

# COUNCIL INFORMATION PACKAGE

## June 13, 2025

### City of Cambridge Correspondence

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

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## Minutes

Cambridge Farmers' Market Advisory Committee  
Market Building Galt Room  
40 Dickson Street, Cambridge  
March 27 – 6:30 p.m.



**Committee Members in Attendance:** Carl Norg, John Forsyth, Jay Burnett, Councillor Ross Earnshaw, Kevin Phelan, Peter Van Brugge, Jeremy Brubacher

**Regrets:** Shane Murphy

**Staff in Attendance:** Zita Tavares, Recording Secretary, Abbey Poser, Recreation Coordinator – Farmers' Market

### Meeting Called to Order

The regular meeting of the Cambridge Farmers' Market was held in the Galt Room at the Farmer's Market building. Kevin Phelan, Chair welcomed everyone present and called the meeting to order at 6:27 p.m.

### Disclosure of Interest

No disclosure of interest

### Delegations:

No delegations

### Approval of the Thursday, February 27, 2025, Farmers' Market Advisory Committee minutes

Moved by: Carl Norg

Seconded by: Jay Burnett

**THAT** the Thursday February 27, 2025, Farmers' Market Advisory Committee minutes be approved.

CARRIED

### Agenda Items

- Farm Gate Trail

The Farmers' market is joining a new initiative through Explore Waterloo Region called Farm Gate Trail. This will connect Farmers Markets and farms that have farm activities and stores throughout the region all grouped together so people can explore different markets and agriculture in the Region year-round. By joining the farm gate trail initiative, the Cambridge Farmers' market will have a profile and signage on their website with an opportunity to host tour groups and be part of tours across the region.

<https://explorewaterloo.ca/farm-gates-in-waterloo-region-2/>

- Waterloo School of Architecture - Project

The year four students from the school of architecture approached Abbey if they could use the market building to design the upper floor and build on as one of their assignments. There are 90 students who will work in pairs for 45 projects. When these projects are presented to their professors, this committee has been invited to listen to the presentation. Abbey and Alix will be meeting with the group in the next week to finalize the timeline etc. Project should start roughly in 3 weeks.

Any ideas from the committee can be sent to Abbey. Abbey will keep the committee updated with tour dates if anyone would like to attend.

- Placemaking Project - Delayed until 2026- Capital Budget Request

The outdoor placemaking project has been delayed due to the economic state. The project will be presented with the 2026 budget.

The building restoration project is moving forward as planned.

Staff Report – March 2025

Operations Update

The Market has hired a market ambassador - Katelyn Duarte (every Saturday 6am to 2 pm)

This position helps with the setup, garbage clean- up, attendance throughout the day, assisting customers with carryout, crafts, samples

Events and Give Aways

April 19 - Easter (Egg Hunt, Craft, Partnership with the Church)

Easter bunny will be on site

**Business Arising from previous minutes**

BIA putting together a logo - Neighbour helping Neighbours shop Canadian – Abbey will reach out to Brian

No update, will reach out to Brian again

April 19 - Easter (Egg Hunt, Craft, Partnership with the Church) Abbey will contact Brian at BIA

No update, will reach out to Brian again

Alix will invite Michael Launslager to present the Action plan to the committee

Alix would like to review the presentation before inviting Michael to this meeting, Abbey will follow up with Alix.

The committee would like to move forward with the market bags, preferably with the BIA. If it is not possible at this time, the market could create the bags in smaller batches just for the market.

Business Arising from the previous meeting has not been an agenda item in previous agendas. This item will be added to the agenda going forward.

### **Updates**

- City Updates Councilor Earnshaw  
BIA modernization proposal, 2- week period for comments have closed, finalized request for quotation  
Good response from consultants  
BIA executives can be present to look through a short-listed group  
Successful bidder will be selected, contracts entered to start  
BIA expansion boundaries have not been brought forward by the city, boundary expansion should be looked at after the BIA modernization consultant study.
- BIA updates – Shane Murphy  
Councilor Earnshaw provided updates in Shane's absence

### **Other Business**

No other business

**Next Meeting** – Thursday, April 24, 2025

Market building - Galt Room

### **Close of Meeting**

THAT the Cambridge Farmers' Market Advisory Committee meeting does now adjourn at 7:04 p.m.

Moved by: Jeremy Brubacher

Seconded: by: Peter Van Brugge

**CARRIED**



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**Chair**



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**Recording Secretary**

## Minutes

**Cambridge Farmers' Market Advisory Committee**  
**Market Building Galt Room**  
**40 Dickson Street, Cambridge**  
**April 24, 2025 – 6:30 p.m.**



**Committee Members in Attendance:** John Forsyth, Jay Burnett, Councillor Ross Earnshaw, Kevin Phelan, Jeremy Brubacher, Shane Murphy

**Regrets:** Carl Norg, Peter Van Brugge

**Staff in Attendance:** Zita Tavares, Recording Secretary, Abbey Poser, Recreation Coordinator – Farmers' Market

### Meeting Called to Order

The regular meeting of the Cambridge Farmers' Market was held in the Galt Room at the Farmer's Market building. Kevin Phelan, Chair welcomed everyone present and called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

### Disclosure of Interest

No disclosure of interest

### Delegations: School of Architecture Year 4 Student Project

Jaliya Fonseka and team from the School of Architecture Faculty Team were present to give a brief introduction of the Year 4 Student Project, Core B comprehensive building design studio which is a 4-year program. This is the last main design course for the end of the program. The project consists of designing a building as well as working with consultants to design a structure with detailing and services.

Over the last 3 years the School of Architecture has collaborated with clients from Cambridge, such as Cambridge Food Bank and Rare.

This year students are collaborating with the Farmers' Market, reimagining what the market could look like.

What will the new market look like?

Ideas that were shared: community kitchen, community stove outside, a café, seed bank, a multipurpose room for agriculture base classes like canning and learning to forge food.

Building onto the existing market building with greenhouse technology, walls that can open and are suitable for 3 seasons. A more permanent building where the vendors are outside but protected from elements. An area for performances, buskers etc.

At the end of the term, the students will have design panels as part of their presentation shared with staff and guests.

The timeline schedule of the workshops was shared. If you are available to attend any of the review dates let Abbey know. Any feedback from the committee is helpful

The week of April 24 is Volunteer Appreciation. Abbey gave the committee members a market gift as a thank you for all the time committed to the market and the work you do.

### **Approval of the Thursday, March 27, 2025, Farmers' Market Advisory Committee minutes**

Moved by: Jeremy Brubacher

Seconded by: Jay Burnett

**THAT** that Thursday March 27, 2025, Farmers' Market Advisory Committee minutes approval be moved to the May 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting due to not meeting quorum.

CARRIED

### **Matters Arising from Last Month's Meeting**

- Market Bags

Brian and Abbey are scheduling a time to discuss moving forward with the market bags and the shop local initiative, Neighbour helping Neighbours shop Canadian

- Action Plan presentation - Michael Launslager

Discussion with Alix and Michael, this presentation will not be presented. Abbey will confirm.

### **Agenda Items**

- Manager's Staffing Report – April 2025

Operations Update:

Jeff Moir has decided to resign, he will continue to work at the market until the end of May. Part-time staff Mason Ulat will be providing back-up in June, until the position is filled.

A card for Jeff will be available for signing at the market.

Farm Gate Trail - Explore Waterloo Region has been renamed to Flavours and Fields Their Promotional Launch is June 2025. They will provide a large Connect 4 game, signs and window stickers. The farmers' market will be discussing where to park tour buses with the Economic Development and Building departments. Hoping to use Beverly Street.

Exterior Heritage Restoration Project, Cambridge Farmers' Market – Alix and Abbey will be meeting with the architect team this week. An update will be shared at the next meeting.

April 19 - Easter Egg Hunt

Approximate 900 people, 100 kids, it was a successful day

May 10- Mother's Day

Hanging out carnations to moms

June 13 - Celebration of the Arts

Samples of micro-greens and homemade rhubarb and strawberry dressing

If you are available to help on that day, reach out to Abbey

## **Updates**

- City Updates Councilor Earnshaw

Parks Master plan was presented at council workshop. This is a generational plan for 30 years. Consultation with the public about the needs and wants of all the parks. Parks that have amenities will be maintained. Parks that have no playgrounds will add playgrounds; no shade will plant trees to bring all parks to the same level.

- BIA updates – Shane Murphy

Preparing for the spring/summer Main Street Road closure. Opening day may be a week later due to a movie production coming downtown. Reactivating the pad beside Monigram's Coffee Roasters and utilizing that space. City led study on how to modernize all BIA's are out for tender. It is narrowed out to 5.

## **Other Business**

All vendors are returning to the market. The food bank is coming back earlier this year. Some new vendor inquiries, waiting for Public Health approval.

Indian pancakes and an ice cream vendor

Abbey is working with the Clerk's department for a vendor position and a non-voting member. Can a representative of a vendor be on the committee. A memo will go to vendors if there is any interest in joining the committee.

Abbey will check with the clerk's department for the process of voting on the approval of the minutes for the April and May minutes that do not have quorum.

## **Next Meeting**

- Thursday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2025

## **Close of Meeting**

THAT the Cambridge Farmers' Market Advisory Committee meeting does now adjourn at 7:49 p.m.

Moved by: Shane Murphy

Seconded: by: Jay Burnett

## **CARRIED**



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**Chair**



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**Recording Secretary**

**Resolution of Council  
City Council Meeting**

**Title:** Bill 6, Safer Municipalities Act, 2025  
**Date:** May 20, 2025

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**WHEREAS:**

1. A municipality's parks and open spaces are critical infrastructure that support a strong community, and the public's shared and safe use of the municipality's parks and open spaces is integral to ensuring that support.
2. Ontario's municipalities are struggling to maintain their parks and open spaces for their shared and safe use by the public as a result of the increasing proliferation of encampments and illicit activities related thereto.
3. Municipalities that enforce their standards regulating or prohibiting encampments in their parks and open spaces must have regard to the availability of shelter space for those who need shelter.
4. On January 27, 2023, Justice Valente of the Ontario Superior Court of Justice rendered his judgment in *Waterloo (Regional Municipality) v. Persons Unknown and to be Ascertained (2023)*, [2023] O.J. No. 417 (Waterloo Decision) which declared that the municipality's by-law violated section 7 of the Charter and was therefore inoperative insofar as it applied to prevent encampment residents from erecting temporary shelters on a site when the number of homeless individuals in the region exceeded the number of accessible shelter beds.
5. The Waterloo Decision's analysis of the adequacy of shelter beds suggests an unworkable and unclear standard that goes beyond the number of shelter spaces and that includes the requirement to provide shelter spaces that must accommodate illicit drug use and other activities that could put shelter residents, workers and volunteers at risk. The result is that municipalities are impaired in their enforcement of their standards and have lost or are losing control of their parks and open spaces.
6. On December 12, 2024, the provincial government introduced Bill 242, Safer Municipalities Act, 2024. Among its various initiatives, Bill 242 proposed to amend section 2 of the Trespass to Property Act by adding aggravating factors that must be considered in the court's determination of a penalty under that section. However, the key challenge was that a municipality's exercise of its rights at common law and under section 9 of the Trespass to Property Act to remove encampments from the municipality's parks and open spaces remained potentially subject to the unworkable and unclear standard for the adequacy of shelter space suggested by the Waterloo Decision.
7. On January 13, 2025, Council of the City of Peterborough resolved to request the provincial government to amend Bill 242 to clearly define a workable standard for shelter space for the purposes of a municipality's jurisdiction to enforce its standards regulating or prohibiting encampments in its parks and open spaces.
8. Bill 242 died on the order paper as a result of the recent provincial election.
9. On April 30, 2025, the provincial Government re-introduced the legislation in the form of Bill 6, Safer Municipalities Act, 2025. Bill 6 is substantively the same as Bill 242.
10. In these circumstances, municipalities continue to need provincial legislation that clearly defines a workable standard for shelter space for the purposes of a municipality's jurisdiction to enforce its standards regulating or prohibiting encampments in its parks and open spaces.

**NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved:**

1. That the provincial government be respectfully requested to amend Bill 6 to clearly define a workable standard for shelter space for the purposes of a municipality's jurisdiction to enforce its standards regulating or prohibiting encampments in its parks and open spaces.
2. That, without limitation, Bill 6 provide that a municipality will have met the standard for shelter space for the purposes of the municipality's jurisdiction to enforce its standards regulating or prohibiting encampments in its parks and open spaces:
  - a) despite the establishment and enforcement of shelter rules including rules that prohibit drug use and other activities that could put shelter residents, workers and volunteers at risk; and
  - b) if an official designated by the municipality is satisfied that the number of available shelter spaces is at least equal to the aggregate of the number of individuals actually seeking shelter and the number of individuals against whom the municipality is planning to enforce its standards regulating or prohibiting encampments in its parks and open spaces.
3. That a copy of this resolution be sent to:
  - a) Peterborough - Kawartha MPP Dave Smith;
  - b) Honourable Doug Ford, Premier;
  - c) Honourable Robert Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing;
  - d) Honourable Doug Downey, Attorney General;
  - e) Association of Municipalities of Ontario; and to
  - f) Councils of each of Ontario's municipalities.

The above resolution, adopted by City Council is forwarded for your information and action, as required. Thank you.

*John Kennedy*

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John Kennedy, City Clerk



## **District of Parry Sound Municipal Association**

*c/o Township of McKellar, 701 Hwy 124 McKellar, ON P0G 1C0*

**President:** Lynda Carleton **Secretary-Treasurer:** Karlee Britton

### **RE: Supporting Municipal Ethics Through Access and Education**

*The District of Parry Sound Municipal Association (DPSMA), representing the twenty-three Municipalities within the District of Parry Sound, held its Spring 2025 meeting on May 23, 2025, in the Municipality of Callander. At this meeting, the following resolution was carried:*

**Moved by:** Kathy Hamer (Municipality of McDougall)

**Seconded by:** Daniel O'Halloran (Township of McMurrich Monteith)

**Whereas** democracy is an open process – one that requires ongoing engagement between citizens and their elected officials; and

**Whereas** ethics and integrity are at the core of public confidence in government and in the political process; and

**Whereas** proper policies and procedures protect the democratic process; and

**Whereas** sections 223.2 and 223.3, Municipal Act, 2001 state all municipalities are required to adopt a Code of Conduct for members of Council and to appoint an Integrity Commissioner; and

**Whereas** it is the role of the Integrity Commissioner to educate member of Council on the Councillor Code of Conduct policy as well as to investigate alleged breaches of the Code of Conduct, at the municipality's expense; and

**Whereas** there are many new elected officials each term of Council who need access to information and proper training in order to do the work effectively and responsibility; and

**Whereas** Municipal Affairs and the Ombudsman's Office are hesitant to give information, so there is nowhere to ask questions and learn; and

**Whereas** the only source of information is to pay for fee-for-service on a case-by-case basis from the Integrity Commissioner which is very cost-prohibitive for small municipalities; and

**Whereas** Council is expected to oversee the management of taxpayers money and taxpayers deserve to know where their tax dollars are being spent;

**Now Therefore Be It Resolved That** the District of Parry Sound Municipal Association calls upon the Ontario government to provide free access to information so that Councils can be effective in their role in our democratic system; and

**Further That** the DPSMA hereby requests that Municipal Affairs and/or the Ombudsman's Office and/or the Integrity Commissioner provide, if requested by a municipality, sufficient particulars of each investigation to permit the municipality to fully understand and address the subject matter of each investigation.

**Further That** this resolution be forwarded to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, the Honourable Graydon Smith, MPP Parry Sound-Muskoka and to all Ontario Municipalities for support.

*Forwarded on behalf of the District of Parry Sound Municipal Association; For questions and/or inquiries, please contact:*



**Karlee Britton** | Secretary-Treasurer  
District of Parry Sound Municipal Association  
[clerk@mckellar.ca](mailto:clerk@mckellar.ca)  
(705) 389-2842 x4

cc:

Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario  
Honourable Graydon Smith, MPP Parry Sound-Muskoka  
Municipalities within the District of Parry Sound  
All Ontario Municipalities

May 30, 2025

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

**Delivered by email**  
[premier@ontario.ca](mailto:premier@ontario.ca)

Dear Mr. Premier:

**Re: Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville Council Resolution of May 7, 2025, Re:  
Correspondence from York Region, re: Provincial Funding Shortfall of  
Human and Health Programs and Services**

Please be advised that this matter was considered by Council at its meeting held on May 7, 2025, and Council passed the following resolution:

That Council receive and endorse the correspondence from York Region, re: Provincial Funding Shortfall of Human and Health Programs and Services as attached.

*Davneet Sandhu*

Davneet Sandhu  
Council/Committee Coordinator

Copy: Hon. Paul Calanda, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing  
Hon. Natalia Kusendova-Bashta, Minister of Long-Term Care  
Hon. Sylvia Jones, Minister of Health  
All York Region MPP's  
All Ontario municipalities

**From:** [Regional Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Regional Council Decision - Provincial Funding Shortfall of Human and Health Programs and Services  
**Date:** Friday, April 25, 2025 12:39:46 PM

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On April 24, 2025 Regional Council made the following decision:

1. The Regional Chairman and all nine mayors, send a joint letter to the Premier of Ontario and the Ministers of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Long-Term Care, and Health, and York Region MPPs requesting a meeting to:
  - a. Discuss the \$77 million shortfall in health and human services funding arrangements for mandated health and human services, taking into account population growth, socio-economic shifts and increased costs, and establish permanent sustainable provincial funding solutions to ensure York Region receives the funding needed to deliver these important programs.
  - b. Request the Province to improve the funding arrangements for mandated human and health services to reduce the burden on property taxpayers.
2. York Region staff work with community partners, Association of Municipalities of Ontario and other public sector organizations to advocate to provincial counterparts for sustainable funding to ensure services delivered by municipalities can meet growing and changing community needs.
3. The Regional Clerk circulate the report, to local municipalities, local hospitals, Human Services Planning Board, Newcomer Inclusion Table, Association of Municipalities of Ontario, Ontario Municipal Social Services Association, United Way Greater Toronto, AdvantAge Ontario, Ontario Long-Term Care Association, Ontario Association of Paramedic Chiefs, Association of Public Health Business Administrators, Ontario Alliance to End Homelessness, Ontario Health Teams in York Region and local Members of Provincial Parliament requesting they join in the Region's advocacy efforts.

The original staff report is available for your information at the following link:

[Provincial Funding Shortfall of Human and Health Programs and Services - Committee of the Whole - Week 1 - April 10, 2025](#)

Please contact Monica Bryce, (A) Director, Integrated Business Services at 1-877-464-9675 ext. 72096 if you have any questions with respect to this matter.

Regards,

**Christopher Raynor (he/him)** | Regional Clerk, Regional Clerk's Office, Corporate Services Department

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The Regional Municipality of York | 17250 Yonge Street | Newmarket, ON L3Y 6Z1  
O: 1-877-464-9675 ext. 71300 | [christopher.raynor@york.ca](mailto:christopher.raynor@york.ca) | [york.ca](http://york.ca)

Our Mission: **Working together to serve our thriving communities – today and tomorrow**

Sent by Email

June 4, 2025

The Honourable Peter Bethlenfalvy  
MPP Pickering-Uxbridge  
1550 Kingston Rd., Suite 213  
Pickering, ON L1V 1C3  
[peter.bethlenfalvy@pc.ola.org](mailto:peter.bethlenfalvy@pc.ola.org)

Subject: Raising Ontario Works (OW) and Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP)

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The Council of The Corporation of the City of Pickering considered the above matter at a Meeting held on May 26, 2025 and adopted the following resolution:

**WHEREAS** individuals and families receiving income support through Ontario Works (OW) and the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) are facing increasing challenges in meeting basic needs due to rising costs of living;

**And Whereas** Statistics Canada notes that people with disabilities have a higher poverty rate and a lower rate of employment than the overall population;

**And Whereas** the annual income support for Ontario Works is currently \$8,796.00 and \$16,416.00 for Ontario Disability Support Program. These supports have not increased sufficiently to keep up with inflation and the cost of living. Such costs are anticipated to continue increasing;

**And Whereas** the low income measure for a single person in Greater Toronto Area is estimated to be approximately \$27,343 annually, and the deep income poverty threshold is determined to be \$20,508;

**And Whereas** Food Banks, including our local Food Banks, provide a necessary service with increasing demands in our communities;

**And Whereas** the Pickering Food Bank served 1,722 adults, and 1,054 children in February 2025;

**And Whereas** food banks are already reducing their distribution capacity; and it is anticipated that due to developing economic circumstances, such as the current tariff war, there will be increased unemployment, increased food prices, and a heightened demand for food distribution, while donations continue to decline;

**And Whereas** these economic trends will continue to erode the purchasing power of OW and ODSP recipients, increasing reliance on food banks and placing additional pressure on municipalities and community organizations;

**Now therefore it be resolved** that the Council of The Corporation of the City of Pickering directs through the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer:

1. That staff send a letter to the Premier of Ontario, Minister of Finance, Minister of Children, Community and Social Services, and the Minister for Seniors and Accessibility, to strongly urge that the Ontario Provincial Government significantly raise the payments of Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Program and the increases be reflected in the upcoming Provincial Budget and that the increased amount aligns with inflationary costs and thereby decrease the pressure on food banks and the reliance on municipalities and taxpayers to supplement the gap in financial need; and,
2. That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to all Members of Provincial Parliament (MPPs), the Regional Municipality of Durham, all Municipalities in the Province of Ontario, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) for their endorsement and advocacy.

Should you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned at 905.420.4660, extension 2019.

Yours truly



Susan Cassel  
City Clerk

SC:am

Copy: Robert Cerjanec, MPP Ajax  
Lorne Coe, MPP Whitby  
Jennifer French, MPP Oshawa  
Todd McCarthy, MPP Durham  
Laurie Scott, MPP Haliburton—Kawartha Lakes—Brock  
Alexander Harras, Regional Clerk, Region of Durham  
Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)  
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)

All Ontario Municipalities

Chief Administrative Officer

# Municipality of *Bluewater*

June 6, 2025

The Honourable Doug Ford  
Legislative Building  
Queens Park  
TORONTO ON M7A 1A4  
[premier@ontario.ca](mailto:premier@ontario.ca)

Dear Premier Ford:

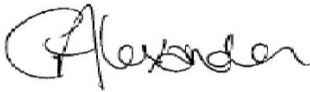
At the Municipality of Bluewater's regular Council meeting held on June 2, 2025, Council received a resolution distributed by the Town of LaSalle regarding the Northern Health Travel Grant Program. Please be advised that the Council of the Municipality of Bluewater passed the following resolution:

**MOVED:** Councillor Bailey **SECONDED:** Councillor Walden  
THAT the Council of the Municipality of Bluewater supports the resolution passed by the Town of LaSalle regarding the Northern Health Travel Grant Program; and

THAT this resolution of support be circulated to all Ontario municipalities, Premier Doug Ford, Lisa Thompson, MPP for Huron Bruce, Minister of Health and Deputy Premier Ms. Sylvia Jones.  
**CARRIED.**

Attached is the resolution passed by the Town of LaSalle.

Sincerely,



Chandra Alexander  
Manager of Corporate Services/Clerk

cc:

Lisa Thompson, Huron-Bruce MPP  
Sylvia Jones, Minister of Health and Deputy Premier  
Jennifer Astrologo, Director of Council Services/Clerk  
Ontario Municipalities



February 4, 2025

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

Via Email: [premier@ontario.ca](mailto:premier@ontario.ca)

Re: Northern Health Travel Grant Program

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Council of the Town of LaSalle, at its Regular Meeting held Tuesday, January 28, 2025, passed the following resolution:

14/25

Moved by: Deputy Mayor Akpata

Seconded by: Councillor Renaud

Whereas the Northern Health Travel Grant program (the "Program") offers financial assistance to Northern Ontario residents who need to travel long distances for specialized medical services or procedures at a ministry funded health care facility;

And Whereas, the grants for this Program are based on the distance residents must travel to reach the nearest medical specialist or ministry funded healthcare facility;

And Whereas, residents must travel at least 100 kilometers one-way to access the nearest medical specialist or ministry-funded healthcare facility for services that are not available locally to qualify for the grant;

And Whereas, there are many occasions in which residents of Windsor-Essex County must travel at least 100 kilometers one way to access health care facilities or services that are not available locally; And Whereas, there are four primary children's hospitals across the province, located in London, Hamilton, Toronto and Ottawa, and none of these facilities are within 100 kilometers of Windsor-Essex County;

And Whereas, it has been reported that more than 5,000 times each year pediatric patients across Windsor-Essex County must drive to London Health Sciences Centre for treatment at its Children's Hospital, which places a financial strain on families and care-givers;

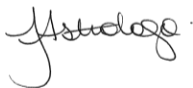
Now Therefore, the Town of LaSalle calls upon the Provincial Government and Ministry of Health to establish a grant system similar to the Northern Health Travel Grant program in Windsor-Essex County to provide support to the residents of Windsor-Essex County when they need to travel long distances for specialized medical services or procedures at ministry funded health care facilities;

And that, this motion be circulated to all municipalities for support, Premier Doug Ford, MPP Anthony Leardi, MPP Andrew Dowie, Minister of Health and Deputy Premier Ms. Sylvia Jones and all local municipalities.

**Carried.**

Please consider this letter as confirmation of the Town of LaSalle's support of the above matter.

Yours Truly,



Jennifer Astrologo  
Director of Council Services/Clerk  
Town of LaSalle  
[jastrologo@lasalle.ca](mailto:jastrologo@lasalle.ca)

Cc: (via email)  
MPP Anothony Leardi [Anthony.Leardi@pc.ola.org](mailto:Anthony.Leardi@pc.ola.org)  
MPP Andrew Dowie [Andrew.Dowie@pc.ola.org](mailto:Andrew.Dowie@pc.ola.org)  
MPP Minister of Health and Deputy Premier Sylvia Jones [sylvia.jones@pc.ola.org](mailto:sylvia.jones@pc.ola.org)  
Association of Municipalities of Ontario [resolutions@amo.on.ca](mailto:resolutions@amo.on.ca)  
All Ontario Municipalities



CORPORATION OF THE  
**TOWNSHIP OF BLACK RIVER – MATHESON**  
367 FOURTH AVE, P.O. BOX 601, MATHESON, ON P0K 1N0  
TELEPHONE (705) 273-2313 EMAIL : [brm@twpbrm.ca](mailto:brm@twpbrm.ca) WEBSITE: [www.twpbrm.ca](http://www.twpbrm.ca)

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**Jon Pegg**  
**Fire Marshal of Ontario**  
**Office of the Fire Marshal**  
**25 Morton Shulman Avenue**  
**Toronto, ON M3M 0B1**

**June 10, 2025**

**Via Email: [Jon.Pegg@ontario.ca](mailto:Jon.Pegg@ontario.ca)**

Dear Fire Marshal Pegg:

**Subject: Request for Exemption to Proposed Mandatory Firefighter Certification Requirements (O. Reg. 343/22)**

On behalf of the Council of the Township of Black River-Matheson, I am writing to express our concerns regarding the mandatory firefighter certification requirements under Ontario Regulation 343/22.

At its meeting held on June 10<sup>th</sup>, Council passed the attached resolution formally opposing the implementation of these requirements. While we recognize and support the importance of firefighter training and safety, the regulation as it stands does not adequately reflect the operational realities of small, rural, and northern municipalities.

Communities such as ours rely heavily on volunteer and composite fire departments that already face critical challenges in recruitment, training accessibility, and financial capacity.

Specifically, we are burdened by:

- Geographic barriers and long travel distances to accredited training centres,
- Inconsistent access to instructors and scheduling options,
- Limited budgets and competing capital demands,
- Difficulty in retaining and replacing volunteers due to increased regulatory pressures.

Without additional support, flexibility, or exemption mechanisms, the implementation of O. Reg. 343/22 will severely compromise our ability to provide consistent, timely, and effective fire protection to our residents.

Accordingly, the Council of the Township of Black River-Matheson respectfully requests that the Office of the Fire Marshal and the Ministry of the Solicitor General:

1. Defer full implementation of the certification regulation for rural and northern municipalities,
2. Provide exemptions or alternative compliance pathways tailored to the needs and limitations of small, remote fire services,
3. Increase funding and training supports for municipalities outside major urban centres.

We believe that a one-size-fits-all regulatory model will disproportionately and unfairly affect communities like ours. A more flexible, consultative approach is urgently needed. Thank you for your consideration of this request. We would welcome further discussion and are open to participating in any future consultations or working groups aimed at resolving these challenges collaboratively.

**Sincerely,**

**Dave Dymont, Mayor**

/hjl

On behalf of the Council of Black River-Matheson

**Encl.:** Resolution No.2025-214 – Council Opposition to O. Reg. 343/22

**CC:**

The Honourable Michael Kerzner, Solicitor General – michael.kerzner@ontario.ca

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

John Vanthof, MPP, Timiskaming—Cochrane – jvanthof-co@ndp.on.ca

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

Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) – admin@fonom.org

All Ontario Municipalities



**Corporation of the Township of Black River - Matheson**  
367 Fourth Avenue  
P.O. Box 601  
Matheson, Ontario  
P0K 1N0

**ITEM # 2025-10.b)**  
**RESOLUTION**

DATE: June 10, 2025

2025-214

Moved by Councillor Steve Campsall  
Seconded by Councillor Alain Bouchard

WHEREAS the Ontario government has enacted O. Reg. 343/22, establishing mandatory certification requirements for firefighters under the Fire Protection and Prevention Act, 1997;

AND WHEREAS Council for the Township of Black River-Matheson acknowledges the importance of standardized firefighter training and safety;

AND WHEREAS these mandatory certification requirements pose significant challenges for small, rural, and northern municipalities due to limited financial and training resources, geographic barriers, and reliance on volunteer fire departments;

AND WHEREAS the implementation of these requirements without additional flexibility or support may negatively impact the Township's ability to recruit and retain volunteer firefighters and provide adequate fire protection to its residents;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council for the Corporation of the Township of Black River-Matheson formally opposes the mandatory firefighter certification requirements as currently outlined in O. Reg. 343/22;

AND FURTHER THAT this resolution be forwarded to the Solicitor General, Premier of Ontario, MPP John Vanthof, the Fire Marshal, AMO, FONOM, and all Ontario municipalities

☒ CARRIED      ☐ DEFEATED

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of loops and flourishes, positioned above a horizontal line.

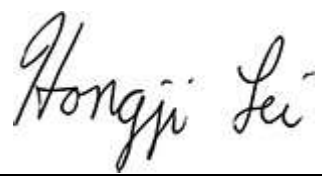
**CHAIR SIGNATURE**

☐ Original    ☐ Amendment    ☐ Refer    ☐ Defer    ☐ Reconsider    ☐ Withdrawn

**Recorded Vote-TO BE COMPLETED BY CLERK ONLY**

	YEAS	NAYS
Mayor Dave Dymont		
Councillor Allen		
Councillor Charbonneau		
Councillor Campsall		

Councillor McCutcheon		
Councillor Gadoury		
Councillor Bouchard		



Hong Ji Lei  
Town Manager/Clerk



52 Frank Street,  
Strathroy ON N7G 2R4  
Phone: 519-245-1070;  
Fax: 519-245-6353

[www.strathroy-caradoc.ca](http://www.strathroy-caradoc.ca)

June 02, 2025

To all Ontario Municipalities, AMO, ROMA and FCM:

Re: In Support of: Bill 5- Risks to your communities and support requested

Moved: Councillor Derbyshire

Seconded: Mayor Grantham

**THAT:** Council support the Chatham-Kent Resolution for opposition of this section of Bill 5.

Result: Carried

*As Mayor of the Municipality of Chatham-Kent, I am sharing this motion to bring to your attention the potential risks to your communities and ask for your support to oppose this approach. The following motion was approved yesterday, May 12, 2025:*

*“Whereas 29831 Irish School Road in the Municipality of Chatham-Kent is a property approximately 800 metres from the Town of Dresden;*

*And Whereas the property contain small fill areas used for historic local landfill purposes, and the property has never been properly studied or zoned for any significant landfilling use;*

*And Whereas the current property owners are attempting to create a new recycling and landfill facility for millions of tonnes of waste, which would result in hundreds of trucks travelling through towns and communities in the area;*

*And Whereas this approach has been strongly opposed by Council, the Community, neighbouring Indigenous Nations and many other voices, due to impacts to the environment, our homes, the safety of our families and children, and the fabric of our communities;*

*And Whereas the Provincial government has proposed Bill 5, which includes a section removing the obligation for a full Environmental Assessment for this new landfill and recycling facility;*

*And Whereas if this limited, historic local landfill use on the edge of Dresden can be expanded into a massive landfill and recycling facility, then this can happen anywhere;*

*And Whereas there are likely hundreds of properties across the Province that may have had limited, historic waste uses, which could also face this threat;*

*And Whereas Bill 197 established a veto for Municipalities within 3.5 kms of a new landfill, which reflected the need for local government and community approval of landfill sites;*

*And Whereas the approach being taken for this property disregards the importance of our rural communities, and local voices, in determining appropriate landfill sites within their communities:*

*Now Therefore to ensure that other Municipal Councils and communities know about what is happening in Dresden, and the potential risk to their community if this approach is taken by the Province, Council requests that the Mayor's Office write a letter to all other Ontario Municipalities, AMO, ROMA and FCM:*

- 1. Advising them of this issue and the risks to their community if a similar approach is taken for other historic landfill properties; the possibility of the Ontario government setting a precedence and*
- 2. Requesting their support in opposing this approach and ensuring that full Environmental Assessments are required for all landfills and that municipalities have a strong voice in determining appropriate locations for landfills in their communities."*

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'C. Grantham'.

Colin Grantham, Mayor  
Municipality of Strathroy-Caradoc

June 4, 2025

Please be advised that, at their regular meeting on June 3, 2025, Council of the Municipality of North Grenville adopted the following resolution:

**Title:** Bill 5: Protecting Ontario By Unleashing Our Economy Act, 2025

**Date:** June 3, 2025

WHEREAS the Government of Ontario has introduced *Bill 5: Protecting Ontario by Unleashing Our Economy Act, 2025*, which proposes substantial changes to environmental planning policies, including replacing the Endangered Species Act with a new framework that reduces protections for at-risk species, and enabling the creation of Special Economic Zones that may override local planning authority and environmental oversight;

AND WHEREAS the Municipality of North Grenville supports increasing housing supply and economic growth, but believes this must be done in a way that upholds environmental responsibility and maintains the integrity of local planning processes;

AND WHEREAS Bill 5, as proposed, weakens safeguards for natural heritage systems, threatening biodiversity, and diminishing the authority of municipalities to manage growth in accordance with local needs and official plans;

AND WHEREAS the Municipality of North Grenville urges the Government of Ontario to recommit to upholding the rights of Indigenous Peoples as affirmed in Canadian law through the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act and engage in transparent inclusive consultations with Indigenous Nations and civil society before tabling new development legislation;

AND WHEREAS Special Economic Zones would allow the Province to unilaterally override municipal decision-making by exempting Special Economic Zones from Municipal By-laws;

AND WHEREAS the use of Special Economic Zones to bypass local deliberation on proposed projects may not deliver on the promise of supporting economic growth;

MUNICIPALITY OF NORTH GRENVILLE

285 COUNTY ROAD 44, PO BOX 130, KEMPTVILLE, ON K0G 1J0 T(613)258-9569 EXT 219 F(613)258-9620  
clerk@northgrenville.on.ca

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council of the Municipality of North Grenville:

1. Opposes all provisions in Bill 5 that reduce environmental protections and Ontario's proud legacy of protections of endangered species, that override the rule of law and that nullify Municipal planning authority;
2. Urges the Province of Ontario to support housing and infrastructure development in ways that align with sound environmental planning and wildlife protection and empower municipalities with appropriate planning tools;
3. Urges the Province of Ontario to conduct robust consultation on Bill 5: Protecting Ontario By Unleashing Our Economy Act, 2025;
4. Urges the Province of Ontario not to use Special Economic Zones to exempt projects from By-laws that impacts revenue including development charge By-laws, property tax By-laws, or fees and charges By-law;
5. Requests the Province of Ontario consider the feedback submitted for Bill 5 by the Associations for Municipalities in Ontario (AMO) which highlights protecting Municipal autonomy and fiscal sustainability and Ontario's Environment and Indigenous Cultural Heritage; and,
6. Directs that a copy of this resolution be sent to:
  - o The Minister of Energy and Mines;
  - o The Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing;
  - o The Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks;
  - o The Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism;
  - o The Premier of Ontario;
  - o The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO); and,
  - o All Ontario Municipalities.

The above resolution, adopted by the Municipal Council, is forward for your information and action as required.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'MR' followed by a long horizontal stroke and a large loop at the end.

Mary Remmig  
Acting Clerk

MUNICIPALITY OF NORTH GRENVILLE

285 COUNTY ROAD 44, PO BOX 130, KEMPTVILLE, ON K0G 1J0 T(613)258-9569 EXT 219 F(613)258-9620  
clerk@northgrenville.on.ca



**Office of the City Clerk**  
Woodstock City Hall  
P.O. Box 1539  
500 Dundas Street  
Woodstock, ON  
N4S 0A7  
Telephone 519-539-1291

June 6, 2025

The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario  
80 Wellington Street  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

Via email: [premier@ontario.ca](mailto:premier@ontario.ca)

Re: Bill 5: Protecting Ontario by Unleashing Our Economy Act, 2025

At the regular meeting of Woodstock City Council held on June 5, 2025, the following resolution was passed:

“That Woodstock City Council support the resolution from the City of Kingston opposing all provisions in Bill 5 that reduce environmental protections and Ontario’s proud legacy of protections of Endangered Species, and that override the rule of law and that nullify municipal planning authority;

And further that City Council urge the Province of Ontario to support housing and infrastructure development in ways that align with sound environmental planning and wildlife protection and empower municipalities with appropriate planning tools;

And further that City Council call on the provincial government to rescind Bill 5 and return to consultation with the public, Ontario Municipalities, and First Nations;

And further that City Council voice opposition to the establishment of a Special Economic Zone within the City of Woodstock, as currently defined in Bill 5;”

And further that this resolution be circulated to The Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario; The Hon. Stephen Lecce, Minister of Energy and Mines; The Hon. Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing; The Hon. Todd J. McCarthy, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks; The Hon. Vic Fedeli, Minister of Economic Development; Ernie Hardeman, Oxford MPP; and all Ontario Municipalities.

Yours Truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'A. Humphries'.

Amy Humphries  
Deputy Chief Administrative Officer/City Clerk  
City of Woodstock

Cc.

The Hon. Stephen Lecce, Minister of Energy and Mines – [stephen.lecce@pc.ola.org](mailto:stephen.lecce@pc.ola.org)

The Hon. Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing – [rob.flack@pc.ola.org](mailto:rob.flack@pc.ola.org)

The Hon. Todd J. McCarthy, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks –  
[todd.mccarthy@pc.ola.org](mailto:todd.mccarthy@pc.ola.org)

The Hon. Vic Fedeli, Minister of Economic Development – [vic.fedeli@pc.ola.org](mailto:vic.fedeli@pc.ola.org)

Ernie Hardeman, Oxford MPP - [ernie.hardemanco@pc.ola.org](mailto:ernie.hardemanco@pc.ola.org);

And all Ontario Municipalities



## Office of the City Clerk

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May 21, 2025

Via email

All Ontario Municipalities

**Re: Kingston City Council Meeting, May 20, 2025 – Resolution Number 2025-197; Bill 5: Protecting Ontario by Unleashing Our Economy Act, 2025**

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At the regular Council meeting on May 20, 2025, Council approved Resolution Number 2025-197 with respect to Bill 5: Protecting Ontario by Unleashing Our Economy Act, 2025 as follows:

**Whereas** the Government of Ontario has introduced Bill 5: Protecting Ontario by Unleashing Our Economy Act, 2025, which proposes substantial changes to environmental planning policies, including replacing the Endangered Species Act with a new framework that reduces protections for at-risk species, and enabling the creation of Special Economic Zones that may override local planning authority and environmental oversight; and

**Whereas** the City of Kingston supports increasing housing supply and economic growth, but believes this must be done in a way that upholds environmental responsibility and maintains the integrity of local planning processes; and

**Whereas** Bill 5, as proposed, weakens safeguards for natural heritage systems, threatening biodiversity, and diminishing the authority of municipalities to manage growth in accordance with local needs and official plans; and

**Whereas** the Canadian Environmental Law Association submits that all of the Bill 5 schedules, with minor exceptions, should be withdrawn and not further considered by the Legislative Assembly of Ontario until they are substantially modified to ensure robust protection for the environment, human health, and vulnerable members of the Ontario public, including Indigenous peoples, who may otherwise be harmed by the amendments contained in the various schedules; and

**Whereas** the Canadian Civil Liberties Association finds that Schedule 9, in allowing the Minister of Economic Development to exempt “trusted proponents”

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The Corporation of the City of Kingston

216 Ontario Street, Kingston, ON K7L 2Z3

Phone: (613) 546-4291 extension 1207

cityclerk@cityofkingston.ca

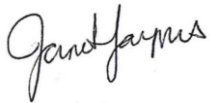
from compliance with municipal and provincial law within the special economic zones, promotes abandonment of the rule of law subjecting Ontario's lands and peoples to the possibility of arbitrary and non-transparent decision-making and effectively nullifying decades of legacy law-making in those zones;

**Therefore Be It Resolved That** the Council of the City of Kingston oppose all provisions in Bill 5 that reduce environmental protections and Ontario's proud legacy of protections of Endangered Species, that override the rule of law and that nullify municipal planning authority; and

**That** the Council of the City of Kingston urge the Province of Ontario to support housing and infrastructure development in ways that align with sound environmental planning and wildlife protection and empower municipalities with appropriate planning tools; and

**That** a copy of this motion be sent to The Honourable Doug Ford, M.P.P. Premier of Ontario, The Honourable Stephen Lecce, M.P.P. Minister of Energy and Mines, The Honourable Rob Flack, M.P.P. Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, The Honourable Todd J. McCarthy, M.P.P. Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, Ted Hsu, M.P.P., Kingston & the Islands, John Jordan, M.P.P., Lanark-Frontenac-Kingston, and all Ontario municipalities.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Janet Jaynes".

Janet Jaynes  
City Clerk  
/nb



## TOWNSHIP OF BRUDENELL, LYNDOCH AND RAGLAN

42 Burnt Bridge Road, PO Box 40  
Palmer Rapids, Ontario K0J 2E0  
TEL: (613) 758-2061 · FAX: (613) 758-2235

June 6, 2025

Minister of Children Community and Social Services  
438 University Avenue, 7th floor,  
Toronto, ON  
M7A 1N3

### **RE: Ontario Works Financial Assistance Rates**

Dear Hon. Michael Parsa,

Please be advised that at the Regular Council Meeting on June 4, 2025, Council for the Corporation of the Township of Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan passed the following resolution, supporting the resolution from the Prince Edward-Lennox and Addington Social Services Committee.

**Resolution No:** 2025-05-04-07  
**Moved by:** Councillor Keller  
**Seconded by:** Councillor Banks

**"Be It resolved** that the Council for the Corporation of the Township of Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan support the Prince Edward-Lennox and Addington Social Services Committee resolution regarding Ontario Works Financial Assistance Rates.

**And further that** this resolution be forwarded to Minister of Children, Community, and Social Services, the Minister of Health, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Ontario Municipal Social Services Association, and all Ontario Municipalities."

**Carried.**

Sincerely,

Tammy Thompson  
Deputy Clerk  
Township of Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan



April 10, 2025

**Re: Ontario Works Financial Assistance Rates**

Please be advised that the Prince Edward-Lennox and Addington Social Services Committee, at its meeting held on April 10, 2025, approved the following resolution:

WHEREAS poverty is taking a devastating toll on communities, undermining a healthy and prosperous Ontario, with people in receipt of Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Program being disproportionately impacted;

AND WHEREAS the cost of food, housing, medicine, and other essential items have outpaced the highest inflation rates seen in a generation;

AND WHEREAS people in need of social assistance have been legislated into poverty, housing insecurity, hunger, poorer health, their motives questioned, and their dignity undermined;

AND WHEREAS Ontario Works (OW) Financial Assistance rates have been frozen since 2018 (\$733 per month);

AND WHEREAS Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) benefit rates have been increased by 6.5 percent as of July 2023 and another 4.5% as of July 2024 to keep up with inflation, however even with the increase, ODSP rates still fall significantly below the disability-adjusted poverty line (\$3,091 per month);

AND WHEREAS OW and ODSP rates do not provide sufficient income for a basic standard of living and, as a result, hundreds of thousands of people across Ontario who rely on these programs live in poverty;

AND WHEREAS designated Service Managers are doing their part, but do not have the resources, capacity, or tools to provide the necessary income and health related supports to people experiencing poverty; and

AND WHEREAS leadership and urgent action is needed from the Provincial Government to immediately develop, resource, and implement a comprehensive plan to address the rising levels of poverty in Ontario, in particular for those on Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Programs;



**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Prince Edward-Lennox & Addington Committee requests the Provincial Government to urgently:**

- 1. Increase Ontario Works rates to match the ODSP rate increases that have already been made and be indexed to inflation;**
- 2. Commit to ongoing cost of living increases above and beyond the rate of inflation to make up for the years they were frozen;**

**AND FURTHER THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to the Minister of Children, Community, and Social Services, the Minister of Health, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Ontario Municipal Social Services Association, and all Ontario Municipalities.**

**Regards,**

**Sam Branderhorst**

Signed with ConsignO Cloud (2025/04/11)  
Verify with verifio.com or Adobe Reader.



**Sam Branderhorst, Chair**

**Prince Edward-Lennox and Addington Social Services Committee**

**Cc: Minister of Children, Community, and Social Services  
Minister of Health  
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing  
Association of Municipalities of Ontario  
Ontario Municipal Social Services Association  
All Ontario Municipalities**



## TOWNSHIP OF BRUDENELL, LYNDOCH AND RAGLAN

42 Burnt Bridge Road, PO Box 40  
Palmer Rapids, Ontario K0J 2E0  
TEL: (613) 758-2061 · FAX: (613) 758-2235

June 6, 2025

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

**RE: Call for inclusive research to reflect diversity of Canadian communities**

Dear Mr. Ford,

Please be advised that at the Regular Council Meeting on June 4, 2025, Council for the Corporation of the Township of Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan passed the following resolution, supporting the resolution from the Town of Parry Sound.

**Resolution No: 2025-05-04-08**  
**Moved by: Councillor Kauffeldt**  
**Seconded by: Councillor Keller**

**"Be it resolved that the Council for the Corporation of the Township of Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan support the Town of Parry Sounds resolution regarding the Call for inclusive research to reflect diversity of Canadian communities.**

**And further that this resolution be forwarded to Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario Lisa Thompson, Minister of Rural Affairs Cheryl Gallant, MP Billy Denault, MPP AMO (Association of Municipalities of Ontario) All Ontario Municipalities."**

**Carried.**

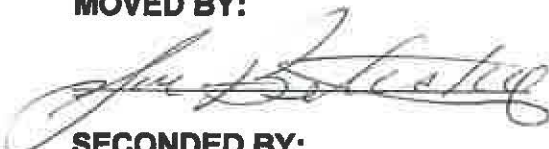

Sincerely,

Tammy Thompson  
Deputy Clerk  
Township of Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan



THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF PARRY SOUND  
RESOLUTION IN COUNCIL

NO. 2025 – 046

DIVISION LIST	YES	NO	DATE: April 15, 2025
Councillor G. ASHFORD	_____	_____	<b>MOVED BY:</b>  <b>SECONDED BY:</b> 
Councillor J. BELESKEY	_____	_____	
Councillor P. BORNEMAN	_____	_____	
Councillor B. KEITH	_____	_____	
Councillor D. McCANN	_____	_____	
Councillor C. McDONALD	_____	_____	
Mayor J. McGARVEY	_____	_____	
<b>CARRIED:</b> <u>✓</u> <b>DEFEATED:</b> _____ <b>Postponed to:</b> _____			

WHEREAS inclusive, evidence-based scientific research leads to better outcomes for Canadians by ensuring that all voices and experiences are reflected in the development of knowledge, treatments, and innovations;

WHEREAS Canadian municipalities benefit directly from research-informed policies on public health, infrastructure, education, environmental protection, and economic development;

WHEREAS diverse and inclusive research teams have been shown to generate more innovative, practical, and impactful solutions, and yet many equity-deserving groups, including women, remain underrepresented in science and research careers;

WHEREAS inclusive research strengthens our economy, healthcare system, and ability to address national and global challenges;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Town of Parry Sound supports the national call for stronger federal support for inclusive research that reflects the diversity of Canadian communities;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be shared with other municipalities in Ontario, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, and relevant provincial and federal representatives for consideration and support.

  
Mayor Jamie McGarvey



May 21, 2025

Honourable Premier Doug Ford Via Email: [premier@ontario.ca](mailto:premier@ontario.ca)

Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing  
Via Email: [rob.flack@ontario.ca](mailto:rob.flack@ontario.ca)

Dear Premier Ford and Minister Flack,

**Re: Opposition to Strong Mayor Powers - Proposed Amendments to O. Reg. 530/22**

Please be advised that at its Regular Meeting held Tuesday, May 20, 2025, the Council of the Corporation of the Municipality of Markstay-Warren passed the following resolution respecting the matter referenced in the above subject line:

**Whereas** on April 9, 2025, the Government of Ontario (hereafter, the "Province"), led by Premier Doug Ford, announced a proposal to expand by "Strong Mayor Powers" as provided for by Part VI.1 of the *Municipal Act, 2001*, to the heads of council in 169 additional municipalities, effective May 1, 2025;

**And whereas** Strong Mayor Powers erode the democratic process and have fundamentally altered the historic model of local governance, which has existed for almost two centuries, by:

- providing the head of council with the authority to unilaterally give direction and make certain decisions without a consensus from a majority of the members of council; and,
- creating a power imbalance by providing the head of council with special powers that other members do not generally have.

**And whereas** the Province is undermining the local governance model and municipal independence by attempting to advance its priorities through municipalities and downloading its responsibilities to the same.

**Now therefore be it resolved that:**

- The Council of the Municipality of Markstay-Warren ("Council") **opposes** the expansion of Strong Mayor Powers, as announced on April 9, 2025;



- 
- That Council **directs** the CAO/Clerk to forward a copy of this resolution to Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario; Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing; All Four Local MPPs; AMCTO, AMO and All Ontario Municipalities

We thank you for your attention to this matter and urge you to respect the democratic wishes of our Council and community.

Sincerely,

Kim Morris, CAO  
The Corporation of the Municipality of  
Markstay-Warren

Cc: The Honourable Paul Calandra (Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing)  
Regional Members of Provincial Parliament  
All Ontario Municipalities  
The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)

THE CORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF MARKSTAY-WARREN  
RESOLUTION

Agenda Item # 12.a

NO: 2025-RCM - 62

DATE: May 20, 2025

MOVED BY: Rachelle Poirier

SECONDED BY: Laura Schell

**Whereas** on April 9, 2025, the Government of Ontario (hereafter, the "Province"), led by Premier Doug Ford, announced a proposal to expand by "Strong Mayor Powers" as provided for by Part VI.1 of the *Municipal Act, 2001*, to the heads of council in 169 additional municipalities, effective May 1, 2025;

**And whereas** Strong Mayor Powers erode the democratic process and have fundamentally altered the historic model of local governance, which has existed for almost two centuries, by:


- providing the head of council with the authority to unilaterally give direction and make certain decisions without a consensus from a majority of the members of council; and,
- creating a power imbalance by providing the head of council with special powers that other members do not generally have.

**And whereas** the Province is undermining the local governance model and municipal independence by attempting to advance its priorities through municipalities and downloading its responsibilities to the same.

**Now therefore be it resolved that:**

- The Council of the Municipality of Markstay-Warren ("Council") **opposes** the expansion of Strong Mayor Powers, as announced on April 9, 2025;
- That Council **directs** the CAO/Clerk to forward a copy of this resolution to Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario; Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing; All Local MPPs; AMCTO, AMO and All Ontario Municipalities.

**CARRIED**



MAYOR

**DIVISION VOTE**

	YEA	NAY		Disclosure on interest
Steven Olsen				
Rachelle Poirier				
Laura Schell				
Ross Evans				
Francine Bérubé				

## COUNCIL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

IN REPLY, PLEASE REFER  
TO OUR FILE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

May 29, 2025

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

Dear Premier Ford,

Windsor City Council, at its meeting held April 28, 2025 adopted the following resolution:

Decision Number: CR182/2025

**WHEREAS** the Province of Ontario, through O. Reg. 530/22 under the *Municipal Act*, 2001, designated the City of Windsor as a "Strong Mayor" community, granting enhanced powers to the Mayor effective July 1, 2023; and,

**WHEREAS** the Strong Mayor powers significantly alter the balance of governance at the municipal level, undermining the role of Council in decision-making and weakening the fundamental democratic principle of majority rule; and,

**WHEREAS** the City of Windsor has a long history of collaborative, transparent, and accountable local governance built upon a foundation of Council-debate and shared decision-making; and,

**WHEREAS** several members of Windsor City Council, as well as municipally elected officials across the province and members of the public have expressed significant concern regarding the imposition of these powers; and,

**WHEREAS** the City of Windsor did not formally request or express a desire to be designated under the Strong Mayor framework; and,

**WHEREAS** a growing number of municipalities and elected officials across Ontario are questioning the appropriateness of the Strong Mayor system and are calling for its reconsideration or repeal; and therefore,

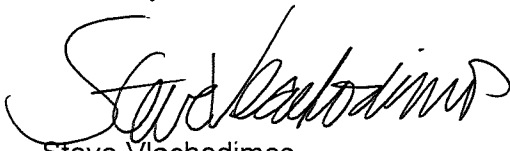
**BE IT RESOLVED** that Windsor City Council **FORMALLY REQUEST** that the Premier of Ontario and the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing immediately **REMOVE** the City of Windsor from the list of municipalities designated under the Strong Mayor legislation; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of this resolution **BE SENT** to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, all regional Members of Provincial Parliament, all Ontario municipalities, and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) for their awareness and support.

Carried.

Your consideration to Windsor City Council's resolution would be most appreciated.

Sincerely,

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

Steve Vlachodimos  
City Clerk/Licence Commissioner  
SV/wf

cc: Hon. Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing  
Mr. Andrew Dowie, Member of Provincial Parliament, Windsor-Tecumseh  
Ms. Lisa Gretzky, Member of Provincial Parliament, Windsor West  
Mr. Anthony Leardi, Member of Provincial Parliament, Essex  
Association of Municipalities of Ontario  
All Ontario Municipalities



Norfolk County  
Clerk's and Bylaw Department  
Office of the Chief Administrative Officer  
50 Colborne Street, S., Simcoe Ontario N3Y 4H3  
Telephone: 519-426-5870  
E-mail: [clerks@norfolkcounty.ca](mailto:clerks@norfolkcounty.ca)  
Website: [norfolkcounty.ca](http://norfolkcounty.ca)

Honourable Rob Flack  
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing  
Delivered Electronically to: [minister.mah@ontario.ca](mailto:minister.mah@ontario.ca)

Honourable Doug Ford  
Premier of Ontario  
Delivered Electronically to: [premier@ontario.ca](mailto:premier@ontario.ca)

June 4, 2025

Dear Hon. Doug Ford and Hon. Rob Flack:

Re: Opposition to Strong Mayor Powers

Please be advised of the following motion that was passed at the May 27, 2025, Norfolk County Council meeting:

**Resolution No. C-114**

**Moved By:** Councillor Huffman

**Seconded By:** Councillor Veri

That Council direct staff to prepare and send correspondence to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing and Premier Doug Ford indicating that Norfolk County does not require Strong Mayor Powers to help achieve the provinces' goals; and

That Norfolk County request an exemption from the associated provincial directive; and

Further That a copy of this motion be forwarded to all Ontario municipalities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "W. Tigert". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

W. Tigert  
Clerk

cc. All Ontario Municipalities



June 6, 2025

The Honourable Doug Ford  
Legislative Building  
Queens Park  
TORONTO ON M7A 1A4  
[premier@ontario.ca](mailto:premier@ontario.ca)

Dear Premier Ford:

At the Municipality of Bluewater's regular Council meeting held on June 2, 2025, Council passed the following resolutions:

**MOVED:** Councillor Whetstone **SECONDED:** Councillor Hessel  
WHEREAS the Province of Ontario has designated Municipality of Bluewater as a "Strong Mayor" community, granting enhanced powers to the Mayor effective May 1, 2025; and,

WHEREAS the Strong Mayor powers significantly alter the balance of governance at the municipal level, undermining the role of Council in decision-making and weakening the fundamental democratic principle of majority rule; and,

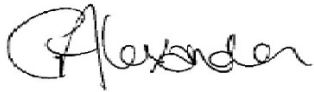
WHEREAS the Municipality of Bluewater did not formally request or express a desire to be designated under the Strong Mayor framework; and,

WHEREAS a growing number of municipalities and elected officials across Ontario are questioning the appropriateness of the Strong Mayor system and are calling for its reconsideration or repeal;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Bluewater Council formally request that the Premier of Ontario and the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing immediately remove the Municipality of Bluewater from the list of municipalities designated under the Strong Mayor legislation;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Lisa Thompson, MPP for Huron Bruce, all Ontario municipalities, Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA), and the Association of Municipalities (AMO) for their awareness and support. **CARRIED**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alexander". The first letter 'A' is large and stylized, with a loop that extends upwards and to the left. The rest of the name is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Chandra Alexander  
Manager of Corporate Services/Clerk

cc:

Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

Lisa Thompson, Huron-Bruce MPP

Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA)

Association of Municipalities (AMO)

All Ontario municipalities



**TOWNSHIP OF  
BRUDENELL, LYNDOCH AND RAGLAN**

42 Burnt Bridge Road, PO Box 40  
Palmer Rapids, Ontario K0J 2E0  
TEL: (613) 758-2061 · FAX: (613) 758-2235

June 6, 2025

The Honourable Minister Flack  
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing  
777 Bay Street, 17th Floor  
Toronto, ON  
M7A 2J3

**RE: Opposition to Strong Mayor Powers**

Dear Minister Flack,

Please be advised that at the Regular Council Meeting on June 4, 2025, Council for the Corporation of the Township of Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan passed the following resolution, supporting the resolution from the Township of Killaloe, Hagarty and Richards.

**Resolution No: 2025-05-04-06**  
**Moved by: Councillor Kauffeldt**  
**Seconded by: Councillor Banks**

**"Be It resolved** that the Council for the Corporation of the Township of Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan support the Township of Killaloe, Hagarty and Richards resolution regarding Opposition to Strong Mayor Powers.

**And further that** this resolution be forwarded to Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario Lisa Thompson, Minister of Rural Affairs Cheryl Gallant, MP Billy Denault, MPP AMO (Association of Municipalities of Ontario) All Ontario Municipalities."

**Carried.**

Sincerely,

Tammy Thompson  
Deputy Clerk  
Township of Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan



*Naturally Spirited*

1 John Street, P.O. Box 39

Killaloe, ON K0J 2A0

Telephone: (613)757-2300 – Fax: (613)757-3634

email: [info@khrtownship.ca](mailto:info@khrtownship.ca)

Web Site: [www.killaloe-hagarty-richards.ca](http://www.killaloe-hagarty-richards.ca)

April 16, 2025

The Honourable Minister Flack  
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing  
777 Bay Street, 17th Floor  
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3

**Re: Opposition to Strong Mayor Powers**

Dear Minister Flack,

Council for the Township of Killaloe, Hagarty and Richards wishes to formally express our strong opposition to the implementation of “strong mayor” powers as introduced through recent amendments to the *Municipal Act, 2001* and related regulations.

Council has carefully reviewed the intent and implications of these powers, and we believe they are neither appropriate nor beneficial for the structure and scale of local government in our municipality. The Township of Killaloe, Hagarty and Richards—like many rural and small-town communities across Ontario—has a longstanding tradition of cooperative governance, where all elected officials have an equal voice and decisions are made collectively, through open dialogue and democratic process.

The introduction of strong mayor powers, including the ability for mayors to unilaterally hire and dismiss senior staff, veto by-laws, and control budget processes, significantly undermines the fundamental principle of governance by council. This shift in authority creates an imbalance that risks eroding trust among council members, staff, and the public. It may also reduce transparency and accountability, which are cornerstones of effective and responsible municipal leadership.

The authority granted through strong mayor powers is primarily aimed at eliminating obstacles that hinder the construction of new housing. However, our municipal council is already making meaningful progress without relying on these powers. We are actively collaborating with two local non-profit organizations and the County of Renfrew to develop affordable and accessible housing units, demonstrating our commitment to inclusive housing solutions through partnership and community engagement.

Moreover, there is no demonstrated need for such powers in municipalities like ours. The current system—based on majority rule and consensus-building—has served our community well and reflects the values of fairness, representation, and collaboration that our residents expect from their local government. These powers may be intended for use in large urban centres facing unique governance challenges, but applying them more broadly to small and rural municipalities is both unnecessary and potentially disruptive.

We therefore respectfully request that your ministry reconsider the implementation of strong mayor powers across Ontario, particularly in municipalities that have not asked for, and do not require, such authority. We urge you to engage in meaningful consultation with municipalities of all sizes, and to recognize that one-size-fits-all approaches to governance often do more harm than good.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss our concerns further and to contribute to a broader conversation about how best to support good governance and municipal autonomy in Ontario.

Sincerely,

Council for Township of Killaloe, Hagarty and Richards

cc: Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario  
Lisa Thompson, Minister of Rural Affairs  
Cheryl Gallant, MP  
Billy Denault, MPP  
AMO (Association of Municipalities of Ontario)  
All Ontario Municipalities



# The Township of Georgian Bay

## Resolutions

### Council - 02 Jun 2025

Item 11.(b)

Date: June 2, 2025

C-2025-155

**Moved by** Councillor Kristian Graziano

**Seconded by** Councillor Allan Hazelton

WHEREAS the Floating Accommodations – Position Paper (April 2025) provides detailed guidance to Ontario municipalities on the regulation of Floating Accommodations, highlighting critical legal and environmental challenges; and

WHEREAS the document identifies significant gaps in current provincial and federal frameworks that municipalities are best positioned to address through zoning and land-use bylaws; and

WHEREAS the paper recommends proactive municipal action based on successful case studies and legal precedents such as the Glaspell v. Ontario decision; and

WHEREAS Georgian Bay Township has already taken steps to address Floating Accommodations and has an interest in promoting inter-municipal collaboration on this issue;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council receive the Floating Accommodations – Position Paper (May 2025) for informational purposes; and

THAT the Clerk be further directed to forward the document and this resolution to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and member municipalities for consideration and potential provincial advocacy.

☒ Carried      ☐ Defeated      ☐ Recorded Vote      ☐ Referred      ☐ Deferred

#### **Recorded Vote:**

	For	Against	Absent
Councillor Brian Bocek			
Councillor Peter Cooper			
Councillor Kristian Graziano			
Councillor Allan Hazelton			
Councillor Stephen Jarvis			
Councillor Steven Predko			
Mayor Peter Koetsier			

**Peter Koetsier, Mayor**



Floating  
Accommodations not  
Vessels Coalition



***Floating Accommodations  
Position Paper***

## EXECUTIVE Summary

This position paper provides guidance for Ontario municipalities seeking to regulate or restrict Floating Accommodations within their jurisdictions.

Floating Accommodations are a detrimental presence on Ontario's lakes and rivers. They present multiple environmental, navigational, taxation, and zoning issues. Over the past four years, they have eluded control as the issue of Floating Accommodations fell into a very large gray area when this all began.

The authors of this position paper, the **Floating Accommodations not Vessels Coalition**, strongly urge you as municipal leaders to pursue **one or a hybrid** of the following two regulatory strategies:

**1. Ban floating accommodations in your jurisdiction.** *They cannot exist within your*



*municipality without putting your natural environment and governance regulations in turmoil. The Township of Severn has led the way with a bylaw banning Floating Accommodations [[Township of Severn Zoning By-law Amendment to regulate Floating Accommodations](#)]. The Township of Georgian Bay recently adopted a similar by-law [[Township of Georgian Bay Zoning By-law](#)*

*[Amendment to regulate Floating Accommodations](#)]. The intent is to provide clarity in their zoning bylaws in that floating accommodations are not a permitted use. Several municipalities are following their lead and investigating this strategy.*



**2. Restrict floating accommodations to fixed / permanent moorings.** *These locations would be subject to municipal zoning by-laws stipulating appropriate sanitary, hydro, power connectivity, and placed on environmentally safe floatation systems. Floating accommodations are permanently located in a properly zoned facility similar to a trailer park but*

*for floating accommodations on water. This model has several working examples such as Bluffers Park on Lake Ontario or False Creek in downtown Vancouver. For most municipalities, this would be considered a new form of development and require significant policy changes.*

## “Your new neighbours”

### They can suddenly appear on your waterfront at any moment...

Floating Accommodations (FAs) can be a building or structure such as modified shipping containers or wood framed structures placed on floatation devices. They are not primarily intended for navigation and will moor over crown lakebeds or private property lakebeds. FAs can move frequently and are usually equipped with an anchoring system such as steel ‘spuds’ embedded into the lakebed to stabilize the unit at each mooring location. They potentially shed toxic materials and other contaminants into surrounding waters and lakebeds.



## Municipalities Play a Crucial Role in Fully Regulating Floating Accommodations

Municipalities have a crucial role in addressing regulatory gaps and exceptions that fall outside the recent implementation of federal, provincial, and private property trespassing regulations to manage Floating Accommodations. Verifying and strengthening the regulatory framework was a collaboration between Parks Canada (PC - federal), the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR - provincial), and the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP - provincial).

The following scenarios are not hypothetical. They have all occurred and would fall outside the jurisdiction of new and existing federal, provincial and OPP controls.

- 1) *What happens to an owner of an FA who chooses to float their FA over their personally owned private lakebed property?*
- 2) *What happens to commercial marinas who wish to establish mooring for FAs on their premises in a permanent or semi-permanent manner?*
- 3) *What happens when FA owners floating within a township, move daily to relocate in that same township to avoid confrontation with governing agencies?*

## ***Municipal Bylaws – What Issues Are You Being Asked to Tackle?***

The recently launched PC, MNR, and OPP frameworks can clearly deal with trespassing for stationary (moored) FAs in federal / provincial waters and over private lakebeds.

However, there are 3 scenarios that fall outside of the newly published PC, MNR, and OPP frameworks. They are:

- 1) ***FAs floating over private lakebeds:*** *What is missing is how to deal with an FA owner who chooses to park adjacent to their shoreline where he/she has property 'ownership' rights to the lakebed. This issue is very real and exists in many of Ontario's lakes and rivers. The scenario would allow an FA owner to bypass existing building codes and local taxation to class their structure (be it a boathouse, or residence) as a vessel. This scenario is a "trojan horse" into illegal residential boathouses and homes on water with the very real possibility of being short term rentals.*
- 2) ***FAs floating in a commercial marina:*** *The scenario of a marina establishing an unauthorized temporary (or permanent) mooring location for a FA within a municipality that is not zoned for FAs causes a significant degree of difficulty. Most current municipal zoning does not acknowledge FAs and in a jurisdiction without FA definitions and approved zoning the FA owner can fall back on their vessel designation and potentially use the Transport Canada vessel designation as a shield to avoid any charges. This scenario has already occurred throughout Ontario, including in the Rideau Canal and the Kawartha Lakes region.*
- 3) ***FAs floating freely and/or mooring in a different location each night:*** *The challenge with this scenario is some FA owners have been very creative in where they moor and for how long. They have become very familiar with enforcement processes and time limitations and simply move before charges can be laid. Each situation would be reviewed on a case-by-case basis and time limitations may or may not apply.*

All three of these scenarios require a municipal regulatory framework. There are emerging strategies to guide Ontario's municipalities in preventing FAs from further potential abuse and destruction of our natural resources for current and future generations.

## Call to Action To All Ontario Municipalities With Waterfront Assets

Based on our collective learning, experience and history with the FA problem, we believe there are two responses municipalities can utilize to attempt to control FAs participating in one or more of the three scenarios outlined above:

- 1) **FAs cannot exist within the boundaries of a municipality:** *This scenario has recently been enacted in the Townships of Severn and Georgian Bay; although they have not yet been tested in court. These zoning by-law amendments provide clarity in that floating accommodations are not a permitted use. FAs cannot exist on waters within these Townships, under any circumstances, over public or private lakebeds or in commercial marina establishments. Their outright ban of FAs is actively being considered by several other municipalities, [\[Township of Severn Zoning By-law Amendment to regulate Floating Accommodations\]](#), [\[Township of Georgian Bay Zoning By-law Amendment to regulate Floating Accommodations\]](#)*
- 2) **FAs can only exist as FHs (floating homes):** *When floating accommodations are permanently fixed to an approved dock/mooring with permanent hydro, sanitary, and water connections they are classified by Transport Canada as a Floating Home (FH). Floating Homes are not vessels. This scenario of approved mooring for Floating Homes is well understood, documented and in place throughout British Columbia and Bluffers Park on Lake Ontario and would require significant municipal policy changes for most. One further twist on this scenario is that a FH owner who chooses to untether and go float “free range” for a time and then come back may be banned from the FH mooring location depending upon their Home Owners Agreement. This solution has existed for some 20+ years in both locations and is very well understood.*

It is suggested that municipalities consult with their own legal representatives to determine what regulatory approach is best suited for your jurisdiction.

### Need To Find Out More?

If you need more information or further clarification on any aspect of this position paper, please feel free to reach out to any member of the Floating Accommodations not Vessels Coalition or to our email address [fanv2025@gmail.com](mailto:fanv2025@gmail.com).

## APPENDIX

### ***Floating Homes versus Floating Accommodations: Definitions and Management to date***

#### **Historical context and definitions:**

Historically, floating residential structures have existed in zoned-for-purpose marinas and permanent mooring locations. These types of structures look and feel like houses. They are typically wood framed units with windows, doors, roofs, and decking and floatation devices. Inside they have bathrooms, kitchens, living rooms and bedrooms... essentially a house on water. They are “permanently” moored / fixed to a docking arrangement and are also permanently connected to sanitary sewers, water supply, power supply, and gas (for heating and cooking) supply.

There are multiple instances of these floating residences, but the most popular and recognized communities are the 24 floating homes in Bluffers Park on the shores of Lake Ontario in Scarborough (Toronto), and 60+ homes in False Creek in downtown Vancouver.



Both of these examples and all other occurrences where a floating residence is fixed permanently to a mooring location are classified by Transport Canada as “Floating Homes”. It is important to understand that Floating Homes are not recognized by Transport Canada as vessels. They are distinct and separate from Floating Accommodations.



### **How do Floating Accommodations differ from Floating Homes?**

The recently emerging challenge is Floating Accommodations, which can be ‘repurposed’ shipping containers modified by DIY individuals or purpose-built wood construction. The units have windows, doors and some form of bathroom, kitchen, sleeping, and living quarters. Floating Accommodations are not restricted to the configuration seen below, as there are numerous examples of residences fabricated with wood frame construction built on floatation devices that appear more like a traditional boathouse.



All of these floating accommodations are not permanently fixed to a mooring location. They are “free range floating residences”; moving, floating and mooring whenever and wherever they wish.

Transport Canada classifies floating residences that are not connected to a permanent mooring location as vessels.

Floating Accommodations until 2023 were largely unregulated within Ontario. The topic had not historically been an issue; therefore, government agencies needed to react to the changing issue and the “vessel” designation being utilized by Transport Canada as well as by the individuals and/or companies exploiting this loophole.

The authors can now report that Parks Canada, MNR, and OPP have separately and collectively identified enforcement avenues where appropriate to attempt to govern Floating Accommodations. To complete the governance framework, appropriate amendments to existing municipal by-laws are required.

### ***What Are the Challenges Associated with Floating Accommodations?***

This table illustrates the complexity of multiple government agencies whose mandates are individually impacted yet require collective collaboration to implement solutions. The following table lists the various issues and respective agencies likely to manage them.

Issue / Concern with Floating Accommodations	Expected Responsible Agency
Potential absence of sanitary capability and dumping of toxic and other harmful substances from FA	Environment & Climate Change Canada (ECCC) (Federal) and Ministry of Environment (Prov.)
Pollution from floatation devices and garbage	Transport Canada & ECCC (Federal); Ministry of Environment (Provincial)
Impact of endangered wildlife when moored in environmentally sensitive areas	Parks Canada or ECCC if outside of Parks Canada sites; Fisheries & Oceans if fish/mussel related; <i>Endangered Species Act</i> administered by Ministry of the Environment (Provincial)
Navigational impediment as a moving vessel	Transport Canada
Navigational impediment as a moored vessel	Transport Canada & Local Municipalities (via VORR's)
No building or construction standards specifically related to FAs exist	Transport Canada
FAs pay no taxation to support consumption of local emergency services or waste management services	Municipality
Mooring in any location	Municipal zoning (not yet tested in court)
Mooring on private lakebeds (must make contact with private property beneath the water)	OPP – Trespass to Property Act

Issue / Concern with Floating Accommodations	Expected Responsible Agency
Spawning ground / fish habitat damage caused by the steel spuds into lakebeds	Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) (Federal water control); DFO supported by Parks Canada in National Parks, National Historic Sites and National Marine Conservation Areas; MNR (inland lakes); responsible for the management of fisheries
Floating Accommodations becoming vacation rentals (VRBO or Airbnb)	Municipal by-laws (e.g. Short-Term Rental by-laws and zoning by-laws)
Floating Accommodations becoming an unregulated expansion of a cottage	Federal waters – Parks Canada in National Parks, National Historic Sites and National Marine Conservation Areas Provincial waters- <i>Public Lands Act</i> administered by MNR prohibits FAs from occupying provincial public land through regulation Privately owned waters – Municipality

During our early discussions, each of the agencies that we expected to play a partial and/or full role to control Floating Accommodations felt they were not legislated to manage and regulate Floating Accommodations. Many felt that other agencies were better equipped to regulate the problem or that, given Transport Canada's designation of FAs as vessels, that Transport Canada was the ultimate controlling ministry. Agencies outside of Transport Canada were of the opinion that any attempt to act would result in legal proceedings that given the vessel designation, would likely be unsuccessful with respect to the agency responsible for legal expenses.

### ***What Changes Have Been Made to Support a Regulatory Framework?***

The shift to create enforceable solutions came via 2 separate but foundational insights:

1. ***Glaspell vs Ontario 2015*** – Clarifying lakebed ownership which has become the cornerstone strategy “anchoring” all of the in-force regulatory frameworks.
2. ***Freedom of Information request to Transport Canada*** – Clarified 3 important aspects:
  - a) *Floating Homes vs Floating Accommodations: Floating Homes are not vessels; Floating Accommodations are vessels.*

- b) Transport Canada's primary (and some would say only) objective is vessel safety. They do not believe their mandate / charter per the Canadian Transport Act (2001) mandates them or requires them to control Floating Accommodations.*
- c) Transport Canada has expressed strong public support of the newly launched MNR Floating Accommodation regulatory framework (161/17). Transport Canada's guidance to other agencies interested in governing FAs was very clear – use the MNR framework to guide your actions.*

It is critical to the municipal strategy that readers of this position paper are comfortable with the solid underpinnings of the current provincial, federal and criminal regulatory framework.

The *Glaspell v Ontario* ruling [[Glaspell v Ontario 2015 ONSC 3965](#)] has clarified 3 elements that have been 'baked' into case law informing FA regulations formed by Parks Canada and MNR.

- a) Glaspell ruling established that all lakebeds and riverbeds are the ownership of either federal crown, provincial crown or private ownership, and separately, municipalities have the option to issue zoning controls over those lakebeds.*
- b) The ownership of lakebed can act as a basis to authorize or not permit a floating object overhead to cast a shadow over the lakebed and by definition occupying that lakebed.*
- c) Resulting from the case law establishing enforceable lakebed ownership, the principle of authorized vs unauthorized occupation of crown land (lakebed) has been crystallized into FA regulatory frameworks.*

The importance of *Glaspell* was vital to the success of the regulatory frameworks that have emerged. The critical learning here is that historically all enforcement by Parks Canada, MNR, and OPP was through "land-based" policies. Had any of these agencies sought to remedy through water-based policies, they likely would have lost any court challenge due to the vessel designation that Transport Canada would likely uphold. Seeking to control Floating Accommodations through land-based laws was a masterful stroke of genius and we applaud the leadership of MNR, Parks Canada and OPP.

Municipalities would be advised to consider and build on the positive implications of the *Glaspell* ruling in their formation of FA zoning and governance by-laws.

The Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR Ontario) was first out of the gate to create their regulatory framework based on the *Glaspell* ruling. Specifically, 161/17 which is exactly the right regulatory framework to govern Floating Accommodations.

The full definition of Ontario Regulation 161/17 is found in this link [[MNR Regulation 161/17 governing Floating Accommodations](#)] The fundamentals of 161/17 include:

- a) Defining what is and what is not a floating accommodation.*
- b) Defining occupation of provincial crown land by the shadow of a floating object overhead on crown lakebed.*
- c) Conveying that a floating accommodation is not permitted to occupy provincial lakebed and shoreline.*
- d) The ability to charge the owner of the floating accommodation in the event they are occupying provincial lakebed without permission.*

The principles underlying the MNR 161/17 framework (released in summer of 2023) has since been adopted in principle by both Parks Canada and OPP and both agencies have identified enforcement avenues where appropriate.

Parks Canada's solution was issued in 2024 and mirrors MNR's strategy. The full definition of Parks Canada's regulation can be found in the following link [[Parks Canada Mooring Regulations covering Floating Accommodations](#)]. The fundamentals of Parks Canada's framework include:

- a) Defining what is a floating accommodation in a manner similar to MNR.*
- b) Requiring all floating accommodations secure a permit to lawfully moor over federal lakebeds overnight.*
- c) Failure to obtain a permit constitutes "unauthorized occupation" of federal lands and the occupying person(s) will be charged accordingly.*

Lastly, the OPP have embraced a similar lakebed ownership strategy for privately owned lakebed. They have case law where they have successfully prosecuted a floating accommodation that was making actual contact with a private lakebed in an unauthorized manner and consequently the FA owners were charged and successfully prosecuted with trespassing.

## ***The Townships of Severn and Georgian Bay Experience***

As we described in the first few pages, the existing regulatory framework created by MNR, Parks Canada and OPP has a few gaps. Severn Township recognized that early on and amended their by-law in 2024 [[Township of Severn Zoning By-law Amendment to regulate Floating Accommodations](#)]. A similar by-law amendment was enacted in the Township of Georgian Bay in 2025 [[Township of Georgian Bay Zoning By-law Amendment to regulate Floating Accommodations](#)].

The essential element of these amended by-laws, described in this position paper as Response #1 on page 5, is very simple... FAs cannot exist on waters within the boundaries of these two townships.... period. While they have not been tested in court, one by-law has already been successfully used as a deterrent to an FA presence. Several other townships are actively studying and considering implementing similar by-laws for their respective jurisdictions.

## ***There Are Numerous Lessons Gained Along This Journey***

Our grass roots organization **Floating Accommodations not Vessels Coalition** experienced many peaks and valleys in the journey to facilitate the appropriate agencies to successfully manage and control the new “issue” of Floating Accommodations.

It would be an accurate reflection to say that only if we knew then what we know now...

### **There are six key learnings:**

- 1) *It takes a team of motivated, passionate, patient people to stick with it... we discussed after year one and two – was this worth it? Yes! While it took our coalition four years to get here, we believe our efforts have been instrumental in facilitating the right framework that can be applied province-wide.*
- 2) *When working with federal and provincial agencies who say no, don't take that for an answer, keep up the pressure, continue to make your issue their issue. At some point in time the right set of agencies will step forward and get to the solution. In our case that was a combination of Parks Canada, MNR, OPP and our local municipalities – the Townships of Severn and Georgian Bay.*
- 3) *Broad based support by multiple grass roots organizations was key to our combined success. In our case that consisted of numerous local Cottage Associations large and small who all successfully raised their voices. We would do it again in the same way.*
- 4) *While appeals by local politicians and provincial MPP's and federal MP's to both provincial and federal ministers didn't directly solve the issue, it greatly helped to communicate the seriousness of the issue.*
- 5) *Sometimes, it takes a change in basic assumptions and in this case it was the insights gained from the Glaspell ruling to get to the right answer. Together with MNR, Parks Canada and OPP we were fortunate enough to understand the pathway and leverage Glaspell.*
- 6) *Media! We were fortunate to tap into print, tv, radio, social media – it all helped. We brought on partners like Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Association (FOCA) and Cottage Life to spread the message. Had we had more financial resources we would have stepped up our investment in social media... maybe next time!*

## ***Acknowledgements and Thank You.***

We would like to thank in no particular order...

- *Working group members from our partners at Parks Canada, Ministry of Natural Resources and the Ontario Provincial Police.*
- *Working group members from our municipal partners - Mayors, Councillors and Staff from Severn Township, Township of Georgian Bay, Tay Township and Township of the Archipelago.*
- *Gloucester Pool Cottagers' Association & Georgian Bay Association*
- *The Decibel Coalition*
- *Safe Quiet Lakes Coalition*
- *Cottage Life*
- *Many cottage associations, and the Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Association (FOCA)*
- *And lastly, the Floating Accommodations Not Vessels Coalition members who authored this position paper*

While we did strive to ensure the accuracy and completeness of this information, the authors assume no responsibility for any omissions to or errors that may be contained within this position paper.

We the members of the Floating Accommodations not Vessels Coalition wish to express our deep gratitude and thanks to all the members mentioned above that have been instrumental in this journey.... Thank you!

**Subject:** Watson's Comments on Bill 17 (Protect Ontario by Building Faster and Smarter Act, 2025)

**This Message Is From an External Sender**

This message came from outside your organization.

To our Municipal Clients,

In our continued efforts to keep you informed of legislative amendments impacting municipalities, we are writing to inform you that the Bill 17, *Protect Ontario by Building Faster and Smarter Act, 2025* is now awaiting Royal Assent. It is anticipated that Royal Assent may be given as early as today.

The Province is still accepting comments on the changes through the Regulatory Registry: [Proposal | regulatoryregistry.gov.on.ca](https://regulatoryregistry.gov.on.ca). Comments will be accepted until June 11, 2025.

**Please see the attached for our detailed comments that we have submitted through the Registry portal.**

If you have any questions regarding the implications of these changes for your municipality and next steps that may be required, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours very truly,

WATSON & ASSOCIATES ECONOMISTS LTD.

Andrew Grunda, MBA, CPA, CMA, CEO

Peter Simcisko, BA (Hons), MBE, Managing Partner

Sean-Michael Stephen, MBA, Managing Partner

Daryl Abbs, BA (Hons), MBE, PLE, Managing Partner

Jamie Cook, MCIP, RPP, PLE, Managing Partner

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June 4, 2025

To the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing:

Re: Regulatory Registry 25-MMAH003 Comments - Assessment of Bill 17 (Protect Ontario by Building Faster and Smarter Act, 2025)

We would first like to thank you for taking the time to review our commentary on the proposed legislative changes to the *Development Charges Act* (D.C.A.) set out in Bill 17, *Protect Ontario by Building Faster and Smarter Act, 2025* (herein referred to as Bill 17). Our firm, Watson & Associates Economists Ltd. (Watson), is a leader in municipal finance, planning, and land economics and represents over 250 municipalities and local boards across Canada. Our firm is one of the foremost experts in development charges (D.C.) in Ontario, and has worked with municipalities in British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia on similar matters.

The following provides our comments on the proposed legislative changes and our perspectives on the potential impacts they may have on municipalities in Ontario.

## 1. Definition of capital costs, subject to regulation

The proposed change would add the words “subject to the regulations” to section 5 (3) of the D.C.A.”

- The proposed amendment expands the scope of the Province’s authority to limit eligible capital costs via regulation.
- The D.C.A. currently provides this ability to limit the inclusion of land costs.
- The Province intends to engage with municipalities and the development community to determine potential restrictions on what costs can be recovered through D.C.s.

Commentary from organizations in the development community suggests these discussions may continue to focus on limiting the inclusion of land costs in the D.C. calculations. More specifically, the focus has been on removing the cost of land from the historical level of service calculations, while preserving the eligibility of land costs for D.C. recovery. The proposed amendment, however, provides broad authority for limiting eligible capital costs (i.e., the scope of regulatory authority is not restricted to land).

### Impact of Proposed Changes

*Restriction of eligible costs may delay investments in growth-related infrastructure that is required to build housing.*



Municipalities utilize D.C.s to recover the capital costs associated with new development and redevelopment. Prior to the 1997 legislative changes, D.C.s recovered close to 100% of the growth-related costs attributable to new development. After the 1997 legislation came into place, the share of growth-related costs recovered by D.C.s reduced to approximately 70-75%<sup>1</sup>. The legislative changes in 2019 further reduced the share of the growth-related costs recovered from D.C.s. These cost reductions must be funded from other municipal revenue sources (i.e. taxes and rates). Further restricting D.C. eligible capital costs will increase funding pressures from municipal taxes and user fees.

The increased funding pressure coincides with the recent implementation of the *Infrastructure for Jobs and Prosperity Act, 2015*. This Act requires municipalities to prepare a financial strategy for how they will manage their existing infrastructure, future infrastructure, and address any infrastructure deficits. In this context, if funding for growth-related capital costs have to compete for tax/user fee funding, investment in growth-related infrastructure may be delayed. This would serve to further slow the construction of new housing.

#### *Moving authority to the regulations creates uncertainty*

The proposed changes provide the Province with the flexibility to move quickly with changes to the definition of eligible capital costs through regulations. While administratively expedient for the Province, this will create uncertainty for municipal financial planning.

The municipal financial planning framework starts with the development of an Official Plan. This Official Plan identifies the anticipated growth and development for a municipality. Master plans are created in this context, which identify the anticipated capital needs required to service that development. The D.C. background study and by-law are subsequently prepared using this information to address a portion of the municipality's long-term funding plan.

This financial planning framework takes years for municipalities to properly prepare. If the definition of D.C. capital costs can be swiftly changed through regulation, municipalities will be required to adjust funding for capital projects through the annual budget process. This would not align with the long-term financial plans that were previously established and creates uncertainty for municipalities. This may require further contingency planning by municipalities, which may include delays in investment of growth-related infrastructure or require municipalities to incur additional financing costs to fund growth-related infrastructure without a dedicated funding source, thereby adding to the affordability concerns of exiting residents.

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<sup>1</sup> Based on historical analyses prepared by Watson & Associates Economists Ltd.



## 2. Deferral of D.C. payment to occupancy for residential development

The proposed changes to section 26.1 of the D.C.A. provide that a D.C. payable for residential development (other than rental housing developments, which are subject to payment in instalments) would be payable upon the earlier of the issuance of an occupancy permit, or the day the building is first occupied. Only under circumstances prescribed in the regulations may the municipality require financial security for the D.C. payable. Municipalities will not be allowed to impose interest on the deferral of D.C. payment to occupancy.

The Province has noted its intent to mitigate risk for municipalities. As such, the prescribed circumstances may allow for securities when no occupancy permit is required.

### **Impact of Proposed Changes**

#### *Administration costs will be significant across the Province*

There are over 200 municipalities with D.C. by-laws that fund growth-related capital costs of infrastructure. Many of these municipalities have limited administrative capacity due to their size. Previous amendments to the D.C.A. required payment in instalments for rental housing and institutional development. These changes required some small to mid-sized municipalities to create internal administrative processes to prepare agreements (or incorporate necessary wording into development agreements) and track payments over a 5-year term for these types of development.

Rental housing and institutional development within these communities is generally limited and as such, the increased administration is generally manageable. Most D.C. by-laws require the payment of D.C.s for all other development types (e.g., commercial, industrial and ownership-residential) at building permit issuance. Deferring the time of D.C. payments for all residential development types to occupancy will require all municipalities to establish separate processes to manage and track payments and securities separately. This will create additional administrative complexity in preparing rules and processes for different types of development.

#### *Cashflow for D.C. projects will be impacted leading to delay in development of growth-related infrastructure*

Watson conducted an analysis of the 2020 Financial Information Returns. Through this analysis, 213 municipalities reported on D.C. reserve funds. Assessing the D.C. reserve funds for these municipalities, approximately 70% of the reserve fund



balances related to the 30 municipalities of the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area<sup>1</sup>. The remaining 30% of D.C. reserve fund balances relate to 183 municipalities. Moreover, for the non-GTHA municipalities, the D.C. reserve fund balances for water and wastewater services averaged \$1.22 million and \$1.77 million per municipality, respectively. It can cost between \$1.50 million and \$3.00 million to construct a 1km wastewater main, depending on location and size of pipe. Therefore, on average, cashflow impacts to municipalities may cause delays in the construction of growth-related infrastructure.

The nature of the D.C. funding is such that the municipality does not collect all of the D.C. revenue until all development is constructed. Deferred payments for all residential development to occupancy will further delay receipt of D.C. revenues and slow municipal cashflows (i.e. lessening reserve fund balances). This may serve to delay construction of growth-related infrastructure, slowing development. Alternatively, municipalities may have to debt-finance the growth-related infrastructure projects, subject to debt capacity constraints, which would increase D.C. rates and reduce debt financing availability for other municipal initiatives.

#### *Conflict with subsection 26(2) of the Act*

Section 26(2) of the D.C.A. provides that municipalities may impose D.C.s for water, wastewater, services related to a highway, and stormwater services at the time of subdivision agreement. This provides municipalities with cashflow assistance for growth-related infrastructure, as the D.C.s are collected earlier in the development process (i.e. most D.C.s are collected at the time of building permit issuance). Based on the proposed changes, it appears that section 26(2) may no longer be available to municipalities as it is in direct conflict with the proposed changes.

#### *Impacts on residential development rate freeze provisions of the Act*

Currently section 26.2, of the D.C.A. requires that a development that proceeds through Site Plan or Zoning By-law Amendment approvals shall have their D.C. determined based on the rates in effect at the time of the planning application. Section 26.2 (5) then states that:

- (5) Clauses (1) (a) and (b) [i.e., the rate freeze] do not apply in respect of,
  - (a) any part of a development to which section 26.1 applies if, on the date the first building permit is issued for the development, more than 18 months has elapsed since the application referred to in clause (1) (a) or (b) was approved;
  - or

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<sup>1</sup> GTHA municipalities include those in Durham, York, Peel, Halton, Toronto, and Hamilton.



(b) any part of a development to which section 26.1 does not apply if, on the date the development charge is payable, more than 18 months has elapsed since the application referred to in clause (1) (a) or (b) was approved.

For residential subdivisions that proceed through Site Plan or Zoning By-law Amendment applications, since section 26.1 does not apply, the rate freeze only applies to the part of the development that receives their building permit before the 18 months has elapsed. With the proposed changes, a residential subdivision will have the rate frozen as of **the first building permit of the development**. The Province should clarify the definition of “development” for the purposes of this section as a residential subdivision may be constructed over a number of years. Perhaps a clause similar to that of Section 26(1.1) “multiple phases” would provide the needed clarity.

*Need for clear regulatory guidance through consultations with the municipal sector and development community*

The Province has committed to consultations regarding the potential use of financial securities in certain circumstances to ensure payment of D.C.s at occupancy, where no occupancy permit is required. Through preliminary discussions with staff in the municipal sector, it appears there may be various interpretations of authorities to withhold occupancy permits until receipt of payment of D.C.s. If occupancy or occupancy permits cannot be withheld without the payment of D.C.s and the D.C.A. has not required the provision of securities or an agreement to be entered into with respect to the deferral of D.C.s until occupancy, the only recourse for municipalities to recover the costs may be to add the amount to the tax roll. The impact of this would be to shift the obligation to pay the D.C. from the builder to the homeowner (who would have already paid the D.C.s through their purchase price). Furthermore, requiring a financial security where no occupancy permit is required will increase administrative burden. There is a need for clear guidance in the regulations and detailed consultations with the municipal sector and development community to ensure implementation of this proposed change is effective.

### 3. Ability for residential and institutional development to pay a D.C. earlier than a by-law requires

Currently, if a person wishes to waive the requirement to pay their D.C. in instalments as per section 26.1, an agreement under section 27 of the D.C.A. (early payment agreement) is required. The proposed changes state that, “for greater certainty, a person required to pay a development charge under this section may pay the charge before the day it is payable even in the absence of an agreement under section 27.” Note this would apply to all residential development.



## Impacts of Proposed Changes

### *Current process is simple to implement*

Under the current legislation, a person may waive the requirement to pay in instalments by entering into an agreement under section 27 of the D.C.A. To implement this in a simple and effective manner, municipalities have created short agreements which seek to simply acknowledge the waiving of the instalment payments. Niagara Region for example, has created a one-page Early Payment Agreement form<sup>1</sup>.

### *New wording unclear in intent and may have unintended consequences*

The proposed changes state that a person required to pay a D.C. under section 26.1 may pay the charge before the day it is payable even in the absence of an agreement under section 27. Since all residential development would have D.C.s payable under this section, the wording implies that any person required to pay residential D.C.s may do so before it is payable under the terms of the D.C. by-law. This is problematic for municipalities, as the development community may elect to pay D.C.s before indexing or before a municipality passes a new D.C. by-law (where a publicly available D.C. background study may be indicating a potential increase in the charge). D.C. by-laws are indexed to ensure the charges reflect cost inflation of the underlying municipal capital projects. Furthermore, D.C. by-laws are regularly updated to ensure they align with the capital planning needs of the municipality. Allowing the payment of discounted D.C. rates due to early payments will result in lower D.C. revenues than required to meet the actual capital costs of growth-related projects.

This would create an additional administrative burden for municipalities, as they would need to track when developments have paid their D.C. Depending on the size of the municipality, this could be in respect of thousands of building permits per year. Since the wording states “before the day it is payable”, it is unclear how early the payments may be made. Can a person pay their residential D.C.s prior to registration of a subdivision? Can they pay prior to application?

It would also have cashflow impacts as D.C.s may be paid prior to the rationalization of the development in the D.C. background study calculations. This would lead to higher D.C.s for future development.

## 4. Removal of interest for legislated instalments

The proposed changes to section 26.1 of the D.C.A. would remove the ability to charge interest on instalment payments for rental housing and institutional development types.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.niagararegion.ca/business/property/pdf/early-payment-form.pdf>



This change would also apply to the remaining instalment payments for existing rental housing and institutional development deferrals once Bill 17 receives Royal Assent.

### **Impact of Proposed Changes**

#### *Cashflow impacts for municipalities*

This proposed amendment would reduce the D.C. revenues collected by the municipalities that would be used to fund growth-related infrastructure projects. As noted above, this may result in project delays or the need for debt financing of growth-related projects.

## **5. Grouping of services for the purpose of using credits**

Section 38 of the D.C.A. allows a person to construct D.C. recoverable works on a municipality's behalf, subject to an agreement. The person constructing the works receives a credit against future D.C.s for the service(s) to which the works relate. A municipality can agree to allow the credits to be applied to other services in the D.C. by-law. The proposed amendments would allow the Province to, through regulation, deem two or more services to be treated as one service for the purpose of applying credits.

### **Impact of Proposed Changes**

#### *Removal of municipal discretion*

Currently municipalities have the ability to agree to apply credits to other services within a D.C. by-law. In many cases, the municipality will undertake a cashflow analysis of their D.C. reserve funds to determine if this is feasible. This proposed change appears to remove a municipality's discretion to combine services by agreement in certain instances.

#### *Cashflow implications for municipalities*

Combining services for the purposes of credits would have cashflow implications for municipalities, where funds held in a D.C. reserve fund for a service not included under the section 38 agreement would be reduced. This could delay the timing of capital projects for these impacted services and/or increase financing costs, as municipalities tend to confine funding for projects to the reserve funds available for that service and not borrow between reserve funds/services.

## **6. Defining local services in the regulations**

Section 59 of the D.C.A. delineates between charges for local services and, by extension, those that would be considered for recovery within a D.C. by-law.



Municipalities typically establish a local service policy when preparing a D.C. background study to establish which capital works will be funded directly by the developer, as a condition of approval under section 51 or section 53 of the *Planning Act* (i.e., local service), and which will be funded by the D.C. by-law.

## **Impact of Proposed Changes**

### *Need for robust consultation to avoid unintended consequences*

The proposed amendments would allow the Province to make regulations to determine what constitutes a local service. Although the Province has noted that this will be defined through consultations, there may be unintended impacts. For example, if the definition of a local service is too broad, it may lower the D.C. but increase the direct funding requirements on one particular developer. If the definition is too narrow, the opposite would result, whereby local services would be broadly included in D.C. funding, thereby increasing D.C. rates.

Additionally, what is deemed a local service may vary by municipality due to characteristics of size, density, and types of development. For example, defining a specific watermain diameter size as a local service would be problematic as the size requirements for a specific development in a small community may be different compared to a similar development in a larger community.

The principal intent of a local service policy should first be defined. The defining parameters should be agreed upon in consultation with a representative cross section of municipal and development community representatives. Representatives should comprise urban, semi-urban and rural municipalities, as well as residential and non-residential development industry representatives to inform the diverse perspectives of local services. The regulations should also provide flexibility for the varying degree of circumstances observed by the over 200 municipalities across the Province that impose D.C.s.

### *Utilizing regulations creates uncertainty in financial planning*

Incorporating the proposed definition in the Regulations to the D.C.A. may create uncertainty in financial planning. As noted in Item 1, the municipal financial planning framework is established over a number of years. The expedient nature of a regulatory change could impact the recovery of costs for growth-related infrastructure, thereby impacting development. For example, a water master plan typically defines the infrastructure required to support the anticipated growth and development. Master plans generally focus on higher-order infrastructure needs, with more localized infrastructure being defined through the development process and included in development agreements. Should a regulatory change reduce the scope of local services (e.g., limits the size of a watermain that can be required as local service), a municipality may be required to revise the scope of their water



master plan to ensure the capital needs are identified, and subsequently update their D.C. background study to incorporate these costs. These updates would generally take years to complete, depending on the magnitude of the changes and size of the municipality.

## 7. Exemption for long-term care homes

The D.C.A. defines long-term care homes as institutional development. As such, D.C.s imposed on long-term care homes are subject to annual instalment payments under section 26.1 of the D.C.A. The proposed amendment would exempt long-term care homes from the payment of D.C.s. This exemption would also apply to any outstanding D.C. instalment payments on long-term care home developments.

### Impacts of Proposed Changes

#### *Cashflow impacts for municipalities and increased pressure on taxes and rates*

The D.C.A. does not allow reductions in D.C.s to be funded by other types of development. As such, the D.C. exemption for long-term care homes will have to be funded from other municipal revenue sources. The overall impact on municipalities may be minimal relative to their overall D.C. collections, depending on the number of long-term care homes being constructed in the municipality.

## 8. Streamlined D.C. by-law process to reduce charges

The proposed changes to section 19 (1.1) of the D.C.A. would allow for a streamlined process when a municipality amends a D.C. by-law for the following purposes:

- Repeal or change a D.C. by-law expiry date (consistent with current provisions);
- Repeal a D.C. by-law provision for indexing or to provide for a D.C. not to be indexed; and
- Decrease the amount of a D.C. for one or more types of development.

The streamlined process only requires passing an amending by-law and providing notice of by-law passage. This process removes the requirements under the D.C.A. to prepare a D.C. background study and undertake at least one public meeting. Moreover, amending by-laws for these purposes are not appealable to the Ontario Land Tribunal.

### Impact of Proposed Changes

#### *Reduction in administrative burden*

Limiting the streamlined D.C. by-law amendment process to situations where the D.C. is being reduced for a type of development would allow municipalities to adjust the charges for changes in assumptions (e.g. reductions in capital cost estimates,



application of grant funding to reduce the D.C. recoverable amount), adding exemptions for types of development, and phasing-in the D.C. over time.

#### *Unclear when this may be utilized*

It is unclear if the streamlined process would apply where exemptions are being provided based on characteristics other than development type. For example, where a municipality is exempting a geographic area, such as an industrial park, downtown core, major transit station area, etc. Clarity should be provided in the legislation in this regard.

#### *Reduced transparency for the general public*

While administratively expedient, eliminating the statutory public process for reductions in D.C.s will not provide the general public with an opportunity to delegate Council on the matter or appeal the amending by-law to the Ontario Land Tribunal. This reduces transparency, as reductions in D.C.s through exemptions would need to be funded from non-D.C. revenue sources such as property taxes.

## **9. Lower charge for rate freeze**

Section 26.2 of the D.C.A. requires that, for developments proceeding through a site plan or zoning by-law amendment application, the D.C. be determined based on the rates that were in effect when the planning application was submitted to the municipality. This allows for the determination of the charge earlier in the development process, as most D.C. by-laws determine the charges at the time of building permit issuance. In some instances, the D.C. that would be imposed at the time of building permit issuance may be lower than that in place at the time of planning application. Where rates have been determined as per section 26.2 of the D.C.A., the proposed amendments would require municipalities to apply the lower of the charges determined at the time of planning application or as required under the D.C. by-law (e.g. building permit issuance).

Note, interest charges for the D.C. determined at the time of planning application may still be imposed.

### **Impact of Proposed Changes**

#### *Lower of the charges imposed appears positive*

These proposed changes are positive as developers would not be charged in excess of current rates, and municipal capital costs, where charges are lower. Moreover, developers who proceed in a timely manner would not be penalized with additional interest costs for the period between planning application and D.C. by-law timing of payment.



## 10. Noted areas for future changes to D.C.s

In the Province's announcement, they indicated additional changes can be expected to follow the proposed regulatory changes and/or ongoing consultations.

The Province has indicated its intent to add the Statistics Canada Non-Residential Building Construction Price Index for London to the prescribed indexes in the regulations. This would allow municipalities in Southwestern Ontario to utilize the London series for indexing purposes. This appears to be a reasonable addition to the legislation and will better align the underlying capital cost in D.C. by-laws with changes in the area. The Province should consider allowing municipalities to amend their D.C. by-laws using the streamlined D.C. amendment process to reference this index where appropriate.

The Province also indicated its intent to consult on potential approaches to standardize benefit to existing (B.T.E.) deductions. Municipalities generally follow best practices in regard to B.T.E. deductions. Currently, there is no standardized approach across all municipalities. Providing a standardized approach may be problematic, as capital projects, capital costs, and circumstances in different municipalities may be unique. Robust consultations should be undertaken prior to the implementation of any changes in this regard due to the wide-ranging implications anticipated for municipalities.

Lastly, the announcement included commentary on expanding the Annual Treasurer's Statement reporting requirements. Under the D.C.A. currently, municipalities must allocate 60% of monies in their D.C. reserve funds to projects for services related to a highway, water, and wastewater services. The Province has indicated that it may consider expanding this requirement to more services. If expanded to additional services, this change would impose an additional administrative burden on municipalities.

## 11. Concluding Remarks

Based on the proposed changes and individual municipal circumstances, municipalities may experience a reduction in D.C. revenues and cashflows. Possible implications include funding of growth-related capital needs from non-D.C. municipal revenue sources, slowing the timing for growth-related capital projects, and increased debt financing which may lead to ultimately higher D.C. rates and utilization of tax-supported funds to address growth-related needs, impacting affordability for existing residents and businesses.

The impacts of the more significant changes being considered (i.e., changes to the definition of capital cost, grouping of credits, defining local services, and prescribing a methodology for benefit to existing) will not be known until the release of the draft regulations for consultation.



The approach of effecting legislative change through regulations, as opposed to the requirements of passing a Bill through the legislative process reduces transparency and opportunity for public input. This also creates issues with municipalities' ability to react to the legislative changes and to update master plans and D.C. by-laws, where needed.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the legislative changes and would appreciate any opportunity to participate in ongoing consultation regarding the above legislative changes.

Yours very truly,

WATSON & ASSOCIATES ECONOMISTS LTD.

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## **2025 Special Events Schedule**

### **Approved Events**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Event Name</b>	<b>Estimated Attendance</b>	<b>Confirmed Location</b>	<b>Event Type</b>	<b>Event Organizer</b>
<b>5/25/2025 – 9/28/2025</b>	2pm – 5pm	Galt Jazz Street Party	200 (per day)	Main St between Walter St and Ainslie St	Public, Free	BIA
<b>5/29/2025 – 6/1/2025</b>	Thurs 5pm–10pm Fri 5pm–11pm Sat 11am–11pm Sun 11am–5pm	Kin Carnival	50,000 (per day)	Riverside Park	Public, Free	Community Group
<b>5/30/2025 – 10/3/2025</b>	Fridays 1pm – 9pm	Hespeler Farmer's Market	400 (per event)	Hespeler Town Hall – 11 Tannery Street East	Public, Free	Community Group
<b>6/3/2025</b>	3:30pm – 4:30pm	Pride Event	200	Civic Square	Public, Free	City of Cambridge
<b>6/7/2025</b>	9am – 4:30pm	Kinbridge Community Association & Greenway-Chaplin Community Centre Neighborhood Day	1,500	Churchill Park (right side, by basketball court)	Public, Free	Neighbourhood Association
<b>6/7/2025</b>	3pm – 7pm	Fiddlesticks Neighbourhood Day	550	71 Cowan Boulevard	Public, Free	Neighbourhood Association
<b>6/7/2025 – 9/13/2025</b>	6pm – 10:30pm	Latin on Main	100+	Lower Main Street	Public, Free	BIA
<b>6/8/2025</b>	9am – 1pm	Cambridge Mill Race	300	Riverbluffs Park	Race	Community Group
<b>6/8/2025 – 9/14/2025</b>	12pm – 4pm	Sunday Day Markets	100+	Lower Main Street, Civic Square, Imperial Lane, Water Street Parking Lot #2 Event Pad	Public, Free	BIA
<b>6/12/2025</b>	11:30am – 1:30pm	Starling Community Services Staff Appreciation Event	60-80	Civic Square	Private	Community Group
<b>6/13/2025</b>	5pm – 10pm	Cambridge Celebration of the Arts	4,000 – 5,000	City Hall, Civic Square	Public, Free	City of Cambridge
<b>6/14/2025</b>	11am – 3pm	Pet Portraits in the Park	100	Forbes Park	Public, Free	Community Group

<b>6/14/2025</b>	8am – 1pm	<b>Push For Your Tush</b>	50 – 70	Riverside Park – Dolph Picnic Shelter	Fundraiser	Community Group
<b>6/14/2025</b>	8am – 6pm	<b>District C Track and Field Meet</b>	200	Jacob Hespeler Secondary School	Public, Free	Community Group
<b>6/14/2025</b>	1pm – 8pm	<b>Grand River Pride Street Party</b>	500+	Main Street road closure, Water Street	Public, Free	BIA
<b>6/14/2025</b>	3pm – 6pm	<b>Neighbourhood Day</b>	650 – 700	Soper Park	Public, Free	Neighbourhood Association
<b>6/14/2025</b>	10am – 12pm	<b>Open Hands, Open Hearts Community Care Day: Aid for Homelessness</b>	50	Central Park – Bandshell	Public, Free	Community Group
<b>6/15/2025</b> – <b>9/28/2025</b>	10pm – 2pm	<b>Backlot Sessions</b>	100+	Water Street parking lot, #2 event pad	Public, Free	BIA
<b>6/19/2025</b>	4:30pm – 8pm	<b>Summer Solstice Dance Party</b>	300	Highland Public School Courtyard	Public, Free	Community Group
<b>6/28/2025</b>	10am – 4pm	<b>Aire One's Fun Fair &amp; Food Drive</b>	400	290 Pinebush Road	Public, Free	Community Group
<b>7/1/2025</b>	12pm – 11pm	<b>Cambridge Canada Day</b>	40,000 – 50,000	Riverside Park	Public, Free	City of Cambridge
<b>7/16/2025</b>	6:30pm – 7:30pm	<b>Cambridge Summer Live – Ultimutts Dog Show</b>	100+	Forbes Park	Public, Free	City of Cambridge
<b>7/23/2025</b>	6:30pm – 7:30pm	<b>Cambridge Summer Live – Tex Rexman</b>	100+	Central Park	Public, Free	City of Cambridge
<b>7/30/2025</b>	6:30pm – 7:30pm	<b>Cambridge Summer Live – Isabella Hoops Show with Fire</b>	100+	Civic Square	Public, Free	City of Cambridge
<b>8/6/2025</b>	6:30pm – 7:30pm	<b>Cambridge Summer Live – Kiki Totally Outrageous with LED</b>	100+	Forbes Park	Public, Free	City of Cambridge
<b>8/13/2025</b>	6:30pm – 7:30pm	<b>Cambridge Summer Live – Ultimutts Dog Show</b>	100+	Central Park	Public, Free	City of Cambridge
<b>8/20/2025</b>	6:30pm – 7:30pm	<b>Cambridge Summer Live – Ultimutts Dog Show</b>	100+	Civic Square	Public, Free	City of Cambridge
<b>8/30/2025</b>	11am – 2pm	<b>Block Party</b>	300-350	Forward Church	Public, Free	Community Group

## Events in Approval Process

Date	Time	Event Name	Estimated Attendance	Confirmed Location	Event Type	Event Organizer
<b>5/31/2025</b> – <b>9/20/2025</b>	11am – 2pm	Family Fun Days	100+	Lower Main Street	Public, Free	BIA
<b>6/19/2025</b>	5pm – 10pm	WASA Athletics Event	70	Victoria Park	Private	Community Group
<b>6/20/2025</b>	3pm – 8pm	Montesori School Family Picnic	125	Forbes Park	Private	Community Group
<b>6/20/2025</b> – <b>9/26/2025</b>	6pm – 10pm	Friday Night Markets	100+	Lower Main Street, Civic Square, Imperial Lane, Water Street Parking Lot #2 Event Pad	Public, Free	BIA
<b>6/21/2025</b>	<del>8:30am – 7:30pm</del>	<del>Walk-a-thon 2025</del>	Event Cancelled			
<b>6/21/2025</b> – <b>9/20/2025</b>	11am – 2pm	Family Fun Days	100+	Lower Main Street	Public, Free	BIA
<b>6/22/2025</b>	<del>11am-4:30pm</del>	<del>NLF Church Picnic</del>	Event Cancelled			
<b>6/28/2025</b>	9:30am – 8:30pm	Summer Punch	80	Soper Park	Private	Community Group
<b>6/28/2025</b> – <b>9/27/2025</b>	9am – 9pm	Sidewalk Sale	100+	Downtown Cambridge Core	Public, Free	BIA
<b>6/29/2025</b>	9am – 1pm	Whole Health Anniversary	100+	Main Street Road Closure	Public, Free	BIA
<b>7/4/2025</b>	6pm – 10pm	BRIDGE Centre for Design Student Market	150	Main Street Road Closure	Public, Free	Community Group
<b>7/5/2025</b>	10:30am – 5:30pm	Alyssa strong car meet	150-200	Galt Community Centre	Public, Fee	Community Group
<b>7/5/2025</b> – <b>7/6/2025</b>	<del>4pm – 2am</del> <b>Request for Noise Exemption 11pm – 2am Denied by Council 5/27/2025</b>	<del>Rising Tide Music &amp; Arts Festival</del>	Event Cancelled			
<b>7/5/2025</b>	10am – 10pm	Hespeler Village Music Festival	4,000	Forbes Park	Public, Free	Community Group
<b>7/9/2025</b>	11:30am – 3:30pm	EQI Canada Company Picnic	60	Riverside Park – Kin Shelter	Private	Community Group

**New events**

<b>7/11/2025</b>	2pm – 8pm	Road to Oddfest Vol 3 – Treasure Market	100-200	Main Street Road Closure	Public, Free	BIA
<b>7/12/2025</b>	10am – 7:30pm	CMS Community BBQ	500	Churchill Park	Public, Free	Community Group
<b>7/12/2025</b>	12pm – 4pm	Cambridge Scottish Festival Media Day	300	Main Street Road Closure	Public, Free	Community Group
<b>7/14/2025</b>	5pm – 8pm	The ENDURrun Sport	50	Riverbluffs Park	Public, Free	Community Group
<b>7/18/2025 – 7/19/2025</b>	Friday 4pm – 11pm Saturday 6am–7pm	Cambridge Scottish Festival	3,000 – 5,000 (per day)	Churchill Park, Duncan McIntosh Arena	Public, Cost	Community Group
<b>7/19/2025</b>	8am – 4pm	Summer in the Park Vendor Market	150-200	Victoria Park, Hespeler	Public, Free	Community Group
<b>7/26/2025</b>	12pm – 7pm	Cambridge Multicultural Festival	7,500	Forbes Park	Public, Free	Community Group
<b>7/26/2025 – 7/27/2025</b>	10am – 4pm	The Long Dash Festival	100	Grand Trunk Trail	Public Cost	Community Group
<b>7/26/2025</b>	3pm – 8pm	Emancipation Day Celebration	1,000	Soper Park (Bandshell area) or Galt Arena parking space	Public, Free	Community Group
<b>7/26/2025</b>	10am– 7:30pm	Family Picnic	100 – 110	Dolph Picnic Area	Private	Community Group
<b>8/2/2025 – 8/3/2025</b>	8am – 9pm	SGSS Khed Mela	1,000 – 2,000	Riverside Park (back soccer fields)	Public, Free	Community Group
<b>8/3/2025</b>	8am – 7pm	Cards for Cause	500	Dickson Arena	Public, Free	Community Group
<b>8/3/2025</b>	4pm – 8pm	Burgers and Beats	50	TBD	Public, Free	Community Group
<b>8/5/2025 – 8/6/2025</b>	5pm – 9pm	The Voice of the River: the Grand River Community Play	200	along Grand River, ending at Amphitheatre on Grand River	Public, Free	Community Group
<b>8/8/2025 – 8/10/2025</b>	Fri/Sat 12pm – 10pm Sunday 12pm – 6pm	Cambridge Ribfest & Craft Beer Show	7,000 – 10,000 (per day)	Riverside Park	Public, Free	Community Group
<b>8/9/2025</b>	12pm – 4pm	Praise-Fest	100	Forbes Park	Public, Free	Community Group
<b>8/15/2025 – 8/16/2025</b>	9am – 11pm	Multi-Fest	Event Cancelled			
<b>8/16/2025</b>	10:30am – 5:30pm	Praises in the Park	60	Forbes Park	Private	Community Group

**New events**

<b>8/16/2025</b>	10am – 1pm	Church In the Square	25	Civic Square	Public, Free	Community Group
<b>8/23/2025</b>	5:30pm – 10pm	Vhalem Navrati 2025	2,500	Riverside Park	Religious/Cultural	Community Group
<b>8/23/2025</b>	2pm – 8pm	Oddfest – Market	600	Civic Square	Public, Free	Community Group
<del><b>8/30/2025</b></del>	<del>10am – 10pm</del>	<del>KW Carnival</del>	Event Cancelled			
<del><b>8/30/2025</b></del>	<del>6pm – 10:30pm</del>	<del>Rhythm Ratri 2025</del>	Event Cancelled			
<b>9/2/2025 – 9/8/2025</b>	8am – 10pm	Cambridge Fall Fair	2,500 (per day)	Dickson Park	Public, Free	Community Group
<b>9/7/2025</b>	10am – 2:30pm	Honda Annual BBQ	25	Riverside Park	Private	Community Group
<b>9/13/2025</b>	11am – 3pm	Cambridge Fire Department Fire Prevention Week Open House	5,000	1625 Bishop Street North (Cambridge Fire Station 1)	Public, Free	City of Cambridge
<b>9/14/2025</b>	9am – 3pm	Walk to Remember	200	Riverside Park	Fundraiser	Community Group
<b>9/14/2025</b>	9am – 3:30pm	Cambridge Terry Fox Run	150	Riverside Park (Mickler Field/Grandstand)	Fundraiser	Community Group
<b>9/18/2025</b>	5pm – 9pm	Take Back the Night	100-150	The W – 101-20 Dickson St	Public, Free	Community Group
<b>9/19/2025 – 9/20/2025</b>	Friday 4pm – 11pm Saturday 3pm – 11pm	Fest2Fall	5,000 (per day)	Dickson Park	Public, Cost	Community Group
<del><b>9/27/2025</b></del>	<del>6pm – 11pm</del>	<del>Navratri 2025</del>	Event Cancelled			
<del><b>9/30/2025</b></del>	<del>7pm – 11pm</del>	<del>Vhalem Navrati</del>	Event Cancelled			

*\*All events are subject to change*