

COUNCIL INFORMATION PACKAGE

October 4, 2024

City of Cambridge Correspondence

***includes City of Cambridge memos and meeting minutes**

Item	From	Subject	Page
1	City of Cambridge	Special Events Schedule	3-4
2	City of Cambridge	Housing Accelerator Fund Program Update	5-9
3	City of Cambridge	New Provincial Planning Statement, 2024	10-15
4	City of Cambridge	Cambridge Accessibility Advisory Committee July 22, 2024 Meeting Minutes	16-22

Received Correspondence and Resolutions

Item	From	Subject	Page
5	Municipality of St Charles	Physician Shortage	23
6	Municipality of St Charles	Sustainable Infrastructure Funding	24-26
7	Municipality of St Charles	Increase Tile Drain Load Limit	27-30
8	Municipality of St Charles	Asset Retirement Obligation	31-33
9	Municipality of St Charles	Regulation of Nicotine Pouches	34-41
10	City of Temiskaming Shores	Alcohol Sales & Provincial Alcohol Strategy	42-43
11	Municipality of East Ferris	Combined ROMA and OGRA Annual Conference	44-45
12	Town of Cobourg	Lithium-Ion Batteries	46

13	City of Brantford	Request to Chief Justice of the Superior Court	47-48
14	Regional Municipality of Waterloo	Solve the Crisis	49-51
15	Municipality of Casselman	Updates to the Municipal Elections Act	52-55
16	Township of Amaranth	Updates to the Municipal Elections Act	56-58

2024 Special Events Schedule

Start Date	End Date	Time	Event Name	Estimated Attendance	Confirmed Location	Event Type
9/25/2024	9/25/2024	10am – 12pm	Franco-Ontarian Day Flag Raising	200	City Hall, Civic Square	Public, Free
9/28/2024	9/28/2024	10am – 3pm	Annual Hespeler Harvest Festival	1,500	Forbes Park and Scout House	Public, Free
9/28/2024	9/28/2024	12:30pm – 3:30pm	Brian Riddell MPP Annual BBQ	100	Fiddlesticks Neighbourhood Association	Public, Free
9/28/2024	9/28/2024	11am – 11:30am	Luminaire Street Market and Lantern Festival	3,000	Central Park Bandshell	Public, Free
9/28/2024	9/28/2024	10am – 2pm	Cambridge Fire Department Open House	1,000	Fire Department Headquarters	Public, Free
9/29/2024	9/29/2024	5am – 10am	The Fall 5km Classic	650	Riverside Park (volleyball courts and Kinsmen)	Race
9/30/2024	9/30/2024	7pm – 9:30pm	Orange Shirt Day	Not confirmed	City Hall, Civic Square	Fundraiser / Awareness Campaign
10/5/2024	10/5/2024	6pm – 9pm	Re/Max Hot Air Balloon Client Appreciation	200	Victoria Park, Hespeler	Private
10/5/2024	10/5/2024	9am – 1pm	Ride for Refuge	200	Churchill Park, Open Space	Fundraiser / Awareness Campaign
10/5/2024	10/5/2024	11am – 4pm	Business Owners Community Event	CANCELLED BY ORGANIZER		
10/9/2024	10/9/2024	11:30am – 1:30pm	Cambridge Oktoberfest Lunch	1,000	City Hall, Civic Square	Public, Free
10/19/2024	10/19/2024	8am – 11am	Riverside Roughly Five	100	Riverside Park (Kinsmen)	Race
10/26/2024	10/26/2024	12pm - 3pm	Hespeler Village Halloween Hunt	600	Hespeler Town Square	Public, Free
11/1/2024	11/1/2024	6pm – 8:30pm	2 nd Annual Pumpkin Walk	200	Forbes Park and Scout House	Public, Free
11/1/2024	11/1/2024	6:30pm – 8:30pm	Fiddlesticks Pumpkin Walk	450	Ferguson Homestead	Public, Free
11/1/2024	11/1/2024	6:30pm – 8:30pm	Preston Pumpkin Walk	200	Central Park	Public, Free

11/9/2024	11/9/2024	8am – 1pm	The REMEMBERrun	250	Riverside Park (front)	Race
11/16/2024	11/16/2024	6pm start	Cambridge Santa Claus Parade	6,000	Hespeler Road	Public, Free
11/22/2024	11/22/2024	7pm start	Phil Kline’s Unsilent Night	12,000	Cambridge City Hall, Downtown Galt	Public, Free
12/1/2024	1/1/2025	n/a	Winter Ice and Lights	6,000	Central Park	Public, Free
12/6/2024	12/6/2024	6pm start	Music and Lights in the Village	3,000	Hespeler Village	Public, Free
12/7/2024	12/7/2024	12pm start	Hespeler Santa Claus Parage	1,000	Queen Street	Public, Free
12/14/2024	12/15/2024	8am – 4pm, 10am – 4pm	Cambridge Christmas Market	5,000	City Hall	Public, Free
12/31/2024	12/31/2024	3 – 7pm	New Year’s Eve Party	4,000	Hespeler Arena	Public, Free
TBD	TBD	TBD	CPKC Holiday Train	4,000	Malcolm Street Train Station	Public, Free

Indoor Bookings of 500+ Attendees

Start Date	End Date	Time	Event Name	Estimated Attendance	Confirmed Location	Event Type
10/4/2024	10/5/2024	3pm – 1am	Moi Tai Boxing Event	800	Duncan Macintosh Arena	Public, Ticketed
10/12/2024	10/12/2024	9pm – 11pm	Garba Event	500	Duncan Macintosh Arena	Public, Ticketed

Date: 10/04/2024 **Internal Memo #: IM24-022(CD)**

To: Council

Circulated to: Hardy Bromberg, Deputy City Manager Community Development

Department: Community Development

Division: Building

From: Tanya Gies, Program Manager, Housing Accelerator Fund

Subject: Housing Accelerator Fund Program Update

Comments

The Housing Accelerator Fund (HAF) is a federal government program designed to help local governments in initiatives to accelerate the increase in housing across Canada. The City of Cambridge was successful in their application to the Housing Accelerator Fund and entered into agreement with Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) on January 31st of 2024.

The agreement under HAF will provide \$13.3 million in federal funding, allowing the city to progress eight city initiatives and a housing needs assessment with the aim to increase the number of houses being built and see shovels in the ground faster.

HAF Budget

The funds have been allocated across the individual initiatives and a budget has been prepared and approved through the city's HAF steering committee. As work progresses, any budget adjustments will be reviewed and approved by the steering committee and reported back to Council through Capital Forecast Reporting.

1. Fast Tracking Municipal Lands Program for Affordable Housing - \$5.04 million
2. Digital Twin Data Driven Accelerated Approval Process - \$3.9 million
3. Additional Residential Unit (ARU) Assistance Program - \$1.56 million
4. City's Comprehensive Zoning By-Law and Form Based Zoning - \$570,800
5. Delegation of Authority Enhancements - \$281,400
6. Online Pre-Application Development Guide Portal and Committee of Adjustment Portals - \$364,600
7. Expand Affordable Housing Community Improvement Plan - \$845,000
8. Strategic Growth Areas Secondary Plans, - \$366,500, and
9. Housing Needs Assessment - \$420,100

The funding amount of \$13.3 million was calculated using CMHC’s HAF program framework and considered the number and type of units proposed to be incented through the program.

The funds are to be advanced in four annual installments and are subject to reporting on progress and use of the funds. The first advance was provided in early 2024 and the first report on progress was submitted to CMHC in July. The second progress report is due by March of 2025.

HAF Commitments

As defined in the agreement, in return for the funding, the City’s commitments are:

1. Completion of the eight initiatives in the Action Plan, within the agreed upon milestone timelines.
2. The achievement of the Housing Supply Growth Target and the additional targets by January 31, 2027, and
3. The submission of a Housing Needs Assessment Report by January 31st, 2026.

The city is obligated to report to CMHC at prescribed intervals, to certify that progress is being made in alignment with the agreement.

HAF Action Plan

The city’s action plan is the work that is being done to help achieve the Housing Supply Growth Target. The Action Plan has been approved by CMHC and the following is a summary of the eight initiatives:

Initiative 1: Fast Tracking Municipal Lands Program for Affordable Housing

Establishing a process with dedicated resources to fast track the development of affordable homes.

- Cambridge will select municipal lands to be made available to community housing providers and private-sector developers to construct affordable housing (implementation in 2024).
- The City will make lands ready for development, including planning approvals, financial incentives to improve affordability and/or integrate climate resilient building technologies such as mass timber or modular construction, and select a builder to advance construction of new units (implementation through 2026).

Initiative 2: Digital Twin Data Driven Accelerated Approval Process

Moving to a digital approach for development applications and leveraging AI, spatial data and 3D modeling for better quality submissions and faster approvals.

- A new online service will support applications from pre-consultation to approval (vendor selected in 2024, testing in 2025, full launch in 2026).

Initiative 3: Additional Residential Unit (ARU) Assistance Program

Removing barriers to the creation of additional dwelling units to promote densification within the City's low-density residential zones (implementation in 2024).

- The City will launch a communication and education strategy, which may include a visualization guide outlining design, regulation, and cost considerations.
- Changes to the City's planning framework and zoning bylaw will encourage ARUs.
- A new ARU Community Improvement Plan will provide up to \$10,000 per property to remove financial barriers (such as water/sanitary sewer and electrical connection upgrades) and speed up approval timelines.

Initiative 4: City's Comprehensive Zoning By-Law and Form Based Zoning

Updating and modernizing planning rules to allow more density and variety in housing throughout the city.

- Cambridge will initiate a planning process to introduce City-wide form-based zoning in residential areas (implementation in 2024).
- An updated zoning bylaw will facilitate an overall increase in density, including in existing low-density neighbourhoods, by focusing on the form and scale of residential buildings in relation to the lot, rather than the number of dwellings inside the building (implementation in 2025).

Initiative 5: Delegation of Authority Enhancements

Accelerating approvals by allowing the Chief Planner to approve routine application types (implementation in 2024).

- The City's internal process will be updated to make the Chief Planner the delegated authority for 3 types of development applications and requests: Holding Provision Removals, Part Lot Control Exemptions and Designation of Heritage Properties.
- This change is expected to accelerate the approval timeline by 50 to 75% and will result in accelerated site plan and building permit approvals.

Initiative 6: Online Pre-Application Development Guide Portal and Committee of Adjustment Portals

Enhancing on-line services to clarify application requirements for new developments and reduce the time needed to issue permits (implementation in 2024, launch in early 2025).

- A new software solution will organize all the City's rules, regulations, instructions and data into one place to make it easier to submit a permit application.

- The City will update and improve its GIS database to support the rollout of the new portal allowing users to confirm zoning and other parcel-based details, as well as estimated fees and approval timelines.
- The new portal is estimated to increase the speed at which permits are issued by up to 35%.

Initiative 7: Expand Affordable Housing Community Improvement Plan

Incentivizing affordable housing City-wide through a variety of financial tools and policies.

- Cambridge will prepare a Community Improvement Plan to guide future affordable housing development (CIP update in 2024, expanded incentives launched in 2025).
- The Affordable Housing CIP will offer waiver or return of application fees, tax increment grants and access to other grants, and includes a review and update to the City's Affordable Housing Reserve Fund.

Initiative 8: Strategic Growth Areas Secondary Plans

Expanding as-of-right zoning to permit medium - and high-density housing in mixed-use areas and around the City's major transit stations.

- Preparation of Secondary Plans for the Main & Dundas Street South Community Node and Hespeler Road Corridor to significantly increase densities (implementation in 2024 and 2026, respectively).

Housing Supply Growth Target

The City's Housing Supply Growth Target is 2,972 projected net new permitted housing units over the first three years of the program. The target was set using CMHC's HAF program methodology, which considered things like the average number of units created by permit in Cambridge and the impact of the initiatives proposed by the City of Cambridge.

Within the 2,972 permitted housing units, the city has agreed to additional targets focused on the type of housing units permitted, with:

- 50 multi-unit housing* units in close proximity (1500 m) to rapid transit,
- 1,845 missing middle housing units*,
- 591 other multi-unit housing units*, and
- 5.34% of the Housing Supply Growth Target will be affordable units (159 units)

*Multi-unit housing is any residential building with more than one unit.

*Multi-unit housing characterized as missing middle refers to ground-oriented housing types. This includes garden suites, secondary suites, duplexes, triplexes, fourplexes, row houses, courtyard housing, low-rise apartments (4 storeys or less).

*Other multi-unit housing refers to all multi-unit housing excluding missing middle and multi-unit housing in close proximity to rapid transit.

Attachments

None

Approvals:

Manager/Supervisor

Deputy City Manager

City Manager

Date: 10/04/2024 **Internal Memo #:** IM24-020(CD)

To: Council

Circulated to: Hardy Bromberg, Deputy City Manager
Bob Bjerke, Chief Planner

Department: Community Development

Division: Planning

From: Breanna Syne, Planner - Policy

Subject: New Provincial Planning Statement, 2024

Comments

Executive Summary:

- On August 20, 2024, the Province of Ontario (the “Province”) released its final version of the Provincial Planning Statement, 2024 (“PPS, 2024”), which was approved by the Lieutenant Governor and is set to take effect on October 20, 2024.
- The final version comes after three rounds of public consultations and Indigenous engagement that occurred between October 2022 and May 2024.
- The PPS, 2024 replaces the *A Place to Growth: Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe, 2019* (“Growth Plan”) and *Provincial Policy Statement, 2020* (“PPS, 2020”).
- The main policy changes are the following:
 - Growth Forecasts are now based on projections published by the Ministry of Finance, not the Growth Plan.
 - Minimum housing targets for low- and moderate-income households that are affordable are required to be set by municipalities.
 - Settlement area density targets are no longer mandatory but encouraged.
 - Settlement area boundary expansions can happen at any time without a municipal comprehensive review.
 - Development and redevelopment are to be focused in Strategic Growth Areas and Major Transit Station Areas (MTSAs),

- Employment area conversion can happen at any time without a municipal comprehensive review.
- Municipalities are required to conserve protected heritage properties instead of significant built heritage resources.

Background:

Currently, land use planning decisions are required to implement the *Provincial Policy Statement, 2020* (“PPS, 2020”) and the *A Place to Grow: Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe* (“Growth Plan”). The PPS, 2020 has Province-wide planning objectives while the *Growth Plan* contains more detailed directions for growth management for municipalities in southern Ontario, including the City of Cambridge. The New PPS 2024 is a streamlined province-wide land use planning policy framework that replaces the PPS, 2020 and the Growth Plan.

The PPS, 2024 is considered a policy statement that is issued under Section 3 of the *Planning Act*, which requires that all decisions affecting planning matters shall be consistent with the Provincial Planning Statement.

Consultation and Engagement Process:

Public consultation and Indigenous engagement were conducted over three rounds between October 2022 and May 2024. During this time, City of Cambridge planning staff provided comments on the draft Provincial Planning Statement to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) through the Environmental Registry of Ontario. The Comments included:

- Concerns about the suggested simplified approach to urban boundary expansions, employment conversions, and proposed increased flexibility of residential development in rural areas.
- Support for policy objectives to increase housing supply and mix and increased density at major transportation areas.
- Overall support for simplifying the land use planning framework by providing core planning principles relating to growth management are maintained.

Provincial Planning Statement 2024 (PPS, 2024)

The latest version of the PPS, 2024 was released on August 20, 2024, and approved by the Lieutenant Governor in Council. It is set to take effect on October 20, 2024. The following sections highlight the main policy changes.

Growth Forecasts

Municipalities are no longer required to plan for specific population and employment forecasts pursuant to Schedule 3 of the Growth Plan. Instead, municipalities shall base population and employment growth forecasts on Ontario Population Projections published by the Ministry of Finance and may modify these projections as appropriate (Policy 2.1.1). However, for land use planning, municipalities may continue to forecast growth using previously issued population and employment forecasts from the Province (Policy 2.1.2). For Cambridge, this means population and employment growth of 214,900 people and 120,700 jobs by 2051 will continue to be used for growth management projects and the upcoming Official Plan review.

For new Official Plans and Official Plan Updates, sufficient land shall be made available to accommodate an appropriate range and mix of land uses to meet projected needs for at least the next 20 years. Planning for infrastructure, public service facilities, strategic growth areas and employment areas may extend beyond 30 years (Policy 2.1.3).

Municipalities are also required to keep their zoning by-laws up to date by establishing minimum densities, heights and other development standards to accommodate growth and development (Policy 6.1.6). City planning staff are currently working on the City's new comprehensive zoning by-law that will include these new standards.

Housing

The PPS, 2024 reintroduces the requirement from the PPS, 2020 that municipalities are required to establish and implement minimum targets for the provision of housing that is affordable to low- and moderate-income households (Policy 2.2.1.a).

Municipalities are also required to permit and facilitate the development and redevelopment of underused commercial and institutional sites for residential development (Policy 2.2.1.b.2). The promotion of new housing options within these spaces will help in a net increase in residential units as well as help the Province reach its goal of 1.5 million homes built by 2031. City planning staff are currently working on a housing needs assessment that will assist in informing policy direction of new and updated Official Plan policies, as required.

Settlement Areas Density Targets

Significant changes, modifications, and additions were made to previous policies in relation to settlement areas. There is no longer a defined built-up area or provincially required intensification targets. Large and fast-growing municipalities (including Cambridge) will need to determine targets for their own strategic growth areas such as the Urban Growth Centre. Policy 2.3.1.4 requires municipalities to establish minimum targets for intensification and redevelopment within built-up areas, based on local conditions. Cambridge currently has an

established intensification rate minimum of 45 per cent of all residential development to occur within the built-up area.

Also, minimum density targets for designated growth areas (rather than settlement areas) are encouraged but not required (Policy 2.3.1.5). For large and fast-growing municipalities (including Cambridge), it is encouraged but not required to have a density target of 50 residents and jobs per gross hectare in designated growth areas. Followed by policy 2.3.1.6, which directs municipalities to establish and implement phasing policies to ensure that development within designated growth areas is orderly and appropriate. This suggested density target is less than what was established in the Regional Official Plan Amendment (ROPA #6), which set a density target of 150 residents and jobs per hectare in urban growth centres as well as an intensification rate of 65 per cent in built-up areas.

“Designated Greenfield Area,” “Urban Area,” and “Urban Growth Centre” were concepts in the *Growth Plan* that were not carried forward into the PPS, 2024. This is a major change in provincial planning as it eliminates specific policy requirements such as intensification or density targets for these areas. For Cambridge, Galt City Centre Core Area is identified as an Urban Growth Centre and has specific Official Plan policies in place to manage its growth. The City’s upcoming Official Plan Review will address these new changes to ensure these areas are still planned appropriately and conform to new provincial standards.

Settlement Area Boundary Expansions

Currently, a municipality may only expand its settlement boundary through a municipal comprehensive review, and there are strict policy requirements which must be met such as achieving targets for intensification within the existing urban area. The PPS, 2024 now permits a municipality to identify a new settlement area or allow a settlement area boundary expansion at any time, which eliminates the need for a municipal comprehensive review. Policy 2.3.2.1 only requires municipalities to “consider” certain criteria such as land use compatibility and capacity when considering settlement area boundary expansions and identifying a new settlement area. Municipalities may also only identify a new settlement area where it is demonstrated that infrastructure and public service facilities are planned or available to support development (Policy 2.3.2.2).

Strategic Growth Areas and Major Transit Station Areas (MTSAs)

Strategic growth area is a concept from the *Growth Plan* that has been carried forward into the PPS, 2024. Municipalities are encouraged to identify and focus growth in strategic growth areas including MTSAs (Policy 2.4). Existing density targets for MTSAs from the Growth Plan remain the same and now apply to all municipalities with MTSAs and not only those identified as large and fast-growing municipalities in Schedule ‘A’ of the PPS, 2024 (Policy 2.4.2.1). Similarly, mandatory density targets within MTSAs on high order transit corridors apply to all

municipalities with MTSAs, not only large fast-growing municipalities (Policy 2.4.2.2). These density targets are carried over from the Growth Plan as follows:

1. 200 residents and jobs combined per hectare for those that are served by subways;
2. 160 residents and jobs combined per hectare for those that are served by light rail transit or bus rapid transit; or
3. 150 residents and jobs combined per hectare for those that are served by commuter or regional rail.

In the case of Cambridge, the density target of 160 residents and jobs combined per hectare applies.

The development of surface parking lots within MTSAs, including commuter parking lots are encouraged by municipalities to promote development and intensification within MTSAs (Policy 2.4.2.3). Multi-modal access to stations and connections to nearby major trip generators that support infrastructure and active transportation is also encouraged.

Through Policy 2.4.3.1, municipalities are required to plan for intensification on lands adjacent to existing and planned frequent transit corridors. Frequent transit is a new term introduced that means “a public transit service that runs at least every 15 minutes in both directions throughout the day and into the evening every day of the week.”

Employment Areas and Employment Area Conversions

Like settlement areas, municipalities are now permitted to remove lands from employment areas at any time without requiring a municipal comprehensive review. However, this is subject to satisfying the conversion criteria set in Policy 2.8.2.5. Provincially Significant Employment Zones (PSEZs) identified in the *Growth Plan* are not carried forward into the PPS, 2024. PSEZs are areas that the Province had delineated for protection from conversions.

The definition of “employment area” has been updated to be consistent with the definition introduced to the *Planning Act* under *Bill 97*, which will also take effect on October 20, 2024. The following text is the new updated definition:

- **“Employment Area:** means those areas designated in an official plan for clusters of business and economic activities including manufacturing, research and development in connection with manufacturing, warehousing, goods movement, associated retail and office, and ancillary facilities. An employment area also includes areas of land described by subsection 1(1.1) of the Planning Act. Uses that are excluded from employment areas are institutional and commercial, including retail and office not associated with the primary employment use listed above.”

Policy 2.8.1.3 also requires that development on lands within 300 metres of employment areas to avoid, or where avoidance is not possible, minimize and mitigate potential impacts on long-term economic viability of employment uses within existing or planned employment areas, in accordance with provincial guidelines.

Cultural Heritage and Archaeology

One main policy language change is that municipalities are required to conserve protected heritage properties instead of significant built heritage resources (Policy 4.6.1). This means that listed heritage properties (not designated properties under Part IV or V of the *Ontario Heritage Act*) on the heritage register would no longer be required to be conserved. Instead, municipalities are encouraged to develop and implement proactive strategies for conserving significant built heritage resources and cultural heritage landscapes (Policy 4.6.4.b).

Cambridge has a significant amount of listed heritage properties which would now be at risk of losing protection. Currently, heritage staff are working on a Heritage Register Review to ensure that as many properties can obtain this protection.

Another key change regards Indigenous engagement and their interests in the planning process. Policy 4.6.4.5 now requires municipalities to engage “early” with Indigenous communities to ensure their interests are considered when identifying, protecting, and managing archaeological resources, built heritage resources, and cultural heritage landscapes. However, there is no additional direction regarding the engagement process and what that process may look like.

Attachments

N/A

<p>Approvals:</p>

<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Manager/Supervisor</p>

<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deputy City Manager</p>
--

<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> City Manager</p>



MINUTES
Corporation of the City of Cambridge
Cambridge Accessibility Advisory Committee
July 22, 2024

Committee Members in Attendance: Devin Sisak, Gary Racine (Arrived at 1:40 p.m.), Sarah Dodds, Shannon Adshade, Alison Fitzpatrick (Left at 2:30 p.m.), and Sue Ricketts

Regrets: Michele Gilman, Barb Schutz

Staff Members in Attendance: Michael Oliveri, Council Committee Services Coordinator; Yesenia Torres, Accessibility Coordinator; Stephen Aboagye, Supervisor of Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Accessibility; Jamie Croft, Manager of Infrastructure Engineering; Steven Huang, Project Manager; Nathan Zrini, Landscape Architect

Meeting Called to Order

The meeting of the Accessibility Advisory Committee of the Corporation of the City of Cambridge was held virtually via zoom. The meeting was called to order at 1:31 p.m. and the meeting adjourned at 3:41 p.m.

Disclosures of Pecuniary Interest

Alison Fitzpatrick declared an indirect pecuniary interest on item 7.2 as she was formerly employed by one of the parties involved in the project

Approval of June 24, 2024, Advisory Committee Minutes

Moved by: Sarah Dodds

Seconded by: Shannon Adshade

THAT the minutes of the June 24, 2024, Cambridge Accessibility Advisory Committee be approved.

Carried

Agenda items:

7.1 Ainslie Street Renovation: Steven Huang, Project Engineer, City of Cambridge,

David Di Pietro, Project Manager, Region of Waterloo

- The Project Manager summarized the project's consultation schedule and provided an overview of the details, including the feedback and comments received from Cambridge residents. Indicated that the input collected, and recommendations will be shared with the Regional Council by the end of the year. Project priorities and infrastructure needs were summarized, which consist of climate-aligned growth, Equitable Services and Opportunities, and the downtown building.
- Proposed project features such as new on-street parking spaces, a temporary loading zone, the application of continuous sidewalks, street lighting, street scaping, and a transition strip between the sidewalk and the cycle track.
- The project's next step consist of a presentation to the Regional Council and the Works committee; developing a detailed design in early fall, the project will be ready for tender and utility works in 2025, and construction will commence in spring 2026.
- Feedback is still being collected and the committee was encouraged to submit any additional input. Survey links and the Engage webpage was provided to the committee after the meeting.

Recommendations:

- Extend pedestrian signals times at intersections and crossings to provide sufficient time to safely cross.
- Maintain on-street parking spaces as there isn't sufficient parking as it is.
- Ensure that there are cues and transition strips to differentiate the pedestrian and cycling lanes.

7.2 Accessible Baseball Diamond: Jamie Croft, Manager of Infrastructure

Engineering, City of Cambridge, Nathan Zrini, Landscape Architect, City of

Cambridge; Jon Joyce, Principal, The MBTW Group

- The Project Manager indicated that preliminary consultation has been done primarily with and Buddy League and consultation will continue over the summer with other leagues.
- The landscape architect provided a general project overview of the preliminary site analysis and areas that have been identified for improvement.
- Proposed general improvements will focus on adding accessible parking spaces and hard-

surface pathways connecting the parking lot to the fields, through the existing building breezeway, and within the concession seating area. The ball diamond improvements include artificial turf infield, natural turf outfield, backstop, line, and outfield fencing. Covered dugouts, complete with concrete bench pads and accessible player's benches. Covered spectator bleachers – complete with concrete bleacher pads, accessible seating, and increased capacity. Installation of LED Field Lighting, a universal viewing platform, and a digital scoreboard.

- Additionally, will be adding a vendor to supply accessible self-contained washroom unit to the existing building. Currently reviewing washroom through design options and will present to Council. However, only the baseball diamond was presented to Council, but washroom improvement options will also be presented, recognizing that washrooms don't meet AODA standards. It will be a funding question and whether additional grants are available. There are plans to present to Council in early fall. There are plans to implement the newest FADS version as soon as it is approved, and there is vendor that could meet needs. The project may request the support of the subcommittee to review vendors.
- The overall goal of the project is to increase the use and flexibility of play to create an accessible ball diamond.
- There are plans to apply for Jay's Care funding, and the project is under tight deadlines as the first grant application is due October 31, 2024, and moving quicker than is typical in projects, as proposed conceptual element design need to be presented for approval.

Recommendations:

- Consider adding a clear viewing area for mobility devices that is not directly in front of the bleachers.
- Landscape architect indicated that the bleachers will be an accessible model so that mobility devices can be integrated into the sitting area without sitting at the front. They will be like the ones installed at the Fountain Soccer Complex.

7.3 GRT Business Plan Consultation: Kevan Marshall, Project Manager for GRT Conventional (Bus and Train) Plan), Region of Waterloo; Haley Gienow-McConnell, Accessibility Specialist, Left Turn Right Turn Ltd.

- Project Manager provided an introductory overview of Grand River Transit's (GRT) 2025 to 2030 business plan initiative and focuses on two components of the plan: GRT Mobility Plus and Kiwanis Transit business plan. The projects' purpose is to guide the Improvement and expansion of specialized transit services through the next 5 years. Goals are to improve the service levels and identify opportunities for rural and urban integration; identify opportunities to redirect Mobility Plus ridership to other modes of the GRT's family of services such as buses and the LRT train; improve service quality and customer satisfaction; conform or exceed accessibility standards and maintain a high level of employee and customer satisfaction and workplace excellence.
- The purpose of the conventional business plan (buses and train) is to operationalize GRT's role in achieving the Region's commitment to community climate action and align GRT Services, policies and programs to the Region's Strategic Plan. Tasks of the conventional business is to set ridership targets; engage and synthesize or local Transit priorities; access routes and service opportunities; develop a 2030 preferred transit network and annual service improvement plans and develop an overnight service plan. Project is in preliminary stages and still in consultation process and accepting feedback from the community.
- The Left Turn Right Turn consultant provide an overview of the organization services and their involvement in the project including support accessibility and transit in business plans specialized and conventional services. Helping the specialized business plan to develop the five-year business plan to ensure that the plan reflects the needs and priorities of community members. The other focus has been public engagement to collect feedback from everyone living in the Region but who are particularly interested in hearing from people with disabilities, caregiver networks and people who support them. Once feedback is consolidated, it will be analyzed, and recommendations will be provided to GRT.
- GRT hopes to provide an update on the project in the fall and the project has been added to the October 2024 agenda.

Recommendations:

- To increase engagement, connect with retirement homes to obtain in-person input as many older adults may not be tech savvy and therefore would not provide online feedback. Missing the voices of a large group of individuals who need to use public transportation and have valuable feedback.
- Increase specialized services such as Mobility Plus to increase service outside of traditional hours as more medical services are being scheduled outside business hours.
- Connect with newcomer service providers and newcomers to obtain feedback from a large group that relies on public transportation. Due to language barriers, online surveys may not be the most feasible way, however, in-person would be more feasible as interpreters can be arranged. It was also recommended to connect with the YMCA to collect feedback.
- The changes made to dialysis services are not working, causing many more challenges to community members. Consistent Mobility Plus service is required to meet the ongoing needs of customers.
- There have been many shifts of the vehicles used by GRT over the last 10 years, and some of the new vehicles and Mobility Plus buses are not conducive to providing good transportation. Adjustments need to be made to increase usage.
- Reach out to more services providers in Cambridge such as the Cambridge Memorial Hospital.
- Include wording around tolerance in the surveys.
- Engage riders to obtain feedback right away after each ride to continuously obtain feedback.
- Ensure that there are multiple communication methods for surveys and not just an online platform.
- Increase operator training to enhance knowledge on accessibility and the impact of good customer service. And increase bus tours to enhance the community's knowledge and comfort in using public transport.

Subcommittee Update: Devin Sisak, Accessibility Advisory Committee Chair, City of Cambridge

- The subcommittee provide recommendations to the Galt Arena door project and advised that for exterior doors to be left at 36” wide; the automatic door opener button will to be placed on the left-hand side of the doors and will open the exterior and interior door. Inside the vestibule, the door opener button will be located on the right-hand side wall. The automatic door opener button will open the third door from the left, to coincide with the interior doors, and create a clear path of entry. And doors to be timed to remain open for at least 15 seconds.

Staff Liaison Update: Yesenia Torres, Accessibility Coordinator, City of Cambridge

- Provided an update on the letter of support that the City of Cambridge provided to The Life Made Accessible committee for a two-year funding grant application to Accessible Canada for the expansion of National AccessAbility Week events.
- A reminder was provided regarding the request for AAC members to provide input to the 127 Design of Space recommendations proposed by the Design of Public Spaces Standards Development Committee. Feedback received from the CAAC, and staff will be collected and consolidated. The City plans on submitting a collective response to the Ministry, and the feedback collected will also be shared in an information package to Council.
- A reminder was provided that The Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility will accept feedback until July 31, 2024, regarding the challenges experienced when accessing websites and digital content. The information gathered from the survey will assist the Ministry in developing processes to assess web accessibility.
- Subcommittee members are still needed and being actively recruited. The subcommittee meets based on needs and time commitment is on average is of 1 – 2 hours a month.
- An update was provided indicating that in the fall, the Clerks division will bring forth a report to council with annual reports from all the advisory committees. The purpose of the report will be to provide an update on future work plan and future priorities and to make recommendations to Council. The AAC’s drafted report will be shared with the subcommittee for review first, with hopes to share with the rest of the committee in September 2024.

Chair’s Report: Devin Sisak, City of Cambridge

- The AAC chair provided an overview of the accessibility concerns presented at the Idea Exchange board meeting in July 2024. The AAC chair indicates that the concerns presented were dismissed by the board chair, indicating the library is in compliance with AODA standards. At their August meeting, the Idea Exchange board will discuss engagement and collaboration with the AAC on accessibility.

Other Business

- The committee was informed that this was AAC member Sue Ricketts last meeting. The AAC Chair and staff thanked Sue for all her contributions to the committee.

Adjournment

Moved by: Gary Racine

Seconded by: Sue Ricketts

THAT the Cambridge Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting of July 22, 2024, be adjourned at 3:41 p.m.

CARRIED

Next Meeting:

Monday September 23, 2024, 1:30pm-3:30pm Zoom

If you require any accommodations to participate in this meeting, please email

torresy@cambridge.ca

Chair

Devin Sisak

Council Committee Services Coordinator

Michael Oliveri

The Corporation of the Municipality of St. Charles
RESOLUTION PAGE



Regular Meeting of Council

Agenda Number: 7.2.
Resolution Number 2024-301
Title: Resolution - AMO / OMA Joint Resolution Campaign on Physician Shortage
Date: July 17, 2024

Moved by: Councillor Loftus
Seconded by: Councillor Lachance

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 (5) years;
AND WHEREAS it has become 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 are expected to retire in the next five (5) years;
AND WHEREAS Ontario municipal governments play an integral role in the health care system through responsibilities in public health, long-term care, paramedicine, and other investments;
AND 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;
BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT Council for the Corporation of the Municipality of St.-Charles urges the Province of Ontario to recognize the physician shortage in the Municipality of St.-Charles 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 sent to Premier Doug Ford; Deputy Premier and Minister of Health Sylvia Jones; the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO); our local Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP); and, all Ontario Municipalities.

CARRIED


MAYOR

The Corporation of the Municipality of St. Charles
RESOLUTION PAGE



Regular Meeting of Council

Agenda Number: 7.3.
Resolution Number 2024-324
Title: Resolution stemming from May 15, 2024 Regular Meeting of Council - Item 10.1 -
Correspondence #8
Date: August 14, 2024

Moved by: Councillor Laframboise
Seconded by: Councillor Lachance

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council for the Corporation of the Municipality of St.-Charles hereby supports the Resolution dated March 28, 2024 passed by the County of Hastings, regarding sustainable infrastructure funding for small rural municipalities;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Prime Minister of Canada, Justin Trudeau; the Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities of Canada, Sean Fraser; the Premier of Ontario, Doug Ford; the Minister of Infrastructure, Kinga Surma; the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Paul Calandra; our local Member of Parliament (MP); our local member of Provincial Parliament (MPP); the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO); the Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA); the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM); and all Ontario Municipalities.

CARRIED


MAYOR



Office of the Warden, C.A.O. & Clerk
Hastings County

235 Pinnacle St. Postal Bag 4400,
Belleville ON K8N 3A9

Tel: (613) 966-1311

Fax: (613) 966-2574

www.hastingscounty.com

April 17, 2024

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

Delivered via email

doug.fordco@pc.ola.org

premier@ontario.ca

RE: Hastings County Motion regarding sustainable infrastructure funding for small rural municipalities

Please be advised that Hastings County Council, at its meeting held on March 28, 2024, passed the following resolution:

WHEREAS Ontario's small rural municipalities face insurmountable challenges to fund both upfront investments and ongoing maintenance of their capital assets including roads and bridges and water wastewater and municipally owned buildings including recreational facilities and libraries;

WHEREAS in 2018, the Ontario government mandated all Ontario municipalities to develop capital asset management plans with the stipulation that they be considered in the development of the annual budget;

WHEREAS small rural municipalities (of 10,000 people or less) are facing monumental infrastructure deficits that cannot be adequately addressed through property tax revenue alone;

WHEREAS the only application approved through the recently awarded Housing Accelerator Fund to a small rural municipality was to Marathon Ontario, who received an allocation of \$1.9 million dollars while over \$1.369 billion going to Ontario's large urban centres, resulting in a 0.2% investment in rural Ontario;

WHEREAS the Ontario Government has committed \$9.1 billion to Toronto alone to assist with operating deficits and the repatriation of the Don Valley and Gardner Expressway;

WHEREAS small rural Ontario cannot keep pace with the capital investments required over the next 20 years unless both the Provincial and Federal Governments come forward with new sustainable infrastructure funding;

WHEREAS it is apparent that both the Federal and Ontario Governments have neglected to recognize the needs of small rural Ontario;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Hastings County call on the Ontario and Federal Government to implement sustainable infrastructure funding for small rural municipalities;

AND THAT small rural municipalities are not overlooked and disregarded on future applications for funding;

AND THAT both the Federal and Ontario Governments begin by acknowledging that there is an insurmountable debt facing small rural municipalities;

AND THAT both the Federal and Ontario Governments immediately commission a Working Group that includes a member of the Eastern Ontario Wardens Caucus, to develop a plan on how to deal with the impending debt dilemma;

AND FINALLY THAT this resolution be forwarded to The Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada, The Honourable Sean Fraser, Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities of Canada; Michel Tremblay Acting President and CEO, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation; The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario; The Honourable Kinga Surma, Ontario Minister of Infrastructure; The Honourable Paul Calandra, Ontario Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing; MP Shelby Kramp-Neuman, Hastings-Lennox Addington; MPP Ric Bresee Hastings-Lennox Addington, AMO, ROMA, FCM, Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus and all Municipalities in Ontario.

If you have any questions regarding the above motion, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Sincerely,



Cathy Bradley
Director of Legislative Services

The Corporation of the Municipality of St. Charles
RESOLUTION PAGE



Regular Meeting of Council

Agenda Number: 7.2.
Resolution Number 2024-323
Title: Resolution stemming from May 15, 2024 Regular Meeting of Council - Item 10.1 -
Correspondence #5
Date: August 14, 2024

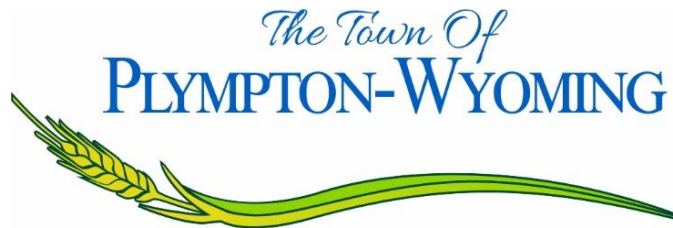
Moved by: Councillor Loftus
Seconded by: Councillor Lachance

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council for the Corporation of the Municipality of St.-Charles hereby supports Motion #14 passed by the Town of Plympton-Wyoming supporting the Resolution dated March 18, 2024 passed by the Township of Adelaide Metcalfe, regarding a request to increase the tile drain loan limit;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA), Lisa Thompson; the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO); the Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA); and all Ontario Municipalities.

CARRIED


MAYOR



The Honourable Lisa Thompson
Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
11th Floor
77 Grenville St
Toronto, ON
M5S 1B3

(sent via e-mail)

April 12th, 2024

Re: Request to Increase Tile Drain Loan Limit

Please be advised that the Council of the Town of Plympton-Wyoming, at its meeting on April 10th, 2024, passed the following motion supporting the resolution from the Township of Adelaide Metcalfe regarding a Request to Increase Tile Drain Loan Limit.

Motion #14

Moved by Councillor Kristen Rodrigues

Seconded by Councillor John van Klaveren

That Council support correspondence item 'I' from the Township of Adelaide Metcalfe regarding a Request to Increase Tile Drain Loan Limit.

Carried.

If you have any questions regarding the above motion, please do not hesitate to contact me by phone or email at eflynn@plympton-wyoming.ca.

Sincerely,

Ella Flynn
Executive Assistant – Deputy Clerk
Town of Plympton-Wyoming

Cc: Association of Municipalities Ontario resolutions@amo.on.ca
Rural Ontario Municipal Association roma@roma.on.ca
All regional Municipalities



March 22nd, 2024

The Honourable Lisa Thompson
Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
11th Floor
77 Grenville St.
Toronto, ON M5S 1B3

RE: Township of Adelaide Metcalfe – Request to Increase Tile Drain Loan Limit

Dear Minister Thompson,

On March 18, 2024, the Township of Adelaide Metcalfe Council approved the following resolution:

WHEREAS farm drainage is of paramount importance in Ontario due to its significant impact on agricultural productivity and sustainability. Effective drainage systems help mitigate waterlogging, control soil moisture levels, and enhance soil structure, thereby optimizing growing conditions for crops;

WHEREAS improved drainage also facilitates timely field operations, reduces erosion, and minimizes nutrient runoff, contributing to environmental conservation efforts;

WHEREAS Ontario's diverse agricultural landscape, where weather variability is common, well-maintained drainage systems play a crucial role in ensuring stable yields, economic viability, and long-term resilience for farmers across the Province;

WHEREAS the Tile Loan Drainage Act, R.S.O 1990, c. T.8 allows for the borrowing of money for the purpose of constructing drainage works;

WHEREAS the maximum annual limit for these loans, unchanged since 2004, is currently set at \$50,000.

WHEREAS costs for Tile Drainage has increased markedly since 2004;

NOW THEREFORE the Council of the Township of Adelaide Metcalfe requests that the Province through the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) consider increasing the maximum annual Tile Loan limit to a minimum of \$100,000.

AND THAT this resolution be circulated the Honourable Lisa Thompson – Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA), the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA), and all Ontario municipalities.

Your consideration of Council's request is appreciated.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MB', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Michael Barnier
Clerk & Manager of Legislative Services
Township of Adelaide Metcalfe
mbarnier@adelaidemetcalfe.on.ca

Cc: Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA)
All Ontario Municipalities

The Corporation of the Municipality of St. Charles
RESOLUTION PAGE



Regular Meeting of Council

Agenda Number: 7.5.
Resolution Number 2024-326
Title: Resolution stemming from June 19, 2024 Regular Meeting of Council - Item 8.1 - Correspondence #32
Date: August 14, 2024

Moved by: Councillor Loftus
Seconded by: Councillor Lachance

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council for the Corporation of the Municipality of St.-Charles hereby supports Motion #12 passed by the Corporation of the Township of Larder Lake, regarding Asset Retirement Obligation PS 3280;
AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Premier of Ontario, Doug Ford; the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Paul Calandra; our local member of Provincial Parliament (MPP); the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO); the Federation of Ontario Municipalities (FONOM); and all Ontario Municipalities.

CARRIED


MAYOR

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LARDER LAKE

69 Fourth Avenue, Larder Lake, ON

Phone: 705-643-2158 Fax: 705-643-2311



MOVED BY:

- Thomas Armstrong
- Patricia Hull
- Paul Kelly
- Lynne Paquette

SECONDED BY:

- Thomas Armstrong
- Patricia Hull
- Paul Kelly
- Lynne Paquette

Motion #: 12

Resolution #:

Date: June 11, 2024

WHEREAS, the Public Sector Accounting Board (PSAB) establishes accounting standards for the public sector which must be followed by all Ontario municipalities; And

WHEREAS, the Municipal Act, 2001 section 294.1 states that a municipality shall, for each fiscal year, prepare annual financial statements for the municipality in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles for local governments as recommended, from time to time, by the Public Sector Accounting Board of the Chartered Professional Accountants of Canada; And

WHEREAS, PS 3280 is a new accounting standard covering asset retirement obligations (ARO) that was approved by PSAB in March 2018; And

WHEREAS, the standard must be applied by all public sector entities who prepare their financial statements under PSAB, including all Canadian municipalities; And

WHEREAS, many small municipalities do not have accountants or engineers on staff to complete the ARO obligations and this major accounting change will force small municipalities to hire consultants to complete this work and cause a significant financial burden to municipalities;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT The Corporation of the Township of Larder Lake hereby calls upon the province of Ontario to provide financial assistance to municipalities to complete the ARO; And

FINALLY, THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Honourable Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Association of Municipal Clerks and Treasurers

Recorded vote requested:

	For	Against
Tom Armstrong		
Patricia Hull		
Paul Kelly		
Lynne Paquette		
Patty Quinn		

I declare this motion

<input type="checkbox"/> Carried
<input type="checkbox"/> Lost / Defeated
<input type="checkbox"/> Deferred to: _____ (enter date)
Because:
<input type="checkbox"/> Referred to: _____ (enter body)
Expected response: _____ (enter date)

Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest*

Chair: _____

*Disclosed his/her (their) interest(s), abstained from discussion and did not vote on this question.

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LARDER LAKE

69 Fourth Avenue, Larder Lake, ON

Phone: 705-643-2158 Fax: 705-643-2311



MOVED BY:

- Thomas Armstrong
- Patricia Hull
- Paul Kelly
- Lynne Paquette

SECONDED BY:

- Thomas Armstrong
- Patricia Hull
- Paul Kelly
- Lynne Paquette

Motion #: 13

Resolution #:

Date: June 11, 2024

of Ontario (AMCTO), the Timiskaming Municipal Association (TMA), the Federation of Ontario Municipalities (FONOM), and all municipalities within the District of Timiskaming.

Recorded vote requested:

	For	Against
Tom Armstrong		
Patricia Hull	✓	
Paul Kelly	✓	
Lynne Paquette	✓	
Patty Quinn	✓	

I declare this motion

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Carried
<input type="checkbox"/> Lost / Defeated
<input type="checkbox"/> Deferred to: _____ (enter date)
Because:
<input type="checkbox"/> Referred to: _____ (enter body)
Expected response: _____ (enter date)

Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest*

Chair:

*Disclosed his/her (their) interest(s), abstained from discussion and did not vote on this question.

The Corporation of the Municipality of St. Charles
RESOLUTION PAGE



Regular Meeting of Council

Agenda Number: 7.4.
Resolution Number 2024-325
Title: Resolution stemming from May 15, 2024 Regular Meeting of Council - Item 10.1 - Correspondence #12
Date: August 14, 2024

Moved by: Councillor Loftus
Seconded by: Councillor Laframboise

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council for the Corporation of the Municipality of St.-Charles hereby supports Resolution #26-24 passed by Public Health Sudbury and Districts, regarding recommendations for Government Regulations of nicotine pouches;
AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Premier of Ontario, Doug Ford; the Deputy Premier and Minister of Health, Sylvia Jones; our local member of Provincial Parliament (MPP); the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO); the Public Health Sudbury & Districts; and all Ontario Municipalities.

CARRIED


MAYOR



April 22, 2024

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

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

Dear Premier Ford:

Re: Recommendations for Government Regulation of Nicotine Pouches

In July 2023, Health Canada gave approval to Imperial Tobacco Canada to sell Zonnica under the [Natural Health Product Regulations](#) as a Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRT) product. Consequently, Zonnica is sold under the Health Canada approval without adhering to the restrictions of the Federal [Tobacco and Vaping Products Act, 1997](#) and the [Smoke-Free Ontario Act, 2017](#).

Since this time, nicotine pouches have become widely available to youth. These flavoured pouches can be legally purchased by those under 18 years of age in Ontario. The unrestricted sale, display, and promotion of nicotine pouches contribute to accessibility, normalization, and potential health hazards. Nicotine is highly addictive and its use, in any form, is unsafe for children¹ and youth². Exposure to nicotine can have adverse effects on the developing brains of children and youth and increases the likelihood of initiation and long-term use of tobacco².

In March 2024, Public Health Sudbury & Districts released an advisory alert to local health system partners sharing concerns related to nicotine pouches. Additionally, letters were sent to education directors, educators, and parents to increase awareness of the availability and risks of nicotine pouches to children and youth.

At its meeting on April 18, 2024, the Board of Health for Public Health Sudbury & Districts took further action and carried the following resolution #26-24:

Sudbury

1300 rue Paris Street
Sudbury ON P3E 3A3
t: 705.522.9200
f: 705.522.5182

Elm Place

10 rue Elm Street
Unit / Unité 130
Sudbury ON P3C 5N3
t: 705.522.9200
f: 705.677.9611

Sudbury East / Sudbury-Est

1 rue King Street
Box / Boîte 58
St.-Charles ON P0M 2W0
t: 705.222.9201
f: 705.867.0474

Espanola

800 rue Centre Street
Unit / Unité 100 C
Espanola ON P5E 1J3
t: 705.222.9202
f: 705.869.5583

Île Manitoulin Island

6163 Highway / Route 542
Box / Boîte 87
Mindemoya ON P0P 1S0
t: 705.370.9200
f: 705.377.5580

Chapleau

34 rue Birch Street
Box / Boîte 485
Chapleau ON P0M 1K0
t: 705.860.9200
f: 705.864.0820

toll-free / sans frais

1.866.522.9200

phsd.ca



WHEREAS Health Canada approved nicotine pouches for sale under the Natural Health Product regulations providing no restrictions on advertising or sale to children and youth; and

WHEREAS the unrestricted sale, display, and promotion of nicotine pouches contribute to their accessibility, the normalization of nicotine use, and potential health hazards; and

WHEREAS nicotine is highly addictive and its use, in any form, is unsafe for children and youth; and

WHEREAS exposure to nicotine can have adverse effects on the developing brains of adolescents and young adults and increases the likelihood of initiation and long-term use of tobacco products; and

WHEREAS the emergence of nicotine pouch products occurred rapidly without requiring adherence to the restrictions of the federal [Tobacco and Vaping Products Act, 1997](#), and the [Smoke-Free Ontario Act, 2017](#); and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Health for Public Health Sudbury & Districts strongly encourage Health Canada to take immediate action to close the regulatory gap that permits the sale of nicotine pouches to youth under 18 years of age; and

FURTHER THAT the Board of Health urge Health Canada to strengthen regulations to restrict the sale of new and emerging tobacco and nicotine products, ensuring that nicotine availability to children and youth never occur again; and

FURTHER THAT the Board of Health for Public Health Sudbury & Districts strongly encourage the Government of Ontario to exclusively sell nicotine pouches from behind pharmacy counters, limit their display in retail settings, and restrict their promotion, especially to youth; and

FURTHER THAT the Government of Ontario expand the Smoke-Free Ontario Strategy to create a comprehensive, coherent public health-oriented framework for the regulation of vaping and all nicotine-containing products.

We strongly encourage the Government of Ontario to follow immediately the Government of British Columbia and the Government of Québec to exclusively sell nicotine pouches in pharmacies, specifically behind the counter. This decision reduces product availability, restricts their promotion, and limits their display in retail settings.

Until tighter restrictions of nicotine pouches are implemented, the widely available and accessible product will continue to expose children and youth to nicotine. The Board of Health for Public Health Sudbury & Districts strongly encourages the Government of Ontario to expand the Smoke-Free Ontario Strategy to create a comprehensive, coherent public health-oriented framework for the regulation of vaping and all nicotine-containing products.

We thank you for your speedy attention to this important issue, and we continue to look forward to opportunities to work together to promote and protect the health of Ontarians.

Sincerely,



René Lapierre
Chair, Board of Health



M. Mustafa Hirji, MD, MPH, FRCPC
Acting Medical Officer of Health and Chief Executive Officer

cc: Honourable Mark Holland, Minister of Health of Canada
Honourable Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health
Honourable Ya'ara Saks, Canada's Minister of Mental Health and Addictions and Associate Minister of Health
Honourable Michael Parsa, Minister of Children, Community and Social Services
Yasir Naqvi, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Health, Honourable Mark Holland
Dr. Kieran Moore, Chief Medical Officer of Health of Ontario
France Gélinas, Member of Provincial Parliament, Nickel Belt
Jamie West, Member of Provincial Parliament, Sudbury
Michael Mantha, Member of Provincial Parliament, Algoma-Manitoulin
Viviane Lapointe, Member of Parliament, Sudbury
All Ontario Boards of Health
Association of Local Public Health Agencies

¹ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (2014). "The Health Consequences of Smoking-50 Years of Progress: A Report of the Surgeon General."

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK294308/#ch5.s2>

² National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (US) Office on Smoking and Health. (2016). "E-cigarette Use Among Youth and Young Adults: A Report of the Surgeon General." Retrieved on January 30, 2024 from

www.cdc.gov/tobacco/sgr/ecigarettes/pdfs/2016_sgr_entire_report_508.pdf.



April 22, 2024

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

The Honourable Mark Holland
Minister of Health of Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

Dear Minister Holland:

Re: Recommendations for Government Regulation of Nicotine Pouches

In July 2023, Health Canada gave approval to Imperial Tobacco Canada to sell Zonnica under the [Natural Health Product Regulations](#) as a Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRT) product. Consequently, Zonnica is sold under the Health Canada approval without adhering to the restrictions of the Federal [Tobacco and Vaping Products Act, 1997](#) and the [Smoke-Free Ontario Act, 2017](#).

Since this time, nicotine pouches have become widely available to youth. These flavoured pouches can be legally purchased by those under 18 years of age in Ontario. The unrestricted sale, display, and promotion of nicotine pouches contribute to accessibility, normalization, and potential health hazards. Nicotine is highly addictive and its use, in any form, is unsafe for children¹ and youth². Exposure to nicotine can have adverse effects on the developing brains of children and youth and increases the likelihood of initiation and long-term use of tobacco products².

In March 2024, Public Health Sudbury & Districts released an advisory alert to local health system partners sharing concerns related to nicotine pouches. Additionally, letters were sent to education directors, educators, and parents to increase awareness of the availability and risks of nicotine pouches to children and youth.

At its meeting on April 18, 2024, the Board of Health for Public Health Sudbury & Districts took further action and carried the following resolution #26-24:

WHEREAS Health Canada approved nicotine pouches for sale under

Sudbury

1300 rue Paris Street
Sudbury ON P3E 3A3
t: 705.522.9200
f: 705.522.5182

Elm Place

10 rue Elm Street
Unit / Unité 130
Sudbury ON P3C 5N3
t: 705.522.9200
f: 705.677.9611

Sudbury East / Sudbury-Est

1 rue King Street
Box / Boîte 58
St.-Charles ON P0M 2W0
t: 705.222.9201
f: 705.867.0474

Espanola

800 rue Centre Street
Unit / Unité 100 C
Espanola ON P5E 1J3
t: 705.222.9202
f: 705.869.5583

Île Manitoulin Island

6163 Highway / Route 542
Box / Boîte 87
Mindemoya ON P0P 1S0
t: 705.370.9200
f: 705.377.5580

Chapleau

34 rue Birch Street
Box / Boîte 485
Chapleau ON P0M 1K0
t: 705.860.9200
f: 705.864.0820

toll-free / sans frais

1.866.522.9200

phsd.ca



the Natural Health Product regulations providing no restrictions on advertising or sale to children and youth; and

WHEREAS the unrestricted sale, display, and promotion of nicotine pouches contribute to their accessibility, the normalization of nicotine use, and potential health hazards; and

WHEREAS nicotine is highly addictive and its use, in any form, is unsafe for children and youth; and

WHEREAS exposure to nicotine can have adverse effects on the developing brains of adolescents and young adults and increases the likelihood of initiation and long-term use of tobacco products; and

WHEREAS the emergence of nicotine pouch products occurred rapidly without requiring adherence to the restrictions of the federal [Tobacco and Vaping Products Act, 1997](#), and the [Smoke-Free Ontario Act, 2017](#); and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Health for Public Health Sudbury & Districts strongly encourage Health Canada to take immediate action to close the regulatory gap that permits the sale of nicotine pouches to youth under 18 years of age; and

FURTHER THAT the Board of Health urge Health Canada to strengthen regulations to restrict the sale of new and emerging tobacco and nicotine products, ensuring that nicotine availability to children and youth never occur again; and

FURTHER THAT the Board of Health for Public Health Sudbury & Districts strongly encourage the Government of Ontario to exclusively sell nicotine pouches from behind pharmacy counters, limit their display in retail settings, and restrict their promotion, especially to youth; and

FURTHER THAT the Government of Ontario expand the Smoke-Free Ontario Strategy to create a comprehensive, coherent public health-oriented framework for the regulation of vaping and all nicotine-containing products.

We applaud your pledge to take action to review the approval process for flavoured nicotine sales and advertising. We acknowledge the advisory Health Canada issued in March stating nicotine pouches should be used for nicotine replacement therapy in adults and the emphasis on keeping them out of reach of children and youth.

However, only until tighter restrictions of nicotine pouches are implemented, the widely available and accessible product will continue to expose children and youth to nicotine. The Board of Health for Public Health Sudbury & Districts strongly encourages the federal government to take immediate action to close the regulatory gap by restricting the sale of nicotine pouches to those under 18 years of age. We also support Health Canada in their assertion to halt the legal purchasing loophole and ensure that nicotine availability to children and youth never occurs with new and emerging products.

We thank you for your attention to this important issue, and we continue to look forward to opportunities to work together to promote and protect the health of Canadians.

Sincerely,



René Lapierre
Chair, Board of Health



M. Mustafa Hirji, MD, MPH, FRCPC
Acting Medical Officer of Health and Chief Executive Officer

cc: Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
Honourable Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health
Honourable Ya'ara Saks, Canada's Minister of Mental Health and Addictions and Associate Minister of Health
Honourable Michael Parsa, Minister of Children, Community and Social Services
Yasir Naqvi, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Health, Honorable Mark Holland
Dr. Kieran Moore, Chief Medical Officer of Health of Ontario
France Gélinas, Member of Provincial Parliament, Nickel Belt
Jamie West, Member of Provincial Parliament, Sudbury
Michael Mantha, Member of Provincial Parliament, Algoma-Manitoulin
Viviane Lapointe, Member of Parliament, Sudbury
All Ontario Boards of Health
Association of Local Public Health Agencies

¹ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (2014). "The Health Consequences of Smoking-50 Years of Progress: A Report of the Surgeon General."

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK294308/#ch5.s2>

² National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (US) Office on Smoking and Health. (2016). "E-cigarette Use Among Youth and Young Adults: A Report of the Surgeon General."

Retrieved on January 30, 2024 from
www.cdc.gov/tobacco/sgr/ecigarettes/pdfs/2016_sgr_entire_report_508.pdf.



The Corporation of the City of Temiskaming Shores
Regular Council Meeting
Tuesday, September 17, 2024

Resolution

Provincial decision regarding alcohol sales in convenience stores and locations that sell fuel to drivers, and the development of a comprehensive provincial alcohol strategy

Resolution No. 2024-332

Moved by: Councillor Whalen
Seconded by: Councillor Wilson

Whereas excessive consumption of alcohol has a negative impact on many communities because of detrimental health effects, road safety, and other harms; and

Whereas the number of cases of individuals driving under the influence are increasing in Ontario, and the Timiskaming District has recently seen its highest rate ever for impaired driving infractions with 10 in April of 2024; and

Whereas jurisdictions with broader access to alcohol have higher rates of driving under the influence and crashes associated with alcohol; and

Whereas alcohol causes at least seven types of cancer and is a risk factor for, disease, disability and premature death, and is a direct cause of 4,300 deaths and 195,000 emergency department visits per year in Ontario; and

Whereas alcohol related emergency department visits increased 18 percent after the introduction of alcohol sales in grocery stores in Ontario; and

Whereas 35 percent of youth in grades 10 and 11 in the Timiskaming District have indicated that they consumed alcohol at 13 years or younger; and

Whereas 49 percent of youth in grades 10 and 11 in the Timiskaming District have been drunk at least once in their life; and

Whereas alcohol related harms cost the Ontario economy 7 billion dollars a year; and

Whereas alcohol is a factor in many domestic, sexual and physical assaults in Ontario; and

Whereas most tax revenue generated by the sale of alcohol goes to the province yet the costs and harms that are alcohol related are borne by the municipalities in the form of policing and social services and public health costs.

Therefore be it resolved that Council for the City of Temiskaming Shores requests the Government of Ontario reverse their decision to allow alcohol to be sold in more locations and implement the following recommendations:

1. Permit municipalities to opt out of retail alcohol expansion;
2. Grant municipalities the powers to use zoning to determine where new alcohol retail locations are acceptable;
3. Not permit alcohol sales within 150 m of schools, daycares, or substance use facilities;
4. Prohibit the sale of Alcohol at gas stations;
5. Require health warning labels on all alcohol containers;
6. Dedicate a portion of provincial alcohol revenue to addressing alcohol related harms; and
7. Develop and implement a comprehensive provincial alcohol strategy, in partnership with municipalities, that prioritizes health and safety and considers the costs associated with alcohol consumption.

Further that a copy of this resolution be provided to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario; the Honourable Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health; the Honourable Doug Downey, Attorney General; the Honourable Prabmeet Sarkaria, Minister of Transportation; John Vanthof, MPP Timiskaming Cochrane; AMO; FONOM; ROMA; Temiskaming Municipal Association (TMA); Timiskaming Health Unit (Planet Youth Timiskaming); Temiskaming Shores OPP Detachment Board; and all Ontario Municipalities.

Carried

Certified True Copy
City of Temiskaming Shores



Logan Belanger
Municipal Clerk

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

HELD
September 24th, 2024

2024-204

**Moved by Councillor Champagne
Seconded by Councillor Trahan**

WHEREAS on February 27th, 2024, Council for the Municipality of East Ferris supported a resolution received from the Town of Petrolia calling upon both the Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) and Ontario Good Roads Association (OGRA) Boards to re-establish a combined OGRA and ROMA annual conference;

AND WHEREAS on May 16th, 2024, correspondence was received from ROMA Chair, Robin Jones, stating that in 2019 the ROMA Board of Directors and the OGRA Executive Committee decided not to hold a joint conference, but agreed that there are matters the organizations can work together on;

AND WHEREAS with ROMA being the rural voice of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) it makes great sense for the ROMA and AMO conferences to be a combined conference, not only financially for municipalities but also for availability for participation of members of Council and staff;

AND WHEREAS these conferences afford a vital opportunity for delegations with members of our provincial parliament, moving to a combined ROMA/AMO conference provides a better respect to their availability and participation;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council for the Municipality of East Ferris call upon both the ROMA & AMO Boards to establish a combined ROMA/AMO annual conference;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED should the conferences be combined and held during the winter months, as has been past practice for the ROMA conference, that a hybrid participation option be considered as winter weather can be unpredictable and not all persons who wish to attend can do so in person;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be forwarded to ROMA, AMO, MPP Vic Fedeli, and all municipalities in Ontario.

Carried Mayor Rochefort



East Ferris
MUNICIPALITY • MUNICIPALITÉ

CERTIFIED to be a true copy of
Resolution No. 2024-204 passed by the
Council of the Municipality of East Ferris
on the 24th day of September, 2024.

Kari Hanselman, Dipl. M.A.
Clerk



The Corporation of the Town of Cobourg

Resolution

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

Sent via email

September 27, 2024

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

WHEREAS the increased importation and use of non-Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) aftermarket batteries is presenting a significant increase in fire and explosion, putting citizens and responding personnel in danger; and

WHEREAS these aftermarket batteries are not Underwriter Laboratories of Canada (ULC) certified but can be imported into Canada without any associated regulations; and

WHEREAS unlicensed persons and locations can store and modify lithium-ion batteries in our communities without regulations, providing dangerous conditions within a community and charging these batteries within the home or multi-unit dwellings can result in larger fires with grave results; and

WHEREAS as Canada becomes more aware of Green Energy solutions, these batteries are used more often, increasing the danger to our communities.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Town of Cobourg supports the resolution from the from Municipality of Wawa regarding regulations for the importation of safe use of lithium-ion batteries; and

FURTHER THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Cobourg does hereby support the Ontario Fire Marshal's program to educate citizens on the danger associated with lithium-ion batteries and encourage every municipality to actively promote safe practices for the use of lithium-ion batteries; and

FURTHER THAT Council does hereby call upon all levels of government to enact regulations for the importation, sale, storage, and use of non-OEM or ULC certified lithium-ion batteries and that this resolution be shared with the Township of Otonabee-South Monaghan, the Ontario Municipal Fire Prevention Officers Association and all Ontario Municipalities.

Sincerely,

Kristina Lepik
Deputy Clerk/Manager, Legislative Services



September 27, 2024

Honourable Geoffrey Morawetz
Chief Justice of Ontario

Sent via email: SCJ.clerkship@ontario.ca

Dear Honourable Geoffrey Morawetz:

Please be advised that Brantford City Council at its meeting held September 24, 2024 adopted the following:

12.1.5 Request to the Chief Justice of the Superior Court

WHEREAS the trial of the 1995 lawsuit between Six Nations of the Grand River Band of Indians and the Attorney General of Canada, His Majesty the King in Right of Ontario, Court File No. CV-18-594281-0000 offers an opportunity to resolve centuries old grievances and injustices; and

WHEREAS the resolution of these claims is critical to resolving the tensions that exist throughout the watershed between Six Nations of the Grand River First Nation and area municipalities; and

WHEREAS the lawsuit has taken three decades to get to trial as a result of innumerable and unconscionable delaying tactics of the Crown as represented by the Federal Government; and

WHEREAS resolution of the lawsuit would support and strengthen the provincial land title system in the Grand River watershed.

NOW THEREFORE The Council for the Corporation of the City of Brantford hereby resolves;

- A. THAT with respect council requests that the Honourable Geoffrey Morawetz, Chief Justice of the Superior Court of Justice, Ontario, assign a judge as soon as possible to hear the trial of Toronto Court File No. CV-18-594281-0000 and that the Court proceed as expeditiously as possible to conclude the trial of that matter; and
- B. THAT the Clerk BE DIRECTED to forward a copy of this resolution to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, the Honourable Doug Downey, Attorney General of Ontario, the Honourable Geoffrey Morawetz, Chief Justice of Ontario, the Honourable Greg Rickford, Minister of Indigenous Affairs of Ontario, The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister, the Honourable Arif Virani, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada, the Honourable Gary Anandasangaree, the Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations Canada and to the

Clerks of all municipalities in the Grand River Watershed, asking that their Councils pass this resolution posthaste.

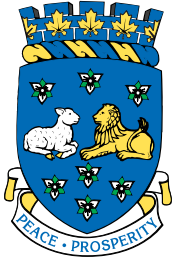
I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours truly,



Chris Gauthier
City Clerk, cgauthier@brantford.ca

cc Honourable Doug Downey, Attorney General of Ontario
Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
Honourable Greg Rickford, Minister of Indigenous Affairs of Ontario
The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister
Honourable Arif Virani, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada
Honourable Gary Anandasangaree, the Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations Canada
Clerks of all municipalities in the Grand River Watershed



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:

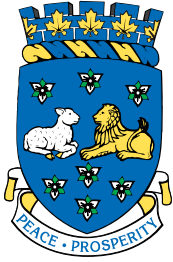
Whereas there is a humanitarian crisis in cities, large and small, urban and rural, across Ontario. We need immediate action at all levels of government, starting with the Province; and

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;

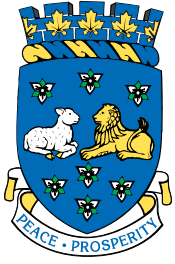
AND request that the provincial government strike a task force with broad sector representatives including municipalities, regions, healthcare, first responders, community services, the business community and the tourism industry to develop a *Made in Ontario Action Plan*;

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



**MUNICIPALITY OF CASSELMAN
AGENDA
REGULAR MEETING**

Regular Meeting

Agenda Number: 12.1.2.
Resolution Number 2024-220
Title: Russell Township - AMCTO Provincial Updates to the Municipal Elections Act
Date: Tuesday, September 17, 2024

Moved by: Francine Leblanc
Seconded by: Paul Groulx

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 the Municipality of Casselman 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, MPP of Glengarry-Prescott-Russell and AMCTO.

Sébastien Dion

Signed with ConsignO Cloud (2024/09/18)
Verify with verifio.com or Adobe Reader.



Carried

Sébastien Dion, Clerk



MUNICIPALITÉ DE CASSELMAN
ORDRE DU JOUR
RÉUNION ORDINAIRE

Réunion Ordinaire

No. du point à l'ordre du jour: 12.1.2.
No. du point 2024-220
Titre: Canton de Russell - Résolution visant à soutenir les mises à jour provinciales de l'AMCTO concernant la loi sur les élections municipales
Date: le mardi 17 septembre 2024

Proposé par: Francine Leblanc
Appuyé par: Paul Groulx

Attendu que les règles électorales doivent être claires, qu'elles doivent aider les candidats et les électeurs à participer aux élections et les administrateurs électoraux à organiser les élections; et

Attendu que la législation doit trouver un juste équilibre entre la fourniture de règles et de cadres clairs pour garantir l'intégrité du processus électoral; et

Attendu que la législation doit également réduire le fardeau administratif et opérationnel pour le personnel municipal en veillant à ce que les administrateurs électoraux locaux puissent organiser les élections d'une manière qui réponde aux circonstances uniques de leurs communautés locales; et

Attendu que la Loi de 1996 sur les élections municipales (LEM) aura 30 ans au moment des prochaines élections municipales et scolaires en 2026; et

Attendu que la LEM établit les règles pour les élections locales, que la Loi de 1990 sur l'évaluation foncière et la Loi de 1990 sur l'éducation contiennent également des dispositions ayant une incidence sur les élections locales, ce qui augmente le nombre d'endroits où les électeurs, les candidats et les administrateurs doivent chercher les règles qui régissent le processus démocratique local en Ontario; et

Attendu qu'avec des règles réparties dans trois textes législatifs, et que la Loi sur l'éducation contient un ensemble de clauses disparates, il y a des problèmes d'interprétation, des incohérences et des lacunes à combler; et

Attendu que la loi peut poser des difficultés aux électeurs, aux candidats, aux donateurs et aux annonceurs tiers qui doivent la lire, l'interpréter, s'y conformer et aux administrateurs électoraux qui doivent l'appliquer; et

Attendu que si les élections locales sont gérées aussi efficacement que possible dans le cadre législatif actuel, une modernisation et une amélioration continue sont nécessaires pour garantir que la loi réponde aux besoins d'aujourd'hui et aux défis de demain; et

Attendu que pour conserver la confiance du public et améliorer les garanties, la loi devrait être révisée en tenant compte du paysage en constante évolution qui a une incidence sur l'administration des élections, y

compris la protection de la vie privée, les menaces d'ingérence étrangère, la propagation accrue de la désinformation et l'utilisation accrue de technologies telles que l'intelligence artificielle et l'utilisation d'identités numériques; et

Attendu que « Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks, and Treasurers of Ontario » (AMCTO) a examiné la loi et a formulé plusieurs recommandations, notamment la modernisation de la législation, l'harmonisation des règles et la rationalisation et la simplification de l'administration; et

Attendu que AMCTO a formulé des recommandations de modifications avant les élections de 2026 et des recommandations de modifications à plus long terme avant les élections de 2030; par conséquent

Il est résolu que la Municipalité de Casselman demande à la province de mettre à jour la LEM avec les modifications prioritaires décrites par AMCTO avant l'été 2025 et de commencer à examiner et à réécrire la LEM avec des recommandations à plus long terme avant les élections de 2030; et qu'il soit en outre

Résolu que cette résolution soit transmise à toutes les municipalités de l'Ontario pour obtenir leur appui et que chaque appui soit ensuite transmis au ministre des Affaires municipales et du Logement, au ministre de l'Éducation, au ministre de la Prestation des services publics et commerciaux, au ministre des Finances, au premier ministre de l'Ontario, au député provincial de Glengarry-Prescott-Russell et à AMCTO.

Adoptée

Sébastien Dion



Signed with ConsignO Cloud (2024/09/18)
Verify with verifio.com or Adobe Reader.

Sébastien Dion, Greffier



374028 6TH LINE • AMARANTH ON • L9W 0M6

September 18, 2024

AMCTO Advocacy Team
2680 Skymark Ave, Suite 610
Mississauga, ON L4W 5L6

Senty by Email to: advocacy@amcto.com

Re: Provincial Updates to the Municipal Elections Act

At its regular meeting of Council held on September 18, 2024, the Township of Amaranth Council passed the following resolution.

Resolution #: 3

Moved by: G. Little

Seconded by: B. Metzger

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

BE IT RESOLVED THAT The Township of Amaranth 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)

CARRIED

Please do not hesitate to contact the office if you require any further information.

Yours truly,



Nicole Martin, Dipl. M.A.
CAO/Clerk

cc. All Ontario Municipalities

Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing (minister.mah@ontario.ca)

Minister of Education (minister.edu@ontario.ca)

Minister of Public and Business Service Delivery (todd.mccarthy@ontario.ca)

Minister of Finance (Minister.fin@ontario.ca)

Premier of Ontario (premier@ontario.ca)

Sylvia Jones MPP (sylvia.jones@ontario.ca)