the **Model Franchise Agreement Review Engage With Us** webpage.

Ontario Energy Board

1-877-632-2727

Monday - Friday: 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM

oeb.ca



The Corporation of the Township of Otonabee-South Monaghan

March 23, 2026

Via Email: mtruelove@rideaulakes.ca

Rideau Lakes
1439 County Road 8
Delta, Ontario K0E 1G0

Dear Mayor Arie Hoogenboom:

Re: Resolution - Rideau Lakes Concerns re Alto High Speed Rail Project (Bill C-15 Budget)

Please be advised that the Council of the Township of Otonabee-South Monaghan at its meeting on March 16th, 2026, passed the following resolution:

R67-2026

Moved by Councillor Terry Holmes
Seconded by Councillor Mark Allen

That Council hereby supports the letter to Senator from Rideau Lakes regarding concerns with the Alto High Speed Rail Project (Bill C-15 Budget), as attached.

And further that this resolution be forwarded to all parties listed on the original correspondence.

CARRIED.

Yours truly,
Township of Otonabee-South Monaghan

Liz Ross
Deputy Clerk

Cc: Prime Minister of Canada
MP Emma Harrison
The Federation of Canadian Municipalities
The Association of Municipalities of Ontario
All Ontario Municipalities

Email: deputy-clerk@osmtownship.ca Telephone: 705.295.6852 Facsimile 705.295.6405
P.O. Box 70 20 Third St Keene, ON K0L 2G0
Visit our website at www.osmtownship.ca or follow us on Twitter @OSMTownship



Rideau Lakes

1439 County Road 8, Delta, ON K0E 1G0
T. 613.928.2251 | 1.800.928.2250 | F. 613.928.3097
rideaulakes.ca

March 10, 2026

Dear Senator,

Re: Rideau Lakes Concerns re Alto High Speed Rail Project (Bill C-15 Budget)

We in Rideau Lakes Township are writing this letter because of major concerns about the Alto High Speed Rail Project (HSR), as well as a request to fully evaluate our concerns of Bill C-15 in relation to Alto HSR and expropriation of land.

The Alto HSR is lacking full and meaningful consultation of critical information for the early design and development phase. We recognize that having this information is important to the engineers in determining routes that minimize disruptions to the communities, residents, businesses, farmland, waterways, environment, and ecosystems that they pass through. What we have experienced is less than adequate information upon which to base our ability to conduct impact assessments involving our rural communities, agriculture, businesses, and countless heritage buildings and monuments. Alto's recently proposed Southern Ontario route included a 10 km wide corridor, and they provided high-level maps which are not useful in determining the impacts which more detailed route maps would give us and that are vital to our informed feedback. Without more information from Alto, this reduces our more local and valuable ability to provide critical information to Alto planners and engineers.

HSR will divide communities. There will be a major impact on our roadways for school buses, public transportation and emergency vehicles given the many closed roadways when fences are erected along the HSR route. This will increase mortality and morbidity as it will take longer to receive timely care. Farther to travel will also increase emissions and costs for plowing and road maintenance. Without more information from Alto, this reduces our local and valuable ability to provide critical information to Alto planners and engineers.

The Southern route would traverse the UNESCO recognized Frontenac Arch Biosphere Region, the ancestral lands of the Haudenosaunee (Kanien'kehá:ka) and Anishinaabeg (Algonquin); where a land bridge of the Canadian Shield connects the Algonquin and Laurentian Highlands to the Adirondack Mountains in the USA. Many animals use this migration route in both directions every year, and unless wildlife corridors are included in the ALTO plans, this would cut off their migration.

This does not begin to speak to the negative impact on tourism which is estimated in the order of \$30 million for the UNESCO Rideau Canal system from Ottawa to Kingston.

Another major concern is that the government proposes to grant Alto, as a Crown Corporation, the right to 3 methods of property expropriation! Until now the government itself held the right to a single method of property expropriation. This causes our residents varying degrees of stress ranging to mental anguish if their properties are affected and they will not get full current market value if they decided to sell. Under the new proposed legislation, they would be forced to sell to the Corporation! This is of particular concern to many potentially affected property owners who are in the business of farming and feeding our population.

Cost analysis to build the railway in the northern and southern routes has not been done. We have also been told that a route parallel to the St. Lawrence River and Lake Ontario is not viable. We do not have enough information to understand why this option is not viable.

Rideau Lakes Township is asking you, and your Senate colleagues, to undertake your considered review of our concerns that are being sent to you for First Reading. We hope that you will see that this portion of Bill-C15 (HSR and expropriation) is premature, given that there are many unanswered questions and important issues have not been adequately addressed in the information provided. There has been inadequate public consultation to move to the development stage of this generationally important Canadian transportation project affecting so many lives along whatever corridor may eventually be approved. Should the Senate determine that a delegation to a Senate committee be appropriate with a view to consolidating recommendations for changes that would go back to the House of Commons, we would be available to participate, of course upon invitation.

Thank you for your attention in this very important matter affecting all of us here and across Ontario! It would be very much appreciated if I could receive a response in order to brief my Council.

Yours respectfully,



Arie Hoogenboom
Mayor, Rideau Lakes Township
mayor@rideaulakes.ca
613-323-0901

Cc: Prime Minister of Canada
All Members of Parliament
All Provincial Cabinet Ministers
MPP Steve Clark
The Federation of Canadian Municipalities
The Association of Municipalities of Ontario
All Ontario Municipalities

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

March 25, 2026

Re: Time-Sensitive: Strengthening Municipal Accountability and Public Trust (Bill 9)

Dear Premier Ford,

When we met in Sarnia last August, we discussed Bill 9 and its intent to strengthen municipal accountability. At that time, I affirmed my support for the province's effort to move this legislation forward. The fundamental principles of Bill 9 are sound and provide an important foundation; however, the Bill requires a significant change before it becomes law.

The introduction of a standardized code of conduct and the proposed integrity commissioner reforms are positive and necessary steps forward. However, based on more than four decades of experience in municipal politics, I believe the Bill's greatest flaw lies in its mechanism for removing councillors in **serious cases of misconduct**. Requiring local councils to participate in the removal of a peer, particularly through unanimous agreement, places councils in an inappropriate and untenable position. On matters of serious contention, unanimity is rarely achievable, rendering the mechanism effectively futile. This approach undermines both fairness and public confidence and fails to provide municipalities with a meaningful ability to act in extreme cases.

In circumstances of this magnitude, decisions should not rest with a council. Instead, such matters should be heard and ruled upon by an independent, non-partisan authority, removed from local political dynamics and capable of making impartial determinations in the public's interest.

If the provincial government intends to maintain municipal councils' responsibility for adjudicating such decisions, the threshold for action must be revised. A two-thirds majority, or a simple majority of council excluding the subject member, would provide a more reasonable, fair, and workable standard.

This is a time-sensitive issue, and the need for action is becoming more urgent as municipalities continue to encounter situations they are powerless to address. Without meaningful change, the current conditions and lack of adequate protection will have a chilling effect on those considering public office at the municipal level. Capable, community-minded individuals may be discouraged from seeking election if there is no effective independent mechanism to address extreme misconduct, protect the integrity of council and the well-being of the community.

I am copying this letter to mayors and councils across Ontario in the hope that they will also raise their voices on this matter before the legislation is finalized, to ensure this serious flaw is addressed in what is otherwise an important and necessary piece of legislation for the Province of Ontario and its municipalities for the 2026-2030 council term of office.

Thank you for your consideration. I would welcome the opportunity to discuss these concerns and possible paths forward at your convenience.

Sincerely,



Mike Bradley
Mayor, City of Sarnia



Cc: The Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
John Fraser, MPP, Interim Leader, Ontario Liberal Party
Marit Stiles, MPP, Leader of the Official Opposition, Ontario NDP Party
Bob Bailey, MPP for Sarnia-Lambton
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
Mayor and Council for municipalities across Ontario
Sarnia City Council
Lambton County Council
City of Sarnia Senior Management

255 Christina St N
Sarnia ON N7T 7N2

P: 519-332-0330 ext. 3312 F: 519-332-3995 mayor@sarnia.ca www.sarnia.ca



Town of Saugeen Shores
600 Tomlinson Drive, P.O. Box 820
Port Elgin, ON N0H 2C0

March 23, 2026

SENT VIA EMAIL

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

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

The Honourable Graham McGregor, MPP
Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism
graham.mcgregor@pc.ola.org

RE: Architectural Conservancy of Ontario (ACO) Proposal to include \$10M per year in the 2026 provincial budget for Heritage Helping Housing (HHH) grant funding

At the March 23, 2026, Regular Council meeting for the Town of Saugeen Shores, the attached motion was passed endorsing the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario (ACO) Proposal to include \$10M per year in the 2026 provincial budget for Heritage Helping Housing (HHH) grant funding.

Sincerely,

Hailey Leigh-Mossley
Deputy Clerk
Encl.

cc. MPP Lisa Thompson
All Ontario Municipalities



THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF SAUGEEN SHORES

MOVED BY: C. Grace

RESOLUTION NO: 096-2026

SECONDED BY: M. Myatt

DATE: March 23, 2026

Whereas older buildings have inherent sustainability and provide economic, environmental and social benefits for Ontario communities; and,

Whereas re-use of existing buildings reduces the need for increased infrastructure that accompanies new builds such as sewer and water services, new roads and sidewalks; and,

Whereas re-use of existing building can reduce construction waste and extend the life expectancy of landfills; and,

Whereas keeping older buildings helps a community remain visually richer and enhances identity while building its tourism brand and appeal; and,

Whereas creating a new, application-based, matching grant program of \$10M/year, modelled on an existing Alberta program would incentivize owners and smaller developers to keep, fix and reuse heritage buildings to create new housing; and,

Whereas such a grant program would provide an alternative to the Ontario heritage property tax relief program, which has limited impact on developers and reduces municipal revenues; and,

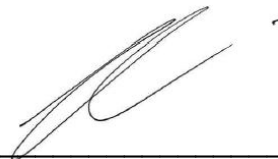
Whereas such a grant program would provide a simpler and more direct way for heritage building owners to fund renovations or conservation; and,

Whereas Ontario developers surveyed by the National Trust for Canada in 2014 ranked a heritage-revolving fund as their top incentive to encourage heritage development if:

- the grants are simple to apply for and to administer; and,
- the fund is large enough to meet at least 33% of the demand so that applicants have a reasonable chance of recovering the cost and effort of applying.

Therefore, be it Resolved That the Council of the Town of Saugeen Shores endorse the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario (ACO) Proposal to include \$10M per year in the 2026 provincial budget for Heritage Helping Housing (HHH) grant funding, and that this resolution be sent to the Premier, Minister of Finance, Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism, and MPP Lisa Thompson, and be circulated to all municipalities in Ontario.

- Carried
- Carried, as amended
- Defeated
- Deferred
- Referred
- Tabled
- Withdrawn



Mayor

[View this email in your browser](#)



Urgent: Growing Municipal Opposition to TC Energy's Pumped Storage Project

Dear Mayor, Councillor, and Municipal Staff,

I am writing on behalf of Save Georgian Bay to update you regarding TC Energy's proposed Pumped Storage Project (PSP) on the Meaford military base.

On March 11, the Municipality of Killarney passed Resolution #26-091 opposing the PSP, becoming the **seventh Georgian Bay municipality** to formally reject the project. Their opposition adds to region-wide concerns about environmental harm, financial risk, and a growing lack of transparency.

The Killarney resolution specifically cites the **Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO)**, which advised the Ministry of Energy that the PSP “should not proceed” due to its unfavourable financial implications for Ontario ratepayers. This provincial-level recommendation raises important questions about why the project continues to receive political support.

In addition to growing municipal opposition, serious federal-level concerns remain:

- **TC Energy has not released the baseline environmental, technical, or geotechnical studies** required for meaningful public participation in the federal Impact Assessment process.
- Independent scientific reports submitted by conservation organizations including detailed fisheries assessments — were **never acknowledged or integrated** into TC Energy’s documentation.
- The Meaford base is a **contaminated DND site**, and excavation could release pollutants into Georgian Bay.

These issues have undermined public trust in the project and in the transparency of the regulatory process.

We respectfully request your leadership in urging the Provincial and Federal to:

1. Support the IESO recommendation that the PSP should not proceed.
2. Require TC Energy to release all baseline environmental and technical studies before any further federal or provincial decisions.
3. Ensure the Department of National Defence addresses contamination on the proposed site.

A full media release summarizing Killarney’s resolution and the regional concerns is attached for your reference.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter. I would welcome the opportunity to provide further information at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Tom Buck

Director, Save Georgian Bay

☎ 248-321-3205 (available on WhatsApp)

For more information visit our web site: savegeorgianbay.ca

Save Georgian Bay is the recipient of Ontario Nature's 2024 Corporate Award for Conservation.



Join us! Go to our website at savegeorgianbay.ca and sign our petition, volunteer, or donate. **Help spread the word!** Visit us on social media – *like, comment and share!*

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CORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF SOUTH HURON

322 Main Street South P.O. Box 759

Exeter Ontario

N0M 1S6

Phone: 519-235-0310 Fax: 519-235-3304

Toll Free: 1-877-204-0747

www.southhuron.ca

March 24, 2026

Via email: trevor.jones@pc.ola.org

Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness
11th Floor
77 Grenville Street
Toronto, ON M7A 1B3

Dear Hon. Trevor Jones,

Re: Ontario Veterinary College Enrollment Capacity

Please be advised that South Huron Council passed the following resolution at their March 16, 2026, Regular Council Meeting:

126-2026

Moved By: Jim Dietrich

Seconded by: Wendy McLeod-Haggitt

That South Huron Council supports the February 26, 2026 correspondence of the Township of Papineau-Cameron regarding Ontario Veterinary College Enrollment Capacity; and

That this supporting resolution and the originating correspondence be circulated to the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness, Trevor Jones, the Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade, Victor Fedeli, the Minister of Colleges, Universities, Research Excellence and Security, Nolan Quinn, Lisa Thompson, MPP, the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association, AMO, and all municipalities in Ontario.

Result: Carried

Please find attached the originating correspondence for your reference.

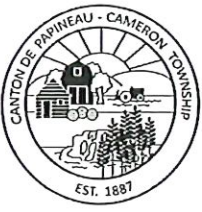
Respectfully,

Kendra Webster, Legislative & Licensing Coordinator
Municipality of South Huron
kwebster@southhuron.ca

519-235-0310 x. 232

Encl.

cc: Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade, Victor Fedeli, vic.fedeli@pc.ola.org; the Minister of Colleges, Universities, Research Excellence and Security, Nolan Quinn, nolan.quinn@pc.ola.org; MPP Lisa Thompson, lisa.thompson@pc.ola.org; Canadian Veterinary Medical Association, admin@cvma-acmv.org; AMO, resolutions@amo.on.ca; and all municipalities in Ontario.



THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF PAPINEAU-CAMERON

4861 Highway 17, P.O. Box 630, Mattawa ON P0H 1V0
Office: (705) 744-5610 • Fax: (705) 744-0434 • Garage: (705) 744-5072
E-mail: admin@papineaucameron.ca Website: www.papineaucameron.ca

February 26, 2026

The Ontario Veterinary College
50 Stone Road East
Guelph, ON N1G 2W1

RE: Ontario Veterinary College expansion of enrollment capacity

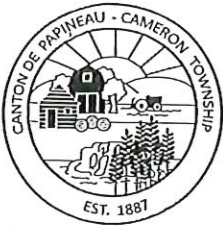
The Council of The Corporation of The Township of Papineau-Cameron met at their Regular Council Meeting on February 24, 2026 and passed the attached resolution 2026-50 that relates to the Ontario Veterinary College's enrollment capacity.

Yours truly,

Venessa Wilson
Administrative Assistant

Encl: Resolution 2026-50, Township of Papineau-Cameron

Cc: The Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness
The Canadian Veterinary Medical Association
The Honorable Victor Fedeli, MPP, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade
The Honorable Trevor Jones, MPP, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness
The Honorable Nolan Quinn, MPP, Minister of Colleges, Universities, Research Excellence and Security
Association of Municipalities of Ontario
All Ontario Municipalities



THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF PAPINEAU-CAMERON

4861 Highway 17, P.O. Box 630, Mattawa ON P0H 1V0
Office: (705) 744-5610 • Fax: (705) 744-0434 • Garage: (705) 744-5072
Website: www.papineaucameron.ca

DATE: **February 24, 2026**

RESOLUTION NUMBER: **2026-50**

MOVED BY: *Shelley Belanger*

SECONDED BY: *M Chenier*

WHEREAS large animal livestock owners in Northern Ontario have extremely limited access to large animal veterinary services;

AND WHEREAS the cost of large animal veterinary services in Northern Ontario is significantly higher due to long travel distances and the limited number of large animal veterinarians available to service the region;

AND WHEREAS it has come to the attention of the Council of Papineau-Cameron Township that three qualified individuals within our community have applied to the Ontario Veterinary College for large animal veterinary, but were denied admission due to limited enrollment capacity;

THAT the Council of Papineau-Cameron Township formally requests that the Ontario Veterinary College, the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness, and the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association consider expanding enrollment capacity at the Ontario Veterinary College to allow more qualified applicants to pursue certification as large animal veterinarians.

AND FURTHER THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Ontario Veterinary College, the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness, the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association, the Hon. Victor Fedeli MPP Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade, the Hon. Trevor Jones MPP Minister of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness, the Hon. Nolan Quinn MPP Minister of Colleges, Universities, Research Excellence and Security, Association of Municipalities of Ontario, and Ontario Municipalities for their consideration and support.

CARRIED: *Robert Corriveau*
(Mayor)

NOT CARRIED: _____
(Mayor)

Recorded Vote (Upon Request of Councillor _____) Section 246 (1) Municipal Act

RECORDED DIVISION VOTE	YES Signature	NO Signature	ABSTAIN Signature
Mayor Robert Corriveau			
Deputy Mayor Shelley Belanger			
Councillor Keith Dillabough			
Councillor Jason Bélanger			
Councillor Mélanie Chenier			

COPY



CORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF SOUTH HURON

322 Main Street South P.O. Box 759

Exeter Ontario

N0M 1S6

Phone: 519-235-0310 Fax: 519-235-3304

Toll Free: 1-877-204-0747

www.southhuron.ca

March 24, 2026

Via email: stan.cho@pc.ola.org

Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Gaming

6th Floor

438 University Ave.

Toronto, ON M7A 1N3

Dear Hon. Stan Cho,

Re: Ontario Heritage Organization Development Grant Advocacy

Please be advised that South Huron Council passed the following resolution at their March 16, 2026 Regular Council Meeting:

125-2026

Moved By: Aaron Neeb

Seconded by: Ted Oke

That South Huron Council supports the February 17, 2026 correspondence of the Township of McNab/Braeside regarding Ontario Heritage Organization Development Grant Advocacy; and

That this supporting resolution and the originating correspondence be circulated to the Minister of Tourism, Culture and Gaming, Stan Cho, Lisa Thompson, MPP, AMO, and all municipalities in Ontario.

Result: Carried

Please find attached the originating correspondence for your reference.

Respectfully,

Kendra Webster, Legislative & Licensing Coordinator

Municipality of South Huron

kwebster@southhuron.ca

519-235-0310 x. 232

Encl.

cc: MPP Lisa Thompson, lisa.thompson@pc.ola.org; AMO, resolutions@amo.on.ca ; and all municipalities in Ontario.



TOWNSHIP OF
McNab/Braeside

Regular Council Meeting Resolution Form

Date: February 17, 2026 No: RESOLUTION - 56-2026
 Moved by Councillor Kevin Rosien Disposition: CARRIED
 Seconded by Deputy Mayor Scott Brum Item No: 14.2

Description: Ontario Heritage Organization Development Grant Advocacy

RESOLUTION:

WHEREAS Ontario municipalities are legislated to preserve records of enduring and historical value, and community archives play a critical role in fulfilling this responsibility, particularly in rural and smaller municipalities; and

WHEREAS The Heritage Organization Development Grant (HODG) is the only provincial operating grant available to grassroots, non-profit heritage organizations, including community archives and historical societies across Ontario; and

WHEREAS The maximum annual HODG grant of \$1,545 per organization has remained effectively unchanged for more than 15 years, resulting in a significant erosion of its real value due to inflation, such that its current purchasing power is approximately two-thirds of what it was in 2010; and

WHEREAS Rising operating costs related to insurance, utilities, records preservation, digitization, accessibility, and volunteer coordination have increased financial pressure on heritage organizations, often requiring municipalities to absorb additional costs to ensure continuity of service; and

WHEREAS Strengthening HODG would represent a modest but high-impact provincial investment that would help stabilize community archives, reduce pressure on municipal budgets, and safeguard Ontario's public records and local heritage for future generations;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council formally support a review and modernization of the Heritage Organization Development Grant, including restoring its real purchasing power through inflationary adjustment and exploring options for increased or multi-year operating stability; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT This resolution be forwarded to the Minister of Tourism, Culture and Gaming, local Members of Provincial Parliament, AMO, and Ontario municipalities for consideration and support.

MAYOR

Recorded Vote Requested by:	_____	
	Yea	Nay
Mayor Lori Hoddinott	_____	_____
Deputy Mayor Scott Brum	_____	_____
Councillor Kevin Rosien	_____	_____
Councillor Robert Campbell	_____	_____
Councillor Jill Campbell	_____	_____

Declaration of Pecuniary Interest: _____
 Disclosed his/her/their interest(s), vacated he/her/their seat(s),
 abstained from discussion and did not vote

From: TransCanada Energy Storage Project <energy_storage@tcenergy.com>

Sent: March 31, 2026 11:04 AM

To: Christine Dutton <cdutton@gbtownship.ca>

Subject: Have Your Say: Federal Impact Assessment Underway for Ontario Pumped Storage Project

Dear Mayor and Council,

We are writing to share an important update regarding the [Ontario Pumped Storage Project](#). The proposed Project is now undergoing a rigorous, independent federal Impact Assessment led by the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC), which is designed to identify, examine and mitigate potential environmental effects **before any approvals are considered**. As part of this first phase, an **initial public comment period** is now open and closes on **April 6**.

Why your municipality's input matters

Municipal perspectives play a meaningful role in the Impact Assessment process. Local knowledge helps the Agency understand community priorities, regional planning considerations, and potential effects on land use, infrastructure, the environment, and local residents. Early input can help shape the focus of future studies and engagement as the review progresses.

Our commitment to environmental stewardship

Environmental protection is foundational to how we are advancing this proposed Project. Over several years of planning, TC Energy has:

- Re-designed elements of the project to reduce surface disturbance and environmental footprint;
- Located major infrastructure underground where feasible;
- Undertaken extensive technical and environmental studies to inform project design; and
- Committed to ongoing engagement with Indigenous partners, communities, and regulators.

We're here to support

We would be pleased to answer questions, provide a briefing, or walk through how your municipality can participate in the federal process. **Please contact us at energy_storage@tcenergy.com.**

To provide your feedback and review project documents, please visit the [Canadian Impact Assessment Registry](#).

We encourage your municipality to consider making a submission before the **April 6** deadline. **Note that this is the first of many public comment periods under the federal assessment process, with ongoing engagement opportunities as the review moves forward.**

Sincerely,

The Ontario Pumped Storage Project Team

TC Energy



Trillium Lakelands District School Board
Lindsay Education Centre
300 County Road #36, Lindsay, ON K9V 4R4
Muskoka Education Centre
1271 Cedar Lane, Bracebridge, ON P1L 1N4

1-888-526-5552 | info@tldsbo.on.ca

March 25, 2026

Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Via email: Premier@ontario.ca

Honourable Paul Calandra
Minister of Education
Via email: paul.calandra@pc.ola.org

Re: School Board Trustees and request for public consultation

Dear Premier Ford and Minister Calandra,

At the March 24, 2026, Board meeting of the Trillium Lakelands District School Board, Trustees unanimously voted in favour of the following resolution:

Be it resolved that the Board of Trustees direct the Chair to write a letter to Premier Doug Ford and Minister of Education, Paul Calandra, with a copy to MPPs, and Ontario Public School Boards' Association, and municipal councils, regarding the work of School Board Trustees and Student Trustees in fulfilling the mandates of the Board as set out in the Ontario Education Act, and that the Minister conduct a public consultation before making any changes to the education act regarding the role of Trustees.

The position of School Board Trustee is the longest-serving democratically elected position in what is now known as Canada, serving our communities since 1816. Trustees are the only elected representatives whose primary responsibility is student achievement and well-being. We carry out our role and fulfill the mandate of our elected position through our deep connection and familiarity with the needs of the communities in which we live and whom we serve.

Our board of trustees has worked hard to be a strong board that understands our roles and responsibilities. We understand that we are governors of our board and have done extensive learning on what this entails. We work collaboratively together and follow our strategic plan to ensure our focus is on the well-being and achievement of our students.

The requirement that Trustees must live in the area we serve, and bring the concerns of the community to the attention of the board, ensures we as Trustees represent our communities' interests and needs while acting as liaisons between the families we represent and the provincial government. When we reach out to our community for their input and feedback, we get genuine engagement that is relevant and meaningful. We as Trustees are responsible for the oversight of our local school board through the Education Act and

associated Regulations. We support the Ministry by ensuring the implementation of the provincial curriculum, strategies and mandates, supporting the Ministry's consultation needs. We are the greatest advocates and supporters of Ontario's publicly funded education system, always cognizant of our responsibilities to uphold public support of publicly funded education.

The families in our communities know we are very familiar with their schools and neighbourhoods, and that we will listen to their perspectives to arrive at the best possible decisions, whether setting the school board's strategic direction through the Multi-Year Strategic Plan or focusing on our fiduciary responsibilities by leading evaluations into program viability, special education, and school boundary reviews.

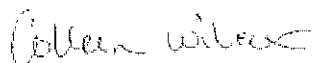
We engage with all key stakeholders in meaningful and extensive consultations, respond to parents' concerns and sometimes opposition, navigate challenging community dynamics, and support students who are struggling in the school system. We as Trustees help students and their families navigate the education system, whether they are concerned about academics, have questions about program placements, want to report bullying, need mental health resources, or are seeking information about special education, all with the goal that no student be left behind.

Trustees are often the greatest — and sometimes the only — ally for a student and their family as we collaboratively begin to address their concerns and sort out issues, facilitating a connection to the staff person best equipped to assist them.

We chose to become Trustees because we care deeply about providing excellent public education in Ontario, and have a passion to fulfill our role with a deep sense of responsibility and dedication to every student and their success. This is what grounds and inspires us to do the very best we can for every student. By doing so, we as Trustees support our respective school boards and the provincial government in delivering on the mandate to provide the best possible learning experience for our students.

As elected representatives, we have an opportunity to continue working together in partnership — Trustees and MPPs — to focus on the bigger picture. Working as a team we can build a better, stronger public education system in Ontario. We would like to invite the Ministry's collaboration with Trustees to identify and propose solutions to systemic issues and reach province-wide consistency while respecting local realities. Let's work together.

Sincerely,



Sincerely,

Colleen Wilcox

Chair, Trillium Lakelands District School Board

cc: The Honourable Laurie Scott, MPP, Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes- Brock
The Honourable Graydon Smith, MPP, Parry Sounds-Muskoka
Ontario Public School Boards' Association
All English Public School Boards in Ontario
Local Municipal Councils
Local Chiefs and Councils