

INFORMATION ITEMS PACKAGE

Thursday, October 17, 2024, 4:00 p.m.

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MEDIA RELEASE

Lord Mayor Zalepa's Holiday Card Design Contest Calls on Young Artists to Participate

For Immediate Release

October 10, 2024

Lord Mayor Zalepa is inviting children up to 13 years of age to participate in his Holiday Card Design Contest. The winner's artwork will be featured on the Town's official holiday greeting cards.

This exciting opportunity allows local youth to showcase their creativity and spread the holiday spirit through their designs.

Contest Details:

- **Eligibility:** Open to Niagara-on-the-Lake children aged 13 and under
- **Deadline for Submissions:** Wednesday, November 8, 2024
- **Number of Winning Designs:** Lord Mayor Zalepa will select three winning designs.
- **Theme:** Participants are encouraged to capture the holiday spirit of Niagara-on-the-Lake through a community-themed design.

Three chosen winners will have their artwork printed on the Town's official holiday card. They will also be invited to a ceremony at the December Council Meeting, where they will be presented with their box of cards and a certificate and awarded a complimentary skating pass for the season.

How to Enter:

- Create an original design that reflects the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake's holiday season using your medium of choice (i.e., crayon, paint, etc.). The design should be horizontally oriented and fit half of an 8.5x11-inch piece of paper.
- Include the artist's name, age, and contact information.
- Submit entries by email via communication@notl.com or drop them off in person at the Town Administration Building (1593 Four Mile Creek Road, Virgil).

Let's get into the holiday spirit, Niagara-on-the-Lake! We can't wait to see your designs.



Quotes

"The arts hold a special place in our Town and play an important role in encouraging creativity in youth from all over. I am looking forward to seeing how our youth capture the holiday spirit of Niagara-on-the-Lake through this design contest. Good luck to all participants!" – **Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa**

"By participating in this contest, young people have the opportunity to showcase their creativity and feel more connected to their town. The Town is excited to celebrate youth talents and highlight their contributions through this contest, reinforcing the importance of youth involvement in our community." **CAO Bruce Zvaniga**

Follow the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#) for immediate alerts.

Media contact:

Marah Minor, Communications Coordinator
905-468-3266 | communications@notl.com



MEDIA RELEASE

Council Appoints Andrew Niven to Fill Vacant Council Seat

For Immediate Release

October 17, 2024

During a [Special Council Meeting](#) held on October 16, 2024, Niagara-on-the-Lake Town Council voted in favour of appointing Andrew Niven to fill the vacant Council seat for the remainder of the 2022-2026 term of office. This appointment is pending confirmation of Mr. Niven's acceptance and verification of his legislative eligibility and qualifications, as required under the *Municipal Act*, 2001.

The vacancy arose following the resignation of former Councillor Nick Ruller. In accordance with the *Municipal Act*, when a Council seat becomes vacant, municipalities are required to fill the vacancy within 60 days, either through a by-election or a direct appointment. Council opted for a direct appointment in this case, as permitted by Section 263 of the *Municipal Act*. Under the legislation, Council has the authority to appoint any eligible individual who meets the requirements. The *Municipal Act* is overly prescriptive in this process, therefore providing Council the opportunity to consider a wide range of qualified candidates to serve the remainder of the term.

About Andrew Niven:

Andrew Niven is a respected community member known for his extensive involvement in local initiatives and boards and his dedication to the well-being of Niagara-on-the-Lake. Niven is known for his leadership within the Niagara-on-the-Lake business community, currently serving as Chair of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Chamber of Commerce and Tourism NOTL. In this role, he has been a strong advocate for local businesses and tourism, helping to shape strategic initiatives aimed at promoting the economic growth of the town. Niven currently serves as Chair of the Town's Tourism Strategy Committee, is a member of the Municipal Accommodation Tax Committee, and is the Governance Chair for Wineries of Niagara-on-the-Lake. His active involvement in Town initiatives and the local business community, along with his dedication to preserving the character of Niagara-on-the-Lake while supporting strategic growth, will make him a valuable addition to Council.

Council will proceed with the formal confirmation of Mr. Niven's qualifications and, upon completion, will officially welcome him to his new role.

Follow the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#) for immediate alerts.

Media contact:

Marah Minor, Communications Coordinator
905-468-3266 | communications@notl.com



MEDIA RELEASE

Niagara-on-the-Lake Invites Community Feedback on 2025 Budget Survey

For Immediate Release

October 17, 2024

The Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake is pleased to announce that its [2025 Budget Survey is now live](#). Residents, business owners, and community partners are all encouraged to share their insights and priorities to help shape the Town's budget for the upcoming year. The survey will be open until Thursday, October 31, 2024.

“The participation of our community is key to ensuring a budget that reflects the needs and aspirations of all community members,” stated Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa. “By gathering feedback early in the process, we can ensure that well-informed decisions are made. On behalf of Council, I extend my appreciation to everyone taking part.”

The Town's annual budget covers a range of services, from essential operations to large-scale capital projects. It is divided into Operating and Capital Budgets, focusing on maintaining vital services, achieving Council's strategic goals, and managing public assets efficiently.

“Our goal is to build a budget that aligns with the evolving priorities of our residents,” stated CAO Bruce Zvaniga. “Community feedback is essential for crafting a financial plan that fosters sustainability, supports key initiatives, and enhances the overall quality of life in Niagara-on-the-Lake. Thank you to the Finance Team for their oversight of the budget process.”

For those looking to understand more about the budget process, the Town's Join the Conversation platform offers detailed information, including infographics, videos, key dates, timelines, and frequently asked questions.

To ensure your voice is heard and be part of shaping the future of Niagara-on-the-Lake, please visit <http://www.jointheconversationnotl.org/budget> and complete the survey today.

For immediate alerts, follow the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).

Media contact:

Marah Minor, Communications Coordinator
905-468-3266 | communications@notl.com



TOWN STATEMENT

Statement from the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake Regarding the Recent Ontario Land Tribunal (OLT) Decision on Randwood

For Immediate Release

October 17, 2024

The Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake was made aware of the Ontario Land Tribunal's Decision on the Official Plan Amendment (OPA) and an interim decision on the Zoning By-law Amendment and Plan of Subdivision regarding Randwood Estate on Friday, October 11, 2024.

The OPA has been approved to reflect the urban area boundary as a straight line and to redesignate the lands from Agricultural to Low-Density Residential. This will align the Town's boundary with the boundary found in the Region's Niagara Official Plan.

According to the Decision, "This site, as designated for residential development in the Town Official Plan (TOP) and through the OPA approved herein, can be developed to add quality housing in NOTL." However, as explained throughout this decision, Solmar must resolve many fundamental matters before a draft subdivision plan is considered for approval. Such fundamentals include:

- A Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) for this adjacent site's effects on the Cultural Heritage Value or Interest (CHVI) of 144/176;
- A HIA and possible heritage permits for this site's development components on 144/176;
- Ascertaining solutions for primary and emergency access; and
- A full-site and boundary/border Tree Preservation Plan (TOP) with its cross-implications for grading, drainage and Stormwater Management (SWM)."

The Tribunal cited that revisions are required to meet the requirements of Section 2 of the *Planning Act*, matters of provincial interest.

In the Interim Order, the Tribunal ordered Solmar (Niagara 2) Inc. to advise if it intends to pursue the studies and revisions to the proposed development in accordance with the Tribunal's findings within two (2) months of the October 11 Decision.

The Randwood Estate has long been a property of significant heritage and community interest. Both Council and Staff are dedicated to continuing our efforts to balance development with the protection of our Town's cultural and historical assets. The Town respects the OLT's ruling. Council will be briefed on the details of the ruling by the Town's legal team at the earliest opportunity and will determine the appropriate next steps pending Solmar's decision to proceed.



Any media inquiries related to this matter should be directed to communications@notl.com. All other inquiries can be addressed to Kirsten McCauley, Director of Community & Development Services, at kirsten.mccauley@notl.com.

Thank you.

Comments from Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa:

“The recent Ontario Land Tribunal (OLT) decision regarding 200 John Street East / 588 Charlotte Street is the result of an appeal triggered due to the non-decision of the previous term of Council (2018-2022) on the application for an Official Plan Amendment, Zoning By-law Amendment and Draft Plan of Subdivision within the required timelines under the *Planning Act*.

During this term of Council (2022-2026), we identified significant heritage attributes of the property, and I'm pleased that the OLT decision has recognized the importance of those attributes in their ruling.


I want to thank our Planning team, who supported Council through this process. The recommendations of our professional planners have been recognized in the OLT's decision, which requires the protection of many of the heritage assets and the recognition of the site as a cultural heritage landscape.

It is important to note that this OLT hearing has consumed considerable time and financial resources for all parties involved. From the Town's perspective, these costs have had a significant impact on our budgets.

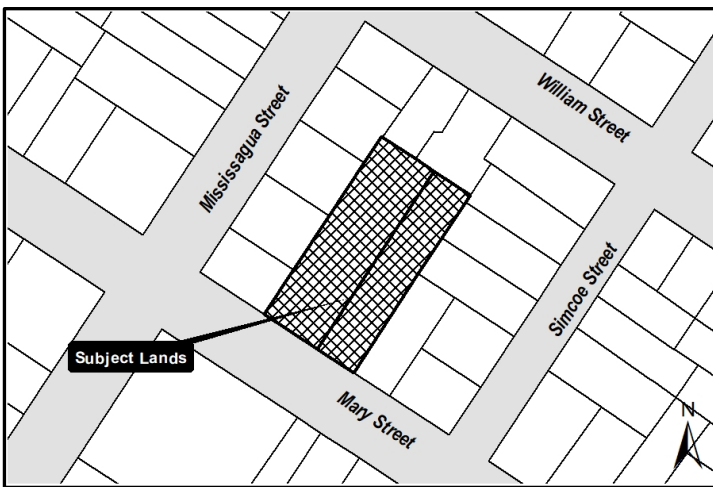
We now look forward to hearing from the applicant regarding their next steps, and the Town remains open to meeting and discussing the path forward.”

For immediate alerts, follow the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).

The Corporation of the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake
communications@notl.com | 905-468-3266

	What:	Notice of Decision for an Official Plan Amendment and Zoning By-law Amendment (under Section 22 and Section 34, respectively, of the <i>Planning Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. P.13</i> , as amended).
	When:	Refused at the September 24, 2024 Council Meeting
	Regarding:	Official Plan Amendment 97 - By-law 2024-060 (File OPA-04-2022) Zoning By-law Amendment - By-law 4316FS-24 (File ZBA-23-2022) 223 and 227 Mary Street, Niagara-on-the-Lake

What is this?



Town Council for Niagara-on-the-Lake has considered written and oral submissions and refused an Official Plan Amendment and Zoning By-law Amendment on the subject lands as follows (see the location map). The Amendments were refused, as the By-laws were defeated by Council in a tie vote.

Official Plan Amendment 97

The Amendment requested to designate the lands to a site-specific “Medium Density Residential”



designation. The site-specific “Medium Density Residential” designation requested to permit a four (4) storey apartment building with a maximum of forty-one (41) apartment dwelling units and a maximum net residential density of 100 units per hectare. The site-specific designation also requested to permit parking for the apartment building at the side and front of the building.

Zoning By-law 4316FS-24

The By-law requested a “Residential Multiple (RM1-H) Site Specific Holding Zone,” to permit the apartment building. The “Residential Multiple (RM1-H) Site Specific Holding Zone” contained provisions for maximum building height, minimum front yard setbacks, minimum interior side yard setbacks which increase for the upper storeys of the building, encroachments, minimum rear yard setbacks, and minimum landscaped open space, with the inclusion of a Holding (H) symbol to require that the subject lands are merged in title to facilitate the proposed development. The Holding (H) symbol was also included to address requirements related to stormwater management and associated agreements required to ensure that the stormwater approach for the development is addressed to the satisfaction of the Town and prior to Site Plan Approval.



The last date for filing a notice of appeal is October 29, 2024.

A notice of appeal:

- i. must be filed with the Town Clerk;
- ii. must set out the reasons for the appeal; and
- iii. must be accompanied by the fee required by the Ontario Land Tribunal.

Please refer to the Ontario Land Tribunal website at olt.gov.on.ca for more information.



Further notice and appeal eligibility:

Only individuals, corporations or public bodies may appeal decisions in respect of a proposed Official Plan Amendment and/or Zoning By-law Amendment to the Ontario Land Tribunal. A notice of appeal may not be filed by an unincorporated association or group. However, a notice of appeal may be filed in the name of an individual who is a member of the association or group on its behalf.

No person or public body shall be added as a party to the hearing of the appeal of the decision of Town Council, unless the person or public body, before Town Council made its decision, made oral submissions at a public meeting or written submissions to Town Council, or, in the opinion of the Ontario Land Tribunal, there are reasonable grounds to add the person or public body as a party.

Third party appeals are restricted for these applications as per Bill 185, *Cutting Red Tape to Build More Homes Act, 2024*. *Planning Act* appeals may be filed by the applicant, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, a “specified person” (as defined by the *Planning Act 1(1)*), and any “public body” (as defined by the *Planning Act 1(1)*).

Dated at the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, **October 9, 2024**

Grant Bivol, Town Clerk (clerks@notl.com or 905-468-3266)

Town Hall, 1593 Four Mile Creek Road, P.O. Box 100, Virgil, ON L0S 1T0

2025 LEGISLATIVE SCHEDULE OF REGULAR MEETINGS

JANUARY						
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DECEMBER						
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Council	Stat Holiday	Budget Review Committee of the Whole
Committee Week	March Break	Workshop - Budget
Committee of the Whole	Regional Chair's Golf Tournament	

AMO Conference - August 17 - 20, 2025 Ottawa, ON	FCM Conference - May 29 - June 1, 2025 Ottawa, ON
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Meeting Times

Council
Committee of the Whole, Budget Review Committee of the Whole
Public Works Committee
Public Health and Social Services Committee
Corporate Services Committee
Planning & Economic Development Committee

Thursdays at 6:30 p.m.
 Thursdays at 6:30 p.m.
 Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m.
 Tuesdays at 1:00 p.m.
 Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m.
 Wednesdays at 1:00 p.m.

Approved by Regional Council on September 26, 2024

October 08, 2024

Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa
Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake
1593 Four Mile Creek Road
P.O. Box 100
Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON L0S 1J0

Dear Lord Mayor Zalepa:

Niagara Region's Waste Management By-law 2022-32 – Student Move Ins

I have enclosed a copy of a letter and flyer for information purposes, for you and your Council. The letter was mailed to the property owners of off-campus student housing. Additionally, the information flyer was sent to all identified off-campus student houses in the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, in particular within the immediate area surrounding Niagara College.

Regional staff mail information to off-campus student rental housing properties and owners twice per year to inform them on how to manage curbside collected materials in accordance with Niagara Region's Waste Management By-law 2022-32.

Regional staff have found that this contact with students and property owners can help alleviate some of the common waste management issues in the student areas.

Waste Management Staff will continue to work with local post-secondary institutions to educate students on proper waste management practices and will monitor these areas for compliance on a weekly basis.

Sincerely,



Catherine Habermehl
Director of Waste Management Services
Public Works, Niagara Region

Encl.

Copies: J. Bradley, Regional Chair
A. Kaiser, Niagara-on-the-Lake Regional Councillor
T. Ricketts, Commissioner of Public Works, Niagara Region
M. Singzon, Manager, Waste Collection and Diversion Operations



Important information inside

Curbside waste collection services



Curbside Waste Collection Services

Garbage collection is every-other-week. Recycling and organics collection is weekly.



Garbage collection



- Single family homes and apartments up to six units, limit of two bags or cans of garbage per unit, **every-other-week**
- More than two bags or cans? A garbage tag must be purchased for \$2.85 and placed around the neck of each additional garbage bag or on top of materials in cans.
- For a complete list of garbage tag locations or to purchase tags online, visit niagararegion.ca/waste

Collection day



- To find your collection day, use the 'Find Your Collection Day' tool at niagararegion.ca/waste or use the Niagara Region Waste app
- Ensure all materials are at the curb no later than 7 a.m. on collection day, and no earlier than 5 p.m. the evening before
- All curbside containers and any items that were not collected must be removed from the curb no later than 7 p.m. on your collection day. Failure to do so is subject to a fine.

Large household item collection



- There is a limit of four items per garbage collection week per eligible residential unit
- Niagara Region does not collect large appliances or metal items; these items can be taken to a Niagara Region Drop-off Depot or you can check our website for a list of private scrap metal companies
- Large household item pick-ups must be booked two working days prior to your collection day. To make arrangements: complete an online form at niagararegion.ca/waste.

Recycling and organics



- New renters may be entitled to one free Green Bin and Kitchen Catcher if they do not have them already. Visit niagararegion.ca/waste/containers for more information.
- As of Jan. 1, 2024, Blue and Grey Boxes are obtained through your city/town's collection contractor:
 - **Miller Waste Systems:** Fort Erie, Niagara Falls, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Port Colborne, St. Catharines, Welland: 1-833-621-0726 or area19@millerwaste.ca
 - **GFL Environmental Inc.:** Grimsby, Lincoln, Pelham, Thorold, Wainfleet, West Lincoln: 1-855-769-3760 or gflenv.com/canada-recycles/

All things waste in one place

Get waste collection info and reminders

Download the Niagara Region waste app



Street litter receptacles



Dumping household garbage into a public litter bin is considered illegal dumping and is subject to a fine

October 15, 2024

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1000 Taylor Court
Bracebridge, ON
P1L 1R6 Canada

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Yours truly,

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

Lori McDonald
Director of Corporate Services/Clerk

September 20, 2024

BY E-MAIL

Hon. Andrea Khanjin, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
5th Floor
777 Bay St.
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3

Dear Minister Khanjin:

Ontario Deposit Return Program

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to formally address the recent discussions surrounding the Ontario Deposit Return Program, particularly regarding our community residents asking us about the recycling of nonalcoholic beverage plastics.

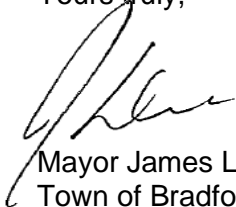
Whereas the Ontario Deposit Return Program has successfully incentivized the recycling of alcoholic beverage containers, resulting in the removal of over 204,000 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions, we recognize the potential for similar success with nonalcoholic beverages.

The Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks highlighted in their June 2023 letter that they are considering the adoption of a deposit-and-return system for nonalcoholic beverages. This initiative presents a unique opportunity to further promote recycling, reduce litter, and encourage sustainable practices among consumers.

Therefore, I am proud to announce that our Council endorses the expansion of the Ontario Deposit Return Program to include nonalcoholic beverage containers. We believe that this expansion will not only enhance environmental stewardship but also foster a culture of sustainability within our community.

We encourage all stakeholders to support this initiative and work collaboratively towards its implementation. Together, we can make a significant impact on our environment and set a positive example for future generations.

Yours truly,



Mayor James Leduc
Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury

CC:

Hon. Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance
Hon. Caroline Mulroney, Member of Provincial Parliament for York-Simcoe
MPP Sandy Shaw, Opposition Environment, Conservation and Parks Critic
Ontario's Municipal Councils and Conservation Authorities



CLEARVIEW
TOWNSHIP

Clerk's Department
Township of Clearview
Box 200, 217 Gideon Street
Stayner, Ontario L0M 1S0
clerks@clearview.ca | www.clearview.ca
Phone: 705-428-6230

October 8, 2024

Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Hon. Paul Calandra

Sent by Email: minister.mah@ontario.ca

RE: Support Resolution – Updates to the Municipal Elections Act

Please be advised at its meeting held on October 7, 2024, Council of the Township of Clearview passed the following resolution supporting AMCTO's advocacy for updates to the Municipal Elections Act:

Moved by Councillor Broderick, Seconded by Councillor Walker, Whereas, election rules need to be clear, supporting candidates and voters in their electoral participation and election administrators in running elections;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

And Whereas, AMCTO put forward recommendations for amendments ahead of the 2026 elections and longer-term recommendations for amendments ahead of the 2030 elections;

Therefore, Be It Resolved That Council of the Corporation of the Township of Clearview calls for the Province to update the MEA with priority amendments as outlined by AMCTO before Summer 2025 and commence work to review and re-write the MEA with longer-term recommendations ahead of the 2030 elections;

And Be It Further Resolved that this resolution will be forwarded to all municipalities in Ontario for support and that each endorsement be then forwarded to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing (minister.mah@ontario.ca), the Minister of Education (minister.edu@ontario.ca), the Minister of Public and Business Service Delivery (todd.mccarthy@ontario.ca), Minister of Finance (Minister.fin@ontario.ca) the Premier of Ontario (premier@ontario.ca), Simcoe-Grey MPP (brian.saunderson@pc.ola.org) and AMCTO (advocacy@amcto.com). Motion Carried.

We look forward to hearing of the continued advocacy regarding this matter and updates on when the Ministry will move ahead with amending the Municipal Elections Act.

Sincerely,



Sasha Helmkey-Playter, B.A., Dipl. M.A., AOMC
Clerk/Director of Legislative Services

cc: Minister of Education
Minister of Public and Business Service Delivery
Minister of Finance
Premier of Ontario
Simcoe Grey MPP
AMCTO Advocacy



The Corporation of the Town of Cobourg

Resolution

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

Town of Cobourg
55 King Street West,
Cobourg, ON, K9A 2M2
clerk@cobourg.ca

Delivered via email

Doug.fordco@pc.ola.org
premier@ontario.ca

October 4, 2024

RE: Motion from Mayor Lucas Cleveland regarding Support of Involuntary Care for Individuals with Severe Mental Health and Addictions Issues

Please be advised that the Town of Cobourg Council, at its meeting held on September 25, 2024, passed the following resolution:

WHEREAS the Province of British Columbia has announced the creation of highly secure facilities to provide involuntary care for individuals with severe mental health and addictions issues under the Mental Health Act, including dedicated mental health units in correctional centres and regional secure care facilities; and

WHEREAS the Town of Cobourg, along with municipalities across Ontario, are facing growing challenges in addressing the complex needs of individuals with severe mental health and addictions issues, which place a significant strain on local emergency services, healthcare systems, community resources, and public safety; and

WHEREAS individuals experiencing severe mental health and addictions issues often cannot voluntarily seek the care they need, and involuntary care, provided with compassion and appropriate safeguards, can ensure they receive the necessary treatment to help stabilize their condition and improve community safety.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Town of Cobourg supports the BC government's approach to providing secure, involuntary care for individuals with severe mental health and addictions challenges, as a compassionate and necessary intervention for those unable to seek help on their own; and

FURTHER THAT the Town of Cobourg urges the Province of Ontario to implement similar measures to ensure that individuals with severe mental health and addictions issues in Ontario have access to secure, involuntary care when necessary; and



The Corporation of the Town of Cobourg

Resolution

FURTHER THAT this motion be forwarded to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), The Premier, Honourable David Piccini, MPP, all other Members of Provincial Parliament and all Ontario municipalities to seek their endorsement and support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kristina Lepik".

Kristina Lepik
Deputy Clerk/Manager, Legislative Services

cc. Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO);
the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM);
Honourable, David Piccini, Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills
Development and Northumberland – Peterborough South MPP;,
All other Members of Provincial Parliament; and
All Ontario Municipalities

Memo

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

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

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

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


1. The ERO speaks to a wider acceptance of surety bonds as a targeted step to support the increase of housing. It also states: *The Minister may prescribe the instruments that landowners and other applicants can choose from as well as the circumstances in which the authority can be exercised.*
 - a) What are those circumstances being considered?
 - b) If the focus is only on housing, will commercial and industrial operations be excluded?
 - c) Similarly, will mixed-use facilities be excluded?
 - d) Will a municipality have the right to deny certain surety bonds should a developer or insurance company have a history of default?

2. The regulation requires credit ratings of insurers.
 - a) What happens if one of the insurers loses their credit rating during the time of the surety bond and is unable to pay?
 - b) While banks have more stringent regulations, will there be further risk management tools considered regarding insurance companies who offer pay on demand surety bonds?
 - c) Will there be language in the regulation to protect municipalities?

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

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

Respectfully,


Brandon Wartman, CET, CMMII
Director of Public Works



Notice of Motion

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

October 10, 2024

Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
Via Email

Re: Provincial Updates to the Municipal Elections Act

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

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

Respectfully,



Melissa Lawr, AMP
Deputy Clerk – Legislation

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



THE CORPORATION
OF
THE TOWN OF HALTON HILLS

Resolution No.: 2024-0168

Title: Provincial Updates to the Municipal Elections Act

Date: October 7, 2024

Moved by: Councillor A. Hilson

Seconded by: Mayor A. Lawlor

Item No. 12.1

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

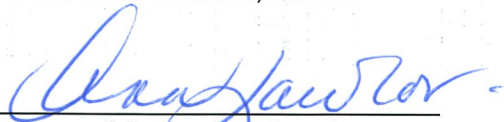
AND WHEREAS to keep public trust and improve safeguards the Act should be reviewed considering the ever-changing landscape which impacts elections administration including privacy, the threats of foreign interference, increased spread of mis-disinformation and the increased use of technologies like artificial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

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

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

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

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



Mayor Ann Lawlor



October 8, 2024

Resolution No. 310/2024

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

MOVED BY *Alcine Liu*

SECONDED BY *Francine Plante*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

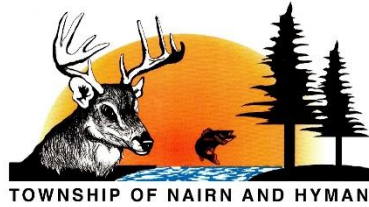
BE IT RESOLVED THAT The Township of McGarry calls for the Province to update the MEA with priority amendments as outlined by AMCTO before Summer 2025 and commence work to review and re-write the MEA with longer- term recommendations ahead of the 2030 elections.

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

Defeated _____ / Carried Bonita Culhane
 Mayor Mayor

Recorded Vote Requested by _____

	YES	NO
Mayor Bonita Culhane	_____	_____
Councillor Louanne Caza	_____	_____
Councillor Elaine Fic	_____	_____
Councillor Annie Keft	_____	_____
Councillor Francine Plante	_____	_____



October 11, 2024

Sent via email: premier@ontario.ca

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

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

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

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

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

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

RESOLUTION # 2024-EM2-12

DATED: October 2, 2024

MOVED BY: Vern Gorham

SECONDED BY: Jason Cote

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

CARRIED

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

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

Yours truly,



Belinda Ketchabaw
CAO Clerk Treasurer
Township of Nairn and Hyman

Cc:

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

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



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

Ontario Medical Association
VIA EMAIL
info@oma.org

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

October 10, 2024

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

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

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

Resolution No. 2024-268:

Moved by Councillor Sepulis and
Seconded by Councillor Bailey

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

Whereas Puslinch Council supports the correspondence provided by AMO and OMA, that staff be directed to prepare correspondence accordingly.

CARRIED



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

Sincerely,

Justine Brotherston
Municipal Clerk

CC: All Ontario Municipalities

Justine Brotherston

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



Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)

155 University Ave., Suite 800
Toronto, Ontario M5H 3B7
Telephone: 416.971.9856
Toll-free in Ontario: 1.877.426.6527
Fax: 416.971.6191

Ontario Medical Association

150 Bloor St. West, Suite 900
Toronto, ON M5S 3C1
Canada
TF: 1.800.268.7215
T: 416.599.2580
F: 416.533.9309
E: info@oma.org
oma.org

Dear Heads of Council and Clerks,

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

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

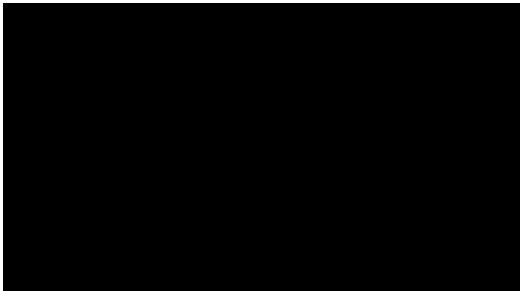
We have jointly developed the attached draft council resolution (Appendix A - Also in [PDF](#) and [Word](#) Versions), urging the provincial government to recognize the physician shortage in your municipality and the rest of Ontario. By adopting this resolution, your municipality can play a crucial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

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

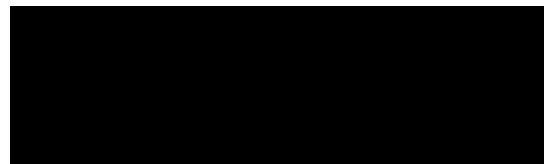
To set up a meeting with the OMA, please reach out to Tarun.Saroya@OMA.org (Senior Advisor for Government Relations and Advocacy) to book a 15-30 minute time slot at your earliest convenience.

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

Yours sincerely,



Kimberly Moran
CEO, Ontario Medical Association



Colin Best
AMO President

Appendix A:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

This email was sent to jbrotherston@puslinch.ca.

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



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

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

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

October 10, 2024

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

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

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

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

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

Resolution No. 2024-271:

Moved by Councillor Sepulis and
Seconded by Councillor Goyda

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

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



CARRIED

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

Sincerely,

Justine Brotherston
Municipal Clerk

CC: All Ontario Municipalities

P.O. Box 490
7 Creswell Drive
Trenton, Ontario K8V 5R6
www.quintewest.ca



A Natural Attraction

Tel: 613-392-2841
Toll Free: 1-866-485-2841
virinial@quintewest.ca
clerk@quintewest.ca

Virginia LaTour, Deputy City Clerk

August 15, 2024

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

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

Dear Prime Minister:

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

Motion No 24-366 – Notice of Motion - Councillor Stedall - The Canada Community-Building Fund
Moved by Councillor Stedall
Seconded by Councillor McCue

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

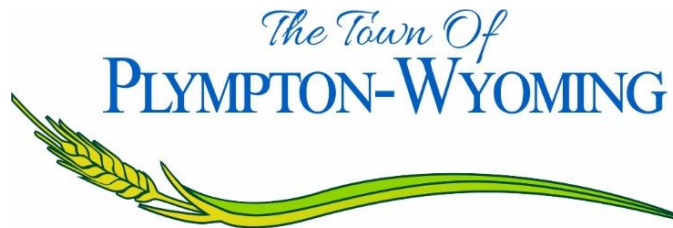
Yours Truly,

CITY OF QUINTE WEST



Virginia LaTour,
Deputy City Clerk

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



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

October 10th, 2024

Re: Solve the Humanitarian Crisis

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

Motion #14

Moved by Councillor Kristen Rodrigues

Seconded by Councillor John van Klaveren

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

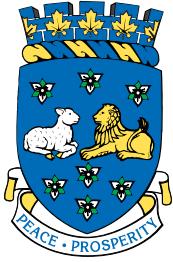
Carried.

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

Sincerely,

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

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



September 26, 2024

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada

Dear Prime Minister:

Re: Solve the Crisis

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

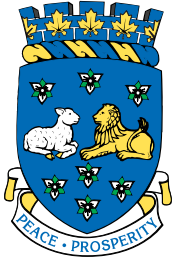
Whereas there is a humanitarian crisis in cities, large and small, urban and rural, across Ontario. We need immediate action at all levels of government, starting with the Province; and

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

AND that the province officially makes Homelessness a Health Priority;

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

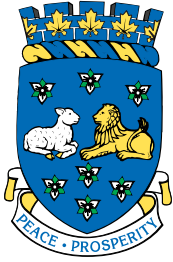
AND request that the provincial government strike a task force with broad sector representatives including municipalities, regions, healthcare, first responders, community services, the business community and the tourism industry to develop a *Made in Ontario Action Plan*;

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

Yours sincerely,

William Short, Director Council and Administrative Services/Regional Clerk

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



SMITHS FALLS

RISE AT THE FALLS

October 15, 2024

sent via email

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

Dear Minister Calandra:

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

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

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

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

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

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



SMITHS FALLS

RISE AT THE FALLS

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

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

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

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

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

Yours truly,

Kerry Costello
Town Clerk

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

Attachment: Resolution



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Honourable Premier Doug Ford
Doug.Fordco@pc.ola.org

Sent via electronic mail

October 4, 2024

Dear Honourable Premier Doug Ford

At its Regular meeting on October 2, 2024, the Township of Springwater's Council passed resolution C506-2024 endorsing the AMO and OMA Joint Health Resolution Campaign.

Resolution C506-2024

Moved by: Garwood

Seconded by: Fisher

Whereas the state of health care in Ontario is in crisis, with 2.5 million Ontarians lacking access to a family doctor, emergency room closures across the province, patients being derostered and 40% of family doctors considering retirement over the next five years; and

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

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

Whereas the percentage of family physicians practicing comprehensive family medicine has declined from 77% in 2008 to 65% in 2022; and,

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

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

Whereas these cracks in Ontario's health care system are impacting economic development, health, and well-being at the local level; and,

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

Now Therefore Be It Resolved That, Council of The Corporation of the Township of Springwater urge the Province of Ontario to recognize the physician shortage in Springwater and Ontario, to fund health care appropriately and ensure every Ontarian has access to physician care; and

Be It Further Resolved That a copy of this resolution be circulated to the Premier of Ontario, Hon. Doug Ford; Barrie-Springwater-Oro Medonte Member of Provincial Parliament, Hon. Doug Downey, the Minister of Health, Hon. Sylvia Jones, the Ontario Medical Association (OMA), the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and all Ontario municipalities.

Carried

I can be reached via email at jennifer.coughlin@springwater.ca or by phone at 705-728-4784, Ext. 2020.

Regards,



Jennifer Coughlin
Mayor, Township of Springwater

cc: Hon. Minister of Health Sylvia Jones
Hon. MPP Doug Shipley
Ontario Medical Association
Association of Municipalities of Ontario
All Ontario Municipalities

October 11, 2024

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

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

SCOR EDC
Email: do@scorregion.com

Re: Continued Funding Support - Southwest Community Transit

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

Resolution # 2024-474

Moved By: Councillor Luciani

Seconded By: Councillor Spencer

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

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

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

Whereas the current funding for this critical small urban and rural



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

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

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

Carried

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Laura Pickersgill'.

Laura Pickersgill
Executive Assistant
Town of Tillsonburg

Cc: All Ontario municipalities



PROCLAMATION

**The Corporation of the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake
Proclaims the Day of December 3, 2024**

“NIAGARAGIVES GIVINGTUESDAY”

WHEREAS GivingTuesday is an annual celebration of generosity and volunteerism which is celebrated and recognized in over 180+ countries across the globe, and;

WHEREAS GivingTuesday falls immediately after Black Friday/Cyber Monday weekend and asks people to give back to the less fortunate after having spent on luxuries during the years’ hottest sales, and;

WHEREAS Since 2012, GivingTuesday has raised billions of dollars for charities and nonprofits across Canada, the United States, and the around the world, and;

WHEREAS Since forming in 2021, NiagaraGives and GivingTuesday has inspired more than \$300,000 in charitable donations to local Niagara organizations, and;

WHEREAS GivingTuesday brings together businesses, charities, families, and entire communities to tackle real issues and create a better world for all, and;

WHEREAS The Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake recognizes and celebrates the generous contributions of individuals and organizations and recognizes the increasing need for their services.

THEREFORE Be it resolved that I, Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa, do hereby declare December 3, 2024, as GivingTuesday in The Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa



Declaration/Statement/Motion to Have November 8 Recognized as World Town Planning Day in [INSERT TOWN OR CITY NAME HERE]

From the parks we enjoy, to the streets we travel, to the places we call home, the discipline known as planning is interwoven within our lives. Every day, planning professionals work in communities like [INSERT TOWN OR CITY NAME HERE], across the country, and around the world to make a positive difference in how we live, work, and play. By leading the design and management of land and resources, planners help to protect our environment, promote health and well-being, preserve cultural heritage, and deliver community features that contribute to better outcomes for all.

On November 8, 2024, the Canadian Institute of Planners will join other planning organizations worldwide to celebrate the 75th annual World Town Planning Day. On this noteworthy day, planners come together with fellow community builders and citizens to celebrate the purpose of this important profession. World Town Planning Day represents an opportunity to reflect on the vast accomplishments of planners and to encourage curiosity and collaboration in solving modern challenges.

This year, World Town Planning Day is dedicated to one of the most pressing topics of our time – the housing crisis. With the theme of “Homes Start with Planning,” the Canadian Institute of Planners, [INSERT PTIA NAME HERE], and the Global Planners Network acknowledge the ever-evolving nature of the housing crisis while celebrating the innovative spirit of the planning profession and its ability to respond with solutions. Driven by the values of equity, inclusivity, and sustainability, planners remain actively engaged in promoting housing affordability and choice in communities like [INSERT TOWN OR CITY NAME HERE] and beyond.

Therefore, in acknowledgement of this historic occasion, I, [NAME OF MAYOR OR CITY/TOWN COUNCILLOR], call on the [INSERT CITY OF/TOWN OF/COUNTY OF] to declare November 8 as World Town Planning Day.

It is more important than ever before to support Registered Professional Planners [Replace with Licensed or Urbaniste as needed] in [INSERT TOWN OR CITY NAME], Canada, and around the world, as they purposefully plan for current and future generations.