



## COUNCIL INFORMATION PACKAGE

### SUMMARY

APRIL 1, 2021

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**1. C-108-2021**

Correspondence dated March 23, 2021 from the Township of West Lincoln to the Honourable Patty Hajdu, Minister of Health respecting a resolution of support for the Niagara Police Services Board correspondence regarding public safety concerns related to medical cannabis grow operations.

**2. C-109-2021**

Correspondence received March 25, 2021 from the members of Wainfleet – Keeping it Rural respecting requests for the Lakewood Beaches property.

**3. C-110-2021**

Correspondence dated March 29, 2021 from the Town of Cochrane to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario requesting a reversal of the decision to close the MeeQuam Youth Residence.

**4. C-111-2021**

Correspondence dated March 19, 2021 from Canadian Pacific Railway respecting the 2021 annual vegetation control program.

**5. C-112-2021**

Correspondence dated March 30, 2021 from the Office of the Fire Marshal and Emergency Management respecting Township compliance with the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act in 2020.

**6. C-113-2021**

Correspondence dated March 31, 2021 from the Township of Hudson to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario requesting support for Ontario's fire departments.

## CLERKS DEPARTMENT

Received March 26, 2021  
C-108-2021

March 23, 2021

Delivered by Email

The Honourable Patty Hajdu  
Minister of Health  
[Patty.hajdu@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Patty.hajdu@parl.gc.ca)

Dear Minister Hajdu:

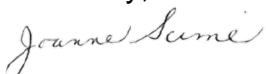
Re: Medical Cannabis Grow Operations –Public Safety Concerns

This is to confirm that at the March 22, 2021 Council Meeting the following resolution was adopted with respect to the above noted matter:

That the correspondence received from the Regional Municipality of Niagara Police Services Board regarding Medical Cannabis Grow Operations - Public Safety Concerns attached as Appendix A; be received and supported, and;  
That, copy of this resolution be forwarded to Niagara's MPs, MPPs, Niagara's 12 local municipalities, Ministries as outlined in Appendix A as well as the Niagara Police Service Board.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the above, do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Sincerely,



Joanne Scime, Clerk

Copies to:

The Honourable Bill Blair, Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness  
The Honourable David Lametti, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada  
MP Dean Allison, Niagara West  
MP Chris Bittle, St. Catharines  
MP Tony Baldinelli, Niagara Falls  
MP Vance Badaway, Niagara Centre  
President Micki Ruth, Canadian Association of Police Governance  
Chief of Police Bryan Larkin, President, Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police  
The Honourable Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health  
The Honourable Doug Downey, Attorney General

The Honourable Sylvia Jones, Minister of the Solicitor General  
MPP Sam Oosterhoff, Niagara West  
MPP Jennie Stevens, St. Catharines  
MPP Wayne Gates, Niagara Falls  
MPP Jeff Burch, Niagara Centre  
Chair Patrick Weaver, Ontario Association of Police Services Board  
Chief of Police Paul Pedersen, President, Ontario Association of Police Chiefs  
Niagara Municipalities  
Board Members, Niagara Police Services Board

X:\cl-Clerks\Council\Council-2021\Letters\ Medical Cannabis Grow Operations –Public Safety Concerns



# Thorold

February 18, 2021

Honourable Patty Hajdu  
Minister of Health  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Patty.Hajdu@parl.gc.ca

Honourable Minister Hajdu:

**Re: Medical Cannabis Grow Operations - Public Safety Concerns**

Please be advised Thorold City Council, at its February 16, 2021 meeting, adopted the following resolution:

That the correspondence received from the Regional Municipality of Niagara Police Services Board pertaining to Medical Cannabis Grow Operations – Public Safety Concerns attached as Appendix A; be received and supported.

**CARRIED**

Yours truly,

Donna Delvecchio  
City Clerk

cc: M. Dilwaria, Chief Administrative Officer

Hon. Bill Blair, Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness, Bill.Blair@parl.gc.ca  
Hon. David Lametti, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada,  
David.Lametti@parl.gc.ca  
Hon. Christine Elliot, Provincial Minister of Health, christine.elliott@pc.ola.org  
Hon. Doug Downey, Attorney General, doug.downey@pc.ola.org  
Hon. Sylvia Jones, Minister of the Solicitor General, sylvia.jones@pc.ola.org  
Vance Badawey, MP, Niagara Centre, vance.badawey@parl.gc.ca  
Jeff Burch, MPP, Niagara Centre, JBurch-QP@ndp-on.ca  
Ann-Marie Norio, Clerk, Region of Niagara, Ann-Marie.Norio@niagararegion.ca  
Bryan R. MacCulloch, Chief of Police, Niagara Region Police Service  
William C. Steele, Acting Board Chair, Niagara Region Police Service Board  
Niagara Area Municipalities

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**City of Thorold**

P.O. Box 1044, 3540 Schmon Parkway, Thorold, Ontario L2V 4A7

[www.thorold.ca](http://www.thorold.ca)

Tel: 905-227-6613



REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA  
**POLICE SERVICES BOARD**  
5700 VALLEY WAY, NIAGARA FALLS, ONTARIO L2E 1X8

Tel: (905) 688-4111 Fax: (289) 248-1011  
E-mail: [psb@niagarapolice.ca](mailto:psb@niagarapolice.ca)  
Website: [www.niagarapolice.ca](http://www.niagarapolice.ca)

November 4, 2020

**DELIVERED BY EMAIL**

The Honourable Patty Hajdu  
Minister of Health  
[patty.hajdu@parl.gc.ca](mailto:patty.hajdu@parl.gc.ca)

Dear Minister Hajdu:

**RE: Medical Cannabis Grow Operations - Public Safety Concerns**

We are writing on behalf of the Regional Municipality of Niagara Police Services Board and the Niagara Regional Police Service to request Health Canada address proper regulation of the cannabis industry, specifically with designated medical growers who are operating outside of their medical designations.

The *Federal Cannabis Act* controls the production, distribution, sale and possession of cannabis in Canada, including the application and licensing of personal and commercial medical cannabis production, which should be compliant with local municipal by-laws according to criteria set out for applicants in the process administered by Health Canada as the agency responsible for approval of cannabis production facilities.

Our concerns are for the significant number of operations growing for personal medical use under the certificate/registration system set up by Health Canada. Under the legislation, an adult individual is eligible to produce cannabis for their own medical purposes. The amount permitted to grow for personal use is contingent upon the maximum daily amount prescribed by a medical practitioner and whether or not the plants are going to be grown inside, outside or a combination of both. Health Canada's regulations govern the growing of medical cannabis and allow an individual to designate another individual to grow it on their behalf.

A maximum of four (4) certificates for growing medical cannabis for personal purposes are permitted per property. As a result, a significant amount of medical cannabis may be grown on a property for personal medical use. Designated growers are permitted to grow up to 500 plants per individual license, or potentially 2,000 plants. Further, Health Canada treats the certificates as medical information and as such, operators are not required to provide their certificates to municipalities or police, which prevents municipalities or the police from determining if an operation is legally permitted or not. This is exacerbated by minimal oversight or concern from Health Canada.

Police enforcement efforts across southern Ontario, including Niagara, indicate that many growers are producing well in excess of the maximum licensed number of plants. It has become clear that the excess being produced by designated growers is being funneled to the illicit market which is mostly controlled by organized crime.

This was well documented during a large-scale, multijurisdictional illicit cannabis growing investigation in August of this year, where police seized over an estimated \$42 million in drugs, equipment, weapons and other items. This included 101,049 illegal cannabis plants; 1,921 pounds of illegal cannabis bud; 21 pounds of illegal cannabis shatter and three pounds of illegal cannabis hash.

Unfortunately, this is not an uncommon occurrence. In July 2020, Niagara Regional Police made arrests and seizures at a large illicit cannabis operation in the City of St. Catharines with over 17,000 plants. The investigation resulted in the arrest of eleven people, with an estimated \$34 million in cannabis plants. In 2018, Niagara Regional Police arrested one individual for growing over 1,000 plants at an estimated worth of over \$1 million. In 2017, Niagara Regional Police busted two large medical grow operations that were operating under fraudulent Health Canada medical licenses for personal or designated use. In 2016, an individual was arrested with 500 plants and in 2015 the Niagara Regional Police arrested another person with over 1,000 plants that was also valued at just over one million dollars.

It is apparent that criminal enterprises are abusing the Health Canada registration, using it as a loophole to grow well over the allotted amount. These organized crime groups have been exploiting Health Canada medical, personal and designate cannabis production, instead growing the plants to sell illegally. Health Canada has strict rules governing licensing, odour, security, light pollution, chemical contamination, fire hazards and the like for federally-licensed grow facilities, however; no such oversight applies to personal and designated growers.

**We are therefore urging the Federal Government to expand the legislative framework to provide greater oversight to address public safety concerns with the personal and designated medical growers who are operating outside the boundaries of their medical designations.**

These unlicensed operations have become a significant concern for residents in the Niagara Region and our local municipalities from both a health and safety lens as well as from a land use and building code situation. Local municipal governments have responsibility for the enforcement of local by-laws and ensuring life-safety compliance with fire and building code regulations, but Health Canada has no process in place to share licensing information with local authorities about the location of medical cannabis production facilities. By way of copy, we are calling on Niagara's MPs and MPPs for support, and urging the Niagara Region and Councils of its 12 local municipalities to call on the Federal Government to put in place the needed controls and oversight permissions that will provide safety, health and personal comfort to all residents of Niagara.

Minister, we need your help to get these issues under control. We are asking that Health Canada take action against operations that cross the line into criminality. Police resources are stretched and the need to establish criminality limits police ability to respond to these operations that are causing such concern. Police enforcement is an important tool but we need other ways to manage the growing problems these unlicensed operations are creating. We need Health Canada to implement practices that will improve the sharing of information regarding cannabis certificates with police and municipalities, outline requirements for compliance with municipal zoning by-laws, include appropriate monitoring and inspections, and consider the need to revisit the formula for determining the maximum number of plants permitted under a certificate.

The Board and Police Service would certainly be willing to further engage with Ministry personnel in an effort to share our experiences and work collaboratively to increase the effectiveness of the legislation and enhance public safety.

Your consideration of the concerns raised in this letter would be greatly appreciated and we look forward to your response.

Yours truly,



William C. Steele  
Acting Board Chair



Bryan R. MacCulloch, M.O.M.  
Chief of Police

Copies to:

The Honourable Bill Blair, Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness  
The Honourable David Lametti, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada  
MP Dean Allison, Niagara West  
MP Chris Bittle, St. Catharines  
MP Tony Baldinelli, Niagara Falls  
MP Vance Badaway, Niagara Centre

President Micki Ruth, Canadian Association of Police Governance  
Chief of Police Bryan Larkin, President, Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police

The Honourable Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health  
The Honourable Doug Downey, Attorney General  
The Honourable Sylvia Jones, Minister of the Solicitor General

MPP Sam Oosterhoff, Niagara West  
MPP Jennie Stevens, St. Catharines  
MPP Wayne Gates, Niagara Falls  
MPP Jeff Burch, Niagara Centre

Chair Patrick Weaver, Ontario Association of Police Services Boards  
Chief of Police Paul Pedersen, President, Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police

Regional Chair Jim Bradley and Members of Council, Niagara Region  
Mayor Dave Bylsma and Members of Council, Town of West Lincoln  
Mayor Frank Campion and Members of Council, City of Welland  
Mayor Jim Diodati and Members of Council, City of Niagara Falls  
Mayor Betty Disero and Members of Council, Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake  
Mayor Sandra Easton and Members of Council, Town of Lincoln  
Mayor Kevin Gibson and Members of Council, Township of Wainfleet  
Mayor Jeff Jordan and Members of Council, Town of Grimsby  
Mayor Marvin Junkin and Members of Council, Town of Pelham  
Mayor Wayne Redekop and Members of Council, Town of Fort Erie  
Mayor Walter Sendzik and Members of Council, City of St Catharines  
Mayor Bill Steele and Members of Council, City of Port Colborne  
Mayor Terry Ugolini and Members of Council, City of Thorold

Board Members, Niagara Police Services Board

To the Mayor and Council Members:

Re: Wainfleet – Keeping it Rural Requests for the Lakewood Beaches Property

When considering our requests made in our letter of February 19, 2021 please keep in mind the following:

1. the Phase 1 Environmental Site Assessment took samples down only to a depth of 7 inches;
2. the areas tested were not made anywhere near to the septic fields in question;
3. the ESA requirement to contact the owner and people in the know about the property for possible hazards was a perfunctory call done to the owner a day or two before the report was finalized, not before the testing, and, the neighbour who had been intimately involved in the Camp and had the plans and knowledge about the septic systems was not contacted. This means the people testing were not made aware of the potential hazards of the septic systems and fields;
4. the trees that were removed around the neighbours property were not part of the Overall Benefit Permit;
5. a plan to replace those trees to provide the protection to the neighbour's property was not implemented as agreed upon in the Spring of 2020;
6. The NPCA can make judgement on the areas/zones that they specifically oversee, in this case on the boundaries of the property, not the area of the buildings;
7. a report from a Coastal Engineer that specifically looks at the proposed location of the homes may require a re-design of the project.

The removal of the Septic systems and the replacement of some tree protection cannot wait another year to be addressed. This should be part of the approval to extend the approval period to March 2022. That is, the extension of one year is allowed on condition that the Septic Systems are removed under the Cleanup Guidelines and that Tree Replacement Plan is implemented as agreed, as part of the extension approval of the project by Council.

This would be adding conditions to the agreement with the developer. In return, an added stipulation can be made that, once these issues have been fully addressed, some re-design, required by the Coastal Engineer report, may be allowed, but must be presented to Council along with the Coastal Engineer's findings.

This group has tried to supply you with the information you need to make good decisions for Wainfleet, acknowledging the limitations of the process but also emphasizing that you, as our representatives, are our last line of defense.

Respectfully,

The Members of Wainfleet-Keeping it Rural

To Mayor Gibson and Council Members,

February 19, 2021

Re: Extension granted to Lakewood Beach Property Draft Plan of Condominium Conditions and Approval

Earlier this week Mayor Gibson started the Council meeting with a declaration that he was committed to smart development in Wainfleet. We presented a path for Council to take an ill-conceived proposal and to make it "smart". We have presented our perspectives, findings and listed our concerns many times. What was not addressed at your February 16<sup>th</sup> Council meeting were our ASKS.

1. The largest of the four Septic Systems on the property located in the south west portion of the property has been breached and its contents are spilling onto the surrounding area and down to the shore of Lake Erie. This was brought to the attention of the MoECP two years ago and the condition has worsened because nothing has been done to rectify the situation and erosion of the shoreline continues. Any other owner in Wainfleet would have been either given notice or, by now, fined for allowing their septic system to breach. Admittedly this is an "inoperable" system and the contents are old, but that does not relieve the owner of responsibility. We have pointed this out before, that this particular septic system contains un-degraded medications and is therefore a hazard.

**WE ASK that the Township apply the same standards to this property owner as any other owner in Wainfleet and insist on the removal this spring 2021, using the Cleanup Guideline 1996 and through the MoECP if necessary, and before the approval process can proceed. And if it is not removed, the owner of this property be subject to fines.**

2. Many trees have been removed from the property that has made it more boggy and open to Lake Erie. Of particular concern are the trees removed (not under the Overall Benefit Permit) that were protecting the abutting property. A plan for re-planting was agreed upon in 2019 and has not been implemented as promised. This requires immediate direction to proceed because the landscaper will need time to re-assemble the agreed upon plantings.

**WE ASK that Council direct staff to oversee the implementation of the re-planting agreement immediately and before any further work is done on the approval process.**

Both of these requests directly affect the health and well-being of the abutting and proximate neighbours and therefore need to be addressed immediately and not to wait another year for the final approval.

3. The new Coastal Engineer Report that was used by the NPCA to make a determination on the Hazard Zone needs to be assessed for the scope of the review. It is well established that the erosion of the last two years has reconfigured beachfront stretching from 30 – 50 feet inland and that the shoreline and high water mark have also shifted north, closer to the proposed building sites.

**WE ASK that the full Coastal Engineer's report prepared for the owners which was used by the NPCA to make their determination be made available to the public.**

4. All the stakes marking the locations of the proposed units have been washed away as well as the Fowler Toad barriers that were part of the Overall Benefit Permit.

**WE ASK that the developer be required to replace all the stakes for the locations of the proposed units as well as what is required for the Fowler's Toad Habitat as soon as the ground permits.**

To ensure due diligence is smartly done, full approval by Council should not be given until the following additional conditions are met:

- (a) the scheduled 2022 NPCA Lake Erie shoreline re-mapping is completed and taken into consideration;
- (b) the developer has brought forward to Council a plan of remediation of the land that includes specific protection for the units and/or;
- (c) an alternate design plan, farther back on the property, that allows for the building of break-walls etc. outside of the Fowler's Toad protected Habitat.

If Council and the Mayor are truly committed to having smart development in Wainfleet, then it needs to ensure the safety and accountability of this Proposed Plan of Condominium. Direct Wainfleet Staff to make these changes, and the project and Wainfleet will be the better for it.

Respectfully,



Terry Maxner, Chair

The Citizen Committee  
Wainfleet-Keeping it Rural  
Cc CAO W. Kolasa, Planner S. Ivins, By Law Enforcement Officer M. Tardif

**THE TOWN OF COCHRANE**

171 Fourth Avenue

Cochrane, Ontario, Canada, P0L 1C0

T: 705-272-4361 | F: 705-272-6068

E: townhall@cochraneontario.com



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

Received March 29, 2021

C-110-2021

March 29, 2021

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

Dear Premier Ford:

**Re: MeeQuam Youth Residence Closure**

This will serve to advise you that Council, at its regular meeting held Tuesday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2021, passed the following resolution:

**"Resolution No. 83-2021**

**Moved By: Todd Calaiezzzi**

**Seconded By: Robert Hutchinson**

**WHEREAS** the Ontario Government announced the closure of 26 youth justice facilities; and

**WHEREAS** the MeeQuam Youth Residence in Cochrane is one of the facilities that will be closing effective April 30; and

**WHEREAS** children aged 12 to 17 from the northeastern communities will be impacted by this closure. These are children who have increased needs yet limited access to much needed set of services and support that assist them with their transition to productive and flourishing adulthood; and

**WHEREAS** with the closure of the MeeQuam Youth Residence, these vulnerable children will find themselves in a facility hundreds and thousands of kilometers away from their community and their families; and

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**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Cochrane requests that the Province of Ontario reverse their decision to close the youth justice facility in Cochrane, known as MeeQuam Youth Residence, as these vulnerable children need to be as close as possible to their families and communities.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** this Resolution be forwarded to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, the Honourable Todd Smith, Minister of Children, Community and Social Services; Honourable Sylvia Jones, Minister of Indigenous Affairs; and all municipalities within the Province of Ontario.

**Carried”**

Your attention to this matter is greatly appreciated!

Yours Truly,

**THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF COCHRANE**



Alice Mercier  
Clerk

/am

c.c.: Hon. Todd Smith, Minister of Children, Community and Social Services  
Hon. Sylvia Jones, Minister of Indigenous Affairs  
All Municipalities within the Province of Ontario  
Charlie Angus, MP, Timmins – James Bay  
John Vanthof, MPP, Timiskaming – Cochrane

Loc. March 29/21

Received March 29, 2021  
C-111-2021

March 19, 2021

Township of WAINFLEET  
P.O. Box 40  
Wainfleet (ON)  
L0S 1V0

Subject: Canadian Pacific 2021 Vegetation Control Program

Dear Madam:

Dear Sir:

Please be advised that Canadian Pacific Railway (CP) will be carrying out its 2021 annual vegetation control program within your city limits. This program will be confined to CP's right-of-way, part of this program will consist of grass and weed control using herbicides on the ballast (gravelled section) and the second part (if needed) will take care of the brush on selected rail lines. The rail ballast portion of the program will take place within your municipality between May 4<sup>th</sup> and August 31<sup>st</sup>, as for the brush control, if needed, will be between May 4<sup>th</sup> and August 31<sup>st</sup>. Some manual brush control involving stump treatment may occur from May 4<sup>th</sup> until December 15.

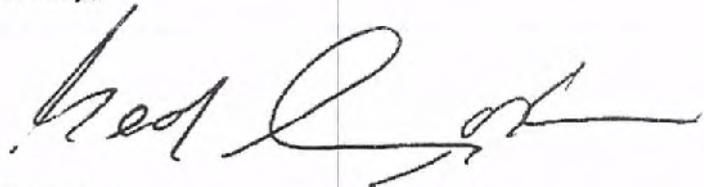
This program is necessary to eliminate brush and weeds which constitute a hazard to the public and to CP's employees as well. If left uncontrolled, vegetation contributes to trackside fires, impairs visibility of train signals, impairs sight lines at railway crossings, impairs proper inspection of track infrastructure, etc. This is all in accordance with Ontario *Regulation 63/09*, which grants public works the right to use herbicides when it comes to the safety of their infrastructure. All applications will be carried out by qualified operators in conformity with current federal and provincial regulations. This program will also be subject to all habitation and aquatic setbacks listed on the products' label. All herbicides are registered under the PMRA and they are all biodegradable.

We invite you to visit CP's web site at [www.cpr.ca](http://www.cpr.ca), where a detailed schedule of our vegetation control operations is posted. To find the schedule move your cursor over "Community" (just above the main banner), a drop-down menu will open and then select the item "Living Near the Railway". Once on that page, click on the "Learn More" button on the main banner image (under Seasonal Track Maintenance title) then among the items listed on the far left of the screen click on "Ontario vegetation control", to see the link to the actual schedule (a pdf document). You can also use the following address with your browser: <http://www.cpr.ca/en/community/living-near-the-railway/ontario-spray-schedules>.

We also have a 24/7, toll-free service called Community Connect dedicated in providing answers to any question related to CP's railway operations and can be reached at 1-800-766-7912. You can also send them an online form or an email. You can find all this information by simply scrolling down while on "Ontario Spray Schedules" webpage.

We invite you to communicate this information to your citizens as well. We would like also to take this opportunity to remind you that, as per Transport Canada "*Railway Safety Act*", it is illegal to be on any railway property without lawful authorization.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Geoff Gordon".

Geoff Gordon  
Vegetation Management Specialist  
Canadian Pacific

c.c.: Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change of Ontario

**Ministry of the Solicitor General**

Office of the Fire Marshal and  
Emergency Management  
  
25 Morton Shulman Avenue  
Toronto ON M3M 0B1  
Tel: 647-329-1100  
Fax: 647-329-1143

**Ministère du Solliciteur général**

Bureau du commissaire des incendies  
et de la gestion des situations  
d'urgence  
  
25 Morton Shulman Avenue  
Toronto ON M3M 0B1  
Tél. : 647-329-1100  
Téléc. : 647-329-1143



Received March 30, 2021  
C-112-2021

March 30, 2021

Your Worship Kevin Gibson  
Township of Wainfleet  
P.O. Box 40, 31940 Highway #3  
Wainfleet, ON L0S1V0

Dear Mayor:

As the Chief of Emergency Management for Ontario, it is incumbent on me to monitor, coordinate and assist municipalities with their respective municipal emergency management programs in accordance with the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act (EMCPA). To confirm municipalities are in compliance with the EMCPA, every municipality in Ontario submits a compliance package to Emergency Management Ontario on a yearly basis.

Emergency Management Ontario (EMO) has reviewed the documentation submitted by your Community Emergency Management Coordinator (CEMC) and have determined that your municipality was compliant with the EMCPA in 2020.

The safety of all our citizens is important, and one way to ensure that safety is to ensure that your municipality is prepared in case of an emergency. We congratulate you on your municipality's efforts in achieving compliance in 2020. I look forward to continuing to work with you to support your continued compliance on an ongoing basis.

If you have any questions or concerns about this letter, please contact our Emergency Management Field Officer assigned to your Sector; their contact information is below.

Name: JudeKelly  
Email: [Jude.Kelly@ontario.ca](mailto:Jude.Kelly@ontario.ca)  
Phone: 416-951-1285

Sincerely,

Teepu Khawja  
Assistant Deputy Minister and Chief, Emergency Management

cc: Morgan Alcock - CEMC  
Jude Kelly - Field Officer - Golden Horseshoe Sector



CORPORATION OF THE  
**TOWNSHIP OF HUDSON**  
903303 HANBURY RD.  
NEW LISKEARD, ON P0J1P0  
(t) 705-647-5439 (f) 705-647-6373  
[www.hudson.ca](http://www.hudson.ca) [admin@hudson.ca](mailto:admin@hudson.ca)

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Received March 31, 2021  
C-113-2021

March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021

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

**Attention: Premier Ford**

**RE: Support for Fire Departments**

At the Township of Hudson's Regular Meeting of Council held on Wednesday March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021, the following resolution 2021-049 was put forward and passed:

**WHEREAS** the role of Ontario's 441 fire departments and their approximate 30,000 full, part-time, and volunteer firefighters is to protect Ontarians and their property; and

**WHEREAS** according to the Ontario Fire Marshal and Emergency Management's latest data, in Ontario there was over 11,000 number of loss fires, 9,500 no loss fires, 784 injuries, 91 fatalities, and over \$820 million dollars of estimated loss in 2018; and

**WHEREAS** fire emergencies only make up a portion of the total calls for help received by fire and emergency service departments as they respond to nearly every public emergency, disaster, or 9-1-1 call; and

**WHEREAS** Ontario's fire department infrastructure deficit continues to grow annually and is almost entirely borne by the municipality and local taxpayers with the majority having populations under 25,000; and

**WHEREAS** due to antiquated structures and equipment that do not meet current industry standards the safety of the Ontario public and Ontario firefighters is being jeopardized;

**NOW THEREFORE** the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Hudson resolves as follows:

1. **THAT** the Federal and Provincial Government includes apparatuses, training, equipment and structures for fire departments as eligible categories to any further infrastructure programs which will not only provide immediate stimulus to the local, provincial and federal economies given current economic uncertainty but also ensure the safety of Canadians and dedicated firefighters; and

2. **THAT** this resolution be forwarded to the Honourable Doug Ford Premier of Ontario, the Honourable Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Honourable Laurie Scott, Minister of Infrastructure, local MPP, local MP, the Ontario Fire Marshal, Jon Pegg, the Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs, and all Ontario Municipalities.

Please accept this for your consideration and any necessary action.

Sincerely,



Jordan Kemp  
Clerk-Treasurer  
Township of Hudson