

1. **C-2024-119**
Correspondence dated March 22, 2024 from the Township of McMurrich/Monteith respecting a resolution of support for the Municipality of St. Charles correspondence regarding funding for a Municipal Equipment Operator Course.
2. **C-2024-120**
Correspondence dated March 22, 2024 from the Niagara Health respecting a request to proclaim Thursday May 9, 2024, as Canadian Viral Hepatitis Elimination Day.
3. **C-2024-121**
Correspondence dated March 20, 2024 from the Autism Ontario South Region respecting a flag raising and proclamation for World Autism Day.
4. **C-2024-122**
Correspondence dated March 22, 2024 from the Office of the Regional Clerk respecting a request to the Province to undertake, with the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), a comprehensive social and economic prosperity review.
5. **C-2024-123**
Correspondence dated January 16, 2024 from the Township of McMurrich/Monteith respecting a resolution of support for the Clearview Township correspondence regarding Cemetery Transfer/Abandonment Administration & Management Support.
6. **C-2024-124**
Correspondence dated March 25, 2024 from Office of the Regional Clerk respecting the 2024 Property Tax Policy, Ratios and Rates.
7. **C-2024-125**
Correspondence dated March 13, 2024 from Enbridge Gas Inc. respecting Bill 165, Keeping Energy Costs Down Act, 2024.
8. **C-2024-126**
Correspondence dated March 25, 2024 from the County of Northumberland to The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario and various Provincial Ministers respecting a resolution of support for the County of Prince Edward 'Review of Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Program Financial Assistance Rates'.
9. **C-2024-127**
Correspondence dated March 26, 2024 from the Township of Asphodel-Norwood to the Hon. Sylvia Jones, Minister of Health respecting a resolution regarding Public Health Ontario Labs.

10. **C-2024-128**
Correspondence dated March 25, 2024 from the Town of Whitby to The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario respecting a resolution of support for the Ontario Energy Board's Decision to end the Gas Pipeline Subsidy.
11. **C-2024-129**
Correspondence dated March 21, 2024 from the Township of Greater Madawaska respecting a resolution of support for the Tay Township correspondence regarding Cemetery Transfer/Abandonment Administration & Management Support.
12. **C-2024-130**
Correspondence dated March 27, 2024 from the Niagara Transit Commission respecting transit services during the Solar Eclipse on April 8th.
13. **C-2024-131**
Correspondence received March 27, 2024 from the Wainfleet Township Public Library respecting the April 2024 Newsletter.
14. **C-2024-132**
Correspondence dated March 27, 2024 from the Township of Alnwick/Haldimand respecting a resolution of support for the St. Charles and Essex correspondence regarding Municipalities Retaining Surplus Proceeds from Tax Sales.
15. **C-2024-133**
Correspondence dated March 27, 2024 from Clearview Township to The Honourable Arif Virani, Minister of Justice & Attorney General respecting Endorsement of Bill C-63 in the House of Commons.
16. **C-2024-134**
Correspondence dated March 25, 2024 from the Township of Edwardsburgh Cardinal respecting a resolution of support for Bill C-310 to amend the Income Tax Act to increase the credit for volunteer firefighting and search and rescue services.
17. **C-2024-135**
Correspondence dated March 4, 2024 from the Township of Terrace Bay respecting a resolution expressing concern regarding The OEB decision on Phase 1 of the Enbridge Gas 2024 rebasing application.
18. **C-2024-136**
Correspondence dated March 18, 2024 from the Township of Terrace Bay respecting a resolution of support for re-establishing a combined OGRA & ROMA Annual Conference.
19. **C-2024-137**
Correspondence dated February 20, 2024 from the Township of Terrace Bay respecting a resolution of support for the Prince Edward County correspondence regarding fire apparatus.

20. **C-2024-138**
Correspondence dated March 4, 2024 from the Township of Terrace Bay respecting a resolution of support for the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) comprehensive social and economic prosperity review.
21. **C-2024-139**
Correspondence dated February 20, 2024 from the Township of Terrace Bay respecting a resolution of support for the City of Greater Sudbury correspondence requesting the province to amend the Occupational Health and Safety Act to clarify the definition of 'Employer'.
22. **C-2024-140**
Correspondence dated March 25, 2024 from the Township of North Glengarry respecting a resolution of support for the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) comprehensive social and economic prosperity review.
23. **C-2024-141**
Correspondence dated March 28, 2024 from the City of Owen Sound respecting a resolution of support for the Prince Edward County correspondence regarding fire apparatus.
24. **C-2024-142**
Correspondence dated March 28, 2024 from the City of Niagara Falls to Town of Lincoln respecting a resolution of support for their correspondence regarding Increased Funding to Libraries and Museums in Ontario.

Subject: RE: MSC Res. 2024-043 - Potential Municipal Equipment Operator Course

From: Clerk <clerk@mcmurrichmonteith.com>

Sent: March 22, 2024 3:34 PM

To: Tammy Godden <clerk@stcharlesontario.ca>; David.Piccini@pc.ola.org; resolutions@amo.on.ca; JVanthof-qp@ndp.on.ca; admin@aors.on.ca; Smith, Graydon <graydon.smith@pc.ola.org>; kellyelliott@aors.on.ca

Cc: Clerk (Brantford) <clerks@brantford.ca>; clerks@greatersudbury.ca; clerk@hamilton.ca; clerks@kawarthalakes.ca; Caitlin.salter-macdonald@ottawa.ca; clerk@toronto.ca; alysha.dyjach@brant.ca; hvilleneuve@easthawkesbury.ca; clerk@haldimandcounty.on.ca; clerks@norfolkcounty.ca; clerks@pecounty.on.ca; ckclerk@chatham-kent.ca; cmacdonald@brucecounty.on.ca; clerk@arran-elderslie.ca; fhamilton@brockton.ca; clerk@kincardine.net; clerk@northernbruce.ca; clerk@southbruce.ca; clerk@saugeenshores.ca; angie.cathrae@southbrucepeninsula.com; jwhite@huronkinloss.com; clerk@dufferincounty.ca; mtownsend@townofgrandvalley.ca; clerksoffice@townofmono.com; clerksdivision@orangeville.ca; townclerk@townofshelburnema.gov; nmartin@amaranth.ca; clerks@eastgarafraxa.ca; dholmes@melancthontownship.ca; tatkinson@mulmur.ca; mkonefal@stthomas.ca; kthompson@elgin.ca; tthayer@bayham.on.ca; pshipway@centralelgin.org; clerk@westelgin.net; clerks@town.aylmer.on.ca; aadams@malahide.ca; cao@southwold.ca; clerks@citywindsor.ca; clerk@countyofessex.on.ca; clerk@amherstburg.ca; clerks@essex.ca; jsettingington@kingsville.ca; clerk@lakeshore.ca; jastrologo@lasalle.ca; jalexander@tecumseh.ca; info@pelee.ca; cityclerk@cityofkingston.ca; jamini@frontenacounty.ca; cmacmunn@centralfrontenac.com; dplumley@frontenacislands.ca; clerkplanning@northfrontenac.ca; lfragnito@southfrontenac.net; bbloomfield@owensound.ca; clerks@greyhighlands.ca; clerk@meaford.ca; info@westgrey.com; tpatterson@hanover.ca; townclerk@thebluemountains.ca; patty.sinnamon@chatsworth.ca; clerks@georgianbluffs.ca; clerks@southgate.ca; mrutter@haliburtoncounty.ca; mbishop@dysartetal.ca; rrogers@highlandseast.ca; dneewhook@algonquinhighlands.ca; admin@mindenhills.ca; mtmacdonald@belleville.ca; clerk@quintwest.ca; bradleyc@hastingscounty.com; tchoinard@centrehastings.com; clerk@hastingshighlands.ca; tbennett@marmoraandlake.ca; clerk@tweed.ca; amckenzie@bancroft.ca; cmartin@deseronto.ca; clerk@carlowmayo.ca; clerk@township.limerick.on.ca; clerk@madoc.ca; clerk@stirling-rawdon.com; clerk@tudorandcashel.com; clerk@tyendinagatownship.com; clerk@wollaston.ca; huronadmin@huroncounty.ca; clerk@municipalityofbluewater.ca; clerk@centralhuron.com; clerk@huroneast.com; thallam@morrishurnberry.ca; clerk@southhuron.ca; afisher@goderich.ca; clerk@acwtownship.ca; clerk@howick.ca; clamb@northhuron.ca; clerks@sarnia.ca; clerk@county-lambton.on.ca; jdenkers@brookealvinston.com; info@lambtonshores.ca; petroli@petroli.ca; ekwarciak@plympton-wyoming.ca; clerk@dawneuphemia.on.ca; dmctavish@enniskillen.ca; jbaranek@stclairtownship.ca; info@warwicktownship.ca; clerk@oilssprings.ca; jburns@villageofpointedward.com; jralph@lanarkcounty.ca; jharfield@mississippimills.ca; sblair@carletonplace.ca; clerk@perth.ca; nbennett@smithsfalls.ca; cmcgregor@twp.beckwith.on.ca; cryder@dnetownship.ca; lhclerk@lanarkhighlands.ca; clerkadministrator@township.montague.on.ca; clerk@tayvalleytwp.ca; clerk@brockville.com; clerk@northgrenville.on.ca; clerk@gananoque.ca; lvelt kamp@prescott.ca; asimonian@augusta.ca; rwilliams@twpec.ca; yrobert@ektwp.ca; jault@frontofyonge.com; clerk@townshipleeds.on.ca; mtruelove@rideaulakes.ca; clerk@uclg.on.ca; cao@merrickville-wolford.ca; cao@villageofwestport.ca; tmckenzie@lennox-addington.on.ca; jwalters@greaternapanee.com; clerk@addingtonhighlands.ca; clerk@loyalist.ca; bteepie@stonemills.com; mschulth@london.ca; mivanic@middlesex.ca; clerk@northmiddlesex.on.ca; clerk@southwestmiddlesex.ca; clerk@thamescentre.on.ca; mbarnier@adelaidemetcalfe.on.ca; rreymer@lucanbiddulph.on.ca; clerk@middlesexcentre.ca; clerk@strathroy-caradoc.ca; case@newbury.ca; matherm@northumberland.ca; cdoiron@brighton.ca; bgilmer@porthope.ca; doug.irwin@trenthills.ca; asmith@ahtwp.ca; clerk@cramahe.ca; dlivingstone@hamiltontownship.ca; clerksinfo@cityofwoodstock.ca; clerksoffice@oxfordcounty.ca; danielle.richard@ingersoll.ca; clerks@tillsonburg.ca; rmordue@blandfordblenheim.ca; wjaques@ezt.ca; admin@norwich.ca; clerk@swox.org; clerk@zorra.ca; clerks@stratford.ca; clerks@northperth.ca; dhobson@westperth.com; clerk@perthcounty.ca;

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Subject: RE: MSC Res. 2024-043 - Potential Municipal Equipment Operator Course

Good afternoon,

Please see the resolution below that was passed by the Council of the Township of McMurrich/Monteith at their Regular meeting held March 5, 2024 supporting the Municipality of St. Charles calling on the Provincial Government to fully fund the Municipal Equipment Operator Course in 2024 through the Skills Development Fund.

Resolution 2024-89

Moved by: Dan O'Halloran

Seconded by: Terry Currie

Be It Resolved that council supports Resolution 2024-043 from Municipality of St. Charles calling on the Province of Ontario's Ministry of Labour, Training, Immigration and Skilled Trades to fully fund the Municipal Equipment Operator Course in 2024 through the Skills Development Fund. Carried

Best regards,

Cheryl Marshall,

Clerk/Treasurer

Township of McMurrich/Monteith

P.O. Box 70, 31 William Street

Sprucedale, Ontario P0A 1Y0

Phone: 705-685-7901 Fax: 705-685-7393

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From: Tammy Godden <clerk@stcharlesontario.ca>

Sent: February 29, 2024 2:08 PM

Subject: Re: MSC Res. 2024-043 - Potential Municipal Equipment Operator Course

Good Afternoon:

At its Regular Meeting of Council held February 21, 2024, the Corporation of the Municipality of St.-Charles passed the following Resolution 2024-043.

Tammy J. Godden (she/her)
Clerk, Municipality of St.-Charles

2 King Street East

P.O. Box 70

St.-Charles, ON, P0M 2W0

Clerk@stcharlesontario.ca

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Subject: RE: Proclamation Request - Canadian Viral Hepatitis Elimination Day

From: Usick, Karen <Karen.Usick@niagarahealth.on.ca>

Sent: March 22, 2024 4:25 PM

Subject: Proclamation Request - Canadian Viral Hepatitis Elimination Day

Greetings and Good Afternoon!

Hope you are having a fabulous Friday so far! Winter has visited us here in Port Colborne... but does not seem to want to come to other areas of the Niagara Region! 😊

I am contacting you today on behalf of the Niagara Health System's – Hepatitis C Care Clinic. In May of 2016, Canada's Health Minister – Jane Philpott signed on to the World Health Organizations (WHO)'s first ever-Global Viral Hepatitis Strategy, with the goal to eliminate viral hepatitis as a public health threat by 2030. To support Canada's Global strategy, all provinces and communities across Canada are working together to raise awareness. I am delighted to announce that we once again will be hosting a Canadian Viral Hepatitis Elimination Day awareness event. We will join our national partners on Thursday May 9, 2024 to recognize this very important awareness day! Our program will be collaborating with the Niagara Health System's – Niagara Falls Site at 5546 Portage Road, Niagara Falls. Our Community event will run from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm. The Hepatitis C Care Clinic event will encourage individuals to learn about hepatitis, liver health, how to receive testing, hepatitis C treatment and the care and services of our program. Our community event will also allow us to highlight the services of our Mental Health and Addiction program's care and the care and services of the many community partners that will be joining us at our street-based Health and Social Services Fair. We invite you to join us at our awareness day event! Please feel free to contact me for further details of the event!

Are you wondering how you can help! We are inviting you to join with our awareness campaign and national partners to proclaim Thursday May 9, 2024, as Canadian Viral Hepatitis Elimination Day throughout the 12 municipalities of Niagara. Together we are strong . . . we can join together to raise awareness and to

help individuals throughout Niagara. We are a specially funded program through the Ministry of Health's – Hepatitis C Secretariat to bring care and services to the community... to individuals who may not know where to seek the help they need!

If you have any questions, or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact me!

Hope you have a lovely afternoon and a wonderful weekend!

Take care and stay safe!

Karen

Karen Usick – Reg. N

Hepatitis C Care Clinic | Community Coordinator

Niagara Health System | Addiction Services

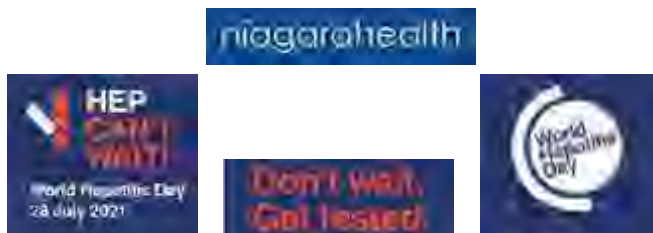
Karen.Usick@NiagaraHealth.on.ca

W: 905-378-4647 x32555 | C: 289-696-2523

260 Sugarloaf Street, Port Colborne, ON L3K 2N7

HCCC Website Address - www.niagarahealth.on.ca/site/hepatitis-c-care

NHS Addiction Services - www.niagarahealth.on.ca/services/addiction-recovery



#HepCantWait | #WorldHepatitisDay | #NoHep



CANADIAN VIRAL HEPATITIS ELIMINATION DAY

JOURNÉE CANADIENNE POUR L'ÉLIMINATION DE L'HÉPATITE VIRALE

Canadian Viral Hepatitis Elimination Day Proclamation May 9, 2024

WHEREAS, hepatitis B and C are among Canada's most burdensome infectious diseases – measured in liver damage, cancer, lives lost, and significant costs to our public healthcare system;

WHEREAS, more than 204,000 people in Canada are living with hepatitis C, and more than 250,000 are living with hepatitis B;

WHEREAS, hepatitis C is curable, and hepatitis B is vaccine-preventable and treatable;

WHEREAS, Canada has committed to eliminating viral hepatitis as a public health threat by 2030; and

WHEREAS, Canadian Viral Hepatitis Elimination Day provides an opportunity to highlight the need for policies that support easy access to testing, treatment, and care for those affected, paving the way toward elimination;

THEREFORE, I, Brian Grant, Mayor of the City of Wainfleet, do hereby proclaim **May 9, 2024 Canadian Viral Hepatitis Elimination Day** in Wainfleet.

Proclamation de la Journée canadienne pour l'élimination de l'hépatite virale 9 mai 2024

CONSIDÉRANT que les hépatites B et C comptent parmi les maladies infectieuses les plus onéreuses au Canada – mesurées en dommages au foie, en cancer, en vies perdues et en coûts importants pour notre système de santé public;

CONSIDÉRANT que plus de 204 000 personnes au Canada vivent avec l'hépatite C et plus de 250 000 avec l'hépatite B;

CONSIDÉRANT que l'hépatite C est guérissable et que l'hépatite B est évitable par la vaccination et traitable;

CONSIDÉRANT que le Canada s'est engagé à éliminer l'hépatite virale en tant que menace pour la santé publique d'ici 2030; et

CONSIDÉRANT que la Journée canadienne pour l'élimination de l'hépatite virale est une occasion de souligner la nécessité de mettre en place des politiques qui facilitent l'accès au dépistage, au traitement et aux soins pour les personnes touchées, tout en ouvrant la voie à l'élimination;

PAR CONSÉQUENT, je, Brian Grant, maire de Wainfleet, proclame par la présente le **9 mai 2024 Journée canadienne pour l'élimination de l'hépatite virale** à Wainfleet.

**Brian Grant
Mayor / Maire**

Subject: RE: Autism Awareness Day

-----Original Message-----

From: Janine O'Brien [mailto:janine.obrien@autismontario.com]

Sent: March 20, 2024 12:17 PM

To: Mark Tardif <MTardif@wainfleet.ca>

Cc: Brittany Kok <brittany.kok@autismontario.com>; Allyesa Stewart <allyesa@autismontario.com>

Subject: RE: Autism Awareness Day

Good afternoon Mark,

My apologies for our delay in getting back to you. We thank you kindly for the support from the Township of Wainfleet and the Mayor's office for the upcoming World Autism Day!

We would be honour for the Township of Wainfleet to host a flag-raising ceremony on World Autism Day. Let me know if you need a flag or if still have one in your possession as we would be happy to supply you with one if needed. I have been sharing with our families upcoming ceremonies to attend and would love to add the Town of Wainfleet's ceremony to the list so please feel free to share the location of your ceremony so I can inform our supporters as well! At the moment, Autism Ontario is committed to 3 ceremonies at 10:00 am on World Autism Day but in addition to our families being invited, I will also do my best to find a lead representative to attend your 10 am ceremony if required.

If you had planned on doing a social posting, feel free to tag us on Facebook using Autism Ontario South Region and the hashtags #CelebrateTheSpectrum #WorldAutismDay #AutismOntario, and we will be sure to reshare your messaging and posts! Please also feel free to share the Celebrate the Spectrum campaign to continue to spread the messaging of World Autism Day with your followers: <https://celebratethespectrum.com/>. I have attached this year's Proclamation and social post that may also help with the day of remarks.

Keep in touch and please let me know if there is anything else you require from me at this time!

All the best,
Janine

Janine O'Brien
Regional Fund and Volunteer Coordinator
Autism Ontario South Region
Serving Hamilton, Niagara, Haldimand, Norfolk & Brant autismontario.com/region/south
7150 Montrose Road, Suite 7 | Niagara Falls, ON | L2H 3N3
T: 1-800-472-7789 ext. 239 | E: janine.obrien@autismontario.com

Celebrate 50 years of autism advocacy with us!

[Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) | [LinkedIn](#)

****Pour les services en français, veuillez envoyer un courriel à melanie@autismontario.com.****

-----Original Message-----

From: Brittany Kok <brittany.kok@autismontario.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 19, 2024 8:09 AM
To: Mark Tardif <MTardif@wainfleet.ca>
Cc: Allyesa Stewart <allyesa@autismontario.com>; Janine O'Brien <janine.obrien@autismontario.com>
Subject: RE: Autism Awareness Day

Hi Mark,

Thanks for reaching out. I'm so glad to hear that you're going to participate again this year! Allyesa is back today so I've looped her in as well as Janine from the South Team. One of them will reach back out to you ASAP to assist you.

Thanks again for your support.

Brittany

-----Original Message-----

From: Mark Tardif <MTardif@wainfleet.ca>
Sent: Monday, March 18, 2024 4:27 PM
To: Brittany Kok <brittany.kok@autismontario.com>
Subject: RE: Autism Awareness Day

Good Afternoon

I reached out to Allyesa from the Niagara Chapter however I got an out of office reply. I was just wondering if there is anything new I should be aware of for this year's event on April 2

We still do the flag raising here, is there a specific time that it should be? I was thinking of 10am.

Regards,

Mark Tardif, C.P.S.O, MLEO (C)
Senior By-law / Property Standards Officer Septic Inspector Township Of Wainfleet
31940 Hwy 3, P.O. Box 40
Wainfleet, On L0S 1V0
905-899-3463 Ext 247
MTardif@wainfleet.ca

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-----Original Message-----

From: Brittany Kok [mailto:brittany.kok@autismontario.com]
Sent: March 21, 2023 9:51 AM
To: Mark Tardif <MTardif@wainfleet.ca>
Cc: Allyesa Stewart <allyesa@autismontario.com>

Subject: RE: Autism Awareness Day

Hi Mark,

Thanks for reaching out, amazing to hear you've been participating since 2018! We are doing Celebrate the Spectrum again this year, we have just launched some new toolkits with updated activities and videos that can be found here: <https://celebratethespectrum.com/>.

We will be running a Share Your Strengths Contest in April as well, details will be posted on the website and social media.

Thanks,

Brittany Kok (she/her)
Regions & Volunteer Manager
Autism Ontario
autismontario.com 1179 King Street West, Suite 004 | Toronto, ON | M6K 3C5
T: 1-800-472-7789 ext. 245 | E: brittany.kok@autismontario.com

[Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) | [LinkedIn](#)

-----Original Message-----

From: Allyesa Stewart <allyesa@autismontario.com>
Sent: Monday, March 20, 2023 10:25 PM
To: Brittany Kok <brittany.kok@autismontario.com>
Subject: FW: Autism Awareness Day

Hi Brittany,

Please see below for a celebrate the Spectrum question!

Allyesa Stewart (she/her)
Regional Program & Volunteer Coordinator Autism Ontario South Region Serving Hamilton, Niagara, Haldimand, Norfolk & Brant autismontario.com/region/south
7150 Montrose Road, Suite 7 | Niagara Falls, ON | L2H 3N3
T: 1-800-472-7789 ext. 267 | E: allyesa@autismontario.com **Pour les services en Français, veuillez envoyer un courriel á melanie@autismontario.com**

[Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) | [LinkedIn](#)

-----Original Message-----

From: Mark Tardif <>
Sent: Monday, March 20, 2023 9:48 AM
To: Allyesa Stewart <allyesa@autismontario.com>
Subject: Re: Autism Awareness Day

Good Morning Allyesa

Are there any events for Autism Awareness Day?

My daughter (who is on the spectrum) and I have been participating since around 2018, in the past municipalities raised the flag, during covid we did a flag raising at our house and last year was celebrate the spectrum, which we did as a family and the Township also participated, is there anything this year?

Looking forward to hearing back from you

Regards

Mark Tardif, C.P.S.O
By-law / Property Standards Officer
Septic Inspector
Township Of Wainfleet
31940 Hwy 3, P.O. Box 40
Wainfleet, On L0S 1V0
905-899-3463 Ext 247
MTardif@wainfleet.ca

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(Mayor name or designate) of the city of (city name) do hereby proclaim
April 2 as World Autism Day

- WHEREAS:** World Autism Day will be recognized on April 2, 2024, in Canada thanks to Senator Jim Munson’s Bill S-206, *An Act Respecting World Autism Awareness Day*; and
- WHEREAS:** Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) affects more than 135,000 Ontarians. Autism Spectrum Disorder is a neurodevelopmental disorder affecting 1 in every 66 Canadian children, as well as their friends, family, and community; and approximately 1 - 2% of the Canadian population is on the autism spectrum.
- WHEREAS:** ASD is a spectrum disorder, which means it not only manifests itself differently in every individual in whom it appears, but its characteristics will change over the life of each person as well. A child on the autism spectrum will become an adult on the autism spectrum; and
- WHEREAS:** Autism Ontario is the leading source of information and referral on autism and one of the largest collective voices representing the autism community. Since 1973, Autism Ontario has been providing support, information, and opportunities for thousands of families and individuals across the province.
- WHEREAS:** Autism Ontario is dedicated to increasing public awareness about autism and the day-to-day issues faced by individuals with autism, their families, and the professionals with whom they interact. The association and its Regions share common goals of providing information and education, supporting research, and advocating for programs and services for the autism community; and
- THEREFORE:** I (Mayor Name or Designate), do hereby declare April 2 as World Autism Day.

Dated at (municipality), Ontario this 2nd day of April, 2024.

(Nom du maire ou de son représentant désigné) de la ville
de (nom de la ville), proclame, par la présente,
Le 2 avril Journée mondiale de l'autisme



- ATTENDU :** Que la Journée mondiale de l'autisme sera reconnue officiellement au Canada, le 2 avril 2024, grâce au sénateur Jim Munson qui a présenté et fait adopter le projet de loi S-206 instituant la *Loi sur la Journée mondiale de sensibilisation à l'autisme*; et
- ATTENDU :** Que le trouble du spectre de l'autisme affecte plus de 135 000 personnes en Ontario. Le trouble du spectre de l'autisme est un trouble neurodéveloppemental qui touche un enfant canadien sur 66 ainsi que leurs amis, leurs familles et la collectivité; environ 1 à 2 % de la population canadienne est aux prises avec le trouble du spectre de l'autisme.
- ATTENDU :** Que le trouble du spectre de l'autisme (TSA) se manifeste différemment chez chaque personne qu'il touche et que ses caractéristiques se modifieront tout au long de la vie de chacun. Autrement dit, un enfant autiste deviendra un adulte autiste.
- ATTENDU :** Qu'Autisme Ontario est la principale source d'information et de référence sur l'autisme et l'une des plus importantes voix collectives qui représentent la communauté autiste. Que, depuis 1973, Autisme Ontario fournit un soutien, de l'information et des possibilités à exploiter à des milliers de familles, dans l'ensemble de la province;
- ATTENDU :** Qu'Autisme Ontario ne ménage aucun effort pour sensibiliser le public à l'autisme et aux difficultés quotidiennes auxquelles sont confrontés les personnes autistes elles-mêmes, leurs familles et les professionnels qui interviennent auprès d'elles. Que l'association et ses régions partagent des buts communs d'information et d'éducation, de soutien à la recherche et de revendication de programmes et de services pour la communauté de l'autisme; et
- POUR CES MOTIFS :** Je, (maire de la ville ou son remplaçant désigné), déclare, par la présente, que le 2 avril devient Journée mondiale de l'autisme.

Fait à (nom de la municipalité), Ontario, ce 2e jour d'avril 2024.

Administration

Office of the Regional Clerk

1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way, PO Box 1042, Thorold, ON L2V 4T7

Telephone: 905-980-6000 Toll-free: 1-800-263-7215 Fax: 905-687-4977

www.niagararegion.ca

March 22, 2024

CL 4-2024, March 21, 2024

CSC 3-2024, March 6, 2024

CSC-C 4-2024 REVISED, March 6, 2024

DISTRIBUTION LIST

Received March 22, 2024
C-2024-122

SENT ELECTRONICALLY

Motion – New Funding Model Resolution

CSC-C 4-2024 REVISED

Regional Council, at its meeting held on March 21, 2024, passed the following recommendation of its Corporate Services Committee:

That the Province of Ontario **BE REQUESTED** to commit to undertaking, with the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, a comprehensive social and economic prosperity review to promote the stability and sustainability of municipal finances across Ontario; and

That a copy of this motion **BE SENT** to all local area municipalities in Niagara to be endorsed, the Premier of Ontario, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing; Minister of Finance, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, local MPs and MPPs.

A copy of CSC-C 4-2024 REVISED is enclosed for your reference.

Yours truly,



Ann-Marie Norio

Regional Clerk

:ab

CLK-C 2024-029

cc: H. Furtado, Director, Financial Management and Planning/ Deputy Treasurer
Todd Harrison, Commissioner/ Treasurer, Corporate Services
Kathy Beach, Executive Assistant to the Commissioner, Corporate Services

Distribution List:

Local Area Municipalities
Premier of Ontario
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Minister of Finance
Association of Municipalities of Ontario
Local MPs and MPPs

NEW FUNDING MODEL RESOLUTION

WHEREAS current provincial-municipal fiscal arrangements are undermining Ontario's economic prosperity and quality of life for residents of Niagara;

WHEREAS nearly a third of municipal spending in Ontario is for services in areas of provincial responsibility and expenditures are outpacing provincial contributions by nearly \$4 billion a year;

WHEREAS municipal revenues, such as property taxes, do not grow with the economy or inflation;

WHEREAS unprecedented population and housing growth will require significant investments in municipal infrastructure with some municipalities in Niagara growing by 26% in a 5-year period;

WHEREAS Niagara is home to several post-secondary institutions with significant growth putting additional pressure on municipal infrastructure and services such as public transportation, roads, and sidewalks which are required to service these post-secondary institutions and The Head per Bed Levy has remained unchanged since 1987 and had the Head Per Bed rate been indexed it would be \$158 per head today;

WHEREAS municipalities are being asked to take on complex health and social challenges – like people who are unhoused, supporting asylum seekers and addressing the mental health and addictions crises;

WHEREAS inflation, rising interest rates, and provincial policy decisions are sharply constraining municipal fiscal capacity;

WHEREAS property taxpayers – including people on fixed incomes and small businesses – can't afford to subsidize income re-distribution program;

WHEREAS childcare continues to be a barrier for families who work and live in Niagara. Residents require a childcare plan that does not increase municipal costs which could result in reductions of services to families who rely on childcare while restoring the provincial contribution for administrative costs-sharing for childcare, removing the 5% cap as well as fully funding the expansion of new spaces with provincial dollars;

WHEREAS the province can, and should, invest more in the prosperity of communities;
and

WHEREAS municipalities and the provincial government have a strong history of collaboration to serve the best interest of residents.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That the Province of Ontario **BE REQUESTED** to commit to undertaking, with the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, a comprehensive social and economic prosperity review to promote the stability and sustainability of municipal finances across Ontario; and
2. That a copy of this motion **BE SENT** to all local area municipalities in Niagara to be endorsed and to the Premier of Ontario; Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing; the Minister of Finance; and to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario as well as local MPP's Jennie Stevens, Wayne Gates, Jeff Burch and Sam Oosterhoff, MP's Chris Bittle, Tony Baldinelli, Dean Allison and Vance Badawey.

TOWNSHIP OF MCMURRICH/MONTEITH

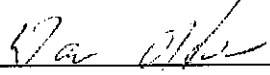
Resolution

Number: 2024-15

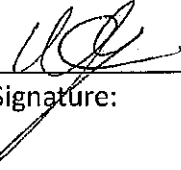
January 16, 2024

Moved by: Currie, Terry
 Dyson, Wesley
 O'Halloran, Daniel
 Roeder-Martin, Vicky
 Robinson, Glynn

Seconded by: Currie, Terry
 Dyson, Wesley
 O'Halloran, Daniel
 Roeder-Martin, Vicky
 Robinson, Glynn

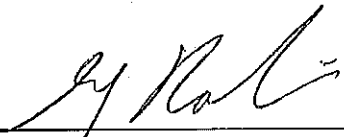


 Signature:



 Signature:

Be It Resolved that Council receives correspondence from the Township of Clearview dated December 12, 2023 including Staff Report LS-032-2023 regarding cemeteries and that we send a resolution of support for their correspondences to Bereavement Authority of Ontario (BAO), Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery and MPP Graydon Smith.

Mayor 

Carried Defeated

Declaration of Pecuniary Interest by: _____

Recorded vote requested by: _____

Recorded Vote:	Yays	Nays
Currie	_____	_____
Dyson	_____	_____
O'Halloran	_____	_____
Roeder-Martin	_____	_____
Robinson	_____	_____



CLEARVIEW
TOWNSHIP

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

December 12, 2023

File: C00.2023

Hon. Todd McCarthy
Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery
777 Bay Street, 5th Floor
Toronto ON M5B 2H7

*Jan 16
2024
10.9*

Sent by Email

RE: Cemetery Transfer/Abandonment Administration & Management Support

Please be advised that Council of the Township of Clearview, at its meeting held on December 11, 2023, passed a resolution regarding Cemetery Transfer/Abandonment Administration & Management Support as follows:

Moved by Councillor Walker, Seconded by Councillor Broderick, Whereas under the Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act, 2002 (FBCSA), when a cemetery is declared abandoned by a judge of the Superior Court Justice, the local municipality within whose geographic boundaries the land of the cemetery is located, becomes the owner of the cemetery with all the rights and obligations in respect of the cemetery and the assets, trust funds and trust accounts related to it that the previous owner or operator possessed;

And Whereas over the last decade, there has been an increase in the number of churches and local cemetery boards initiating processes to transfer ownership or abandon their owned and operated cemeteries to the local municipality due to such issues as high maintenance costs, inaccuracy of records, lack of financial and human resources to effectively operate and maintain the cemetery, increased regulatory processes regarding training, selling of interment rights, financial operation of the care and maintenance fund, etc.;

And Whereas municipalities experience the same issues and pressures that churches and local boards experience with the operation and maintenance of cemeteries within its jurisdiction, and additional transfers of cemetery lands only compound the burden on municipal taxpayers;

And Whereas cemeteries are important infrastructure where the reasonable costs for interment rights, burials, monument foundations, corner stones and administration charges do not sufficiently support the general operation of cemeteries;

And Whereas the interest earned from the care and maintenance fund(s) of a cemetery do not provide adequate funding to maintain the cemetery with the rising costs of lawn and turf maintenance contracts and monument restoration;

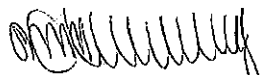
Now Therefore Be It Resolved that Council of the Township of Clearview requests that the Province through the Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery and the Bereavement Authority of Ontario (BAO) consider the following to assist municipalities in this growing concern of cemetery transfers:

- Amend the Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act, 2002 (FBCSA), to have the Province, through the BAO, identified as the default owner and operator of a cemetery when it is abandoned;
- Provide annual funding (based on the number of cemeteries a municipality owns and operates) to municipalities to assist with the maintenance of inactive and active cemeteries; Page 6 of 7
- Provide free training opportunities for municipalities regarding cemetery administration; and,
- Investigate and support the design of universal cemetery software for use by municipal cemetery operators that can be offered at an affordable cost.

And that this resolution be circulated to the Hon. Todd McCarthy, Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery, Jim Cassimatis, BAO Interim CEO/Registrar, MPP Brian Saunderson and all Ontario municipalities. Motion Carried.

For reference, please find attached the Staff Report LS-032-2023 that provides background for the above resolution. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Regards,



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

cc: Jim Cassimatis, BAO Interim CEO/Registrar
MPP Simcoe Grey, Brian Saunderson
Ontario Municipalities



CLEARVIEW

Staff Report

To: Mayor and Council

From: Sasha Helmkey, Clerk/Director of Legislative Services

Date: December 11, 2023

Subject: Report # LS-032-2023 – Cemetery Transfer/Abandonment Administration & Management Support

Recommendation

Be It Resolved that Council of the Township of Clearview hereby receives Report LS-032-2023 (Cemetery Transfer/Abandonment Administration & Management Support) dated December 11, 2023; and,

Whereas under the Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act, 2002 (FBCSA), when a cemetery is declared abandoned by a judge of the Superior Court Justice, the local municipality within whose geographic boundaries the land of the cemetery is located, becomes the owner of the cemetery with all the rights and obligations in respect of the cemetery and the assets, trust funds and trust accounts related to it that the previous owner or operator possessed;

And Whereas over the last decade, there has been an increase in the number of churches and local cemetery boards initiating processes to transfer ownership or abandon their owned and operated cemeteries to the local municipality due to such issues as high maintenance costs, inaccuracy of records, lack of financial and human resources to effectively operate and maintain the cemetery, increased regulatory processes regarding training, selling of interment rights, financial operation of the care and maintenance fund, etc.;

And Whereas municipalities experience the same issues and pressures that churches and local boards experience with the operation and maintenance of cemeteries within its jurisdiction, and additional transfers of cemetery lands only compound the burden on municipal taxpayers;

And Whereas cemeteries are important infrastructure where the reasonable costs for interment rights, burials, monument foundations, corner stones and administration charges do not sufficiently support the general operation of cemeteries;

And Whereas the interest earned from the care and maintenance fund(s) of a cemetery do not provide adequate funding to maintain the cemetery with the rising costs of lawn and turf maintenance contracts and monument restoration;

Now Therefore Be It Resolved that Council of the Township of Clearview requests that the Province through the Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery and the Bereavement Authority of Ontario (BAO) consider the following to assist municipalities in this growing concern of cemetery transfers:

- Amend the Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act, 2002 (FBCSA), to have the Province, through the BAO, identified as the default owner and operator of a cemetery when it is abandoned;
- Provide annual funding (based on the number of cemeteries a municipality owns and operates) to municipalities to assist with the maintenance of inactive and active cemeteries;
- Provide free training opportunities for municipalities regarding cemetery administration; and,
- Investigate and support the design of universal cemetery software for use by municipal cemetery operators that can be offered at an affordable cost.

And that this resolution be circulated to the Hon. Todd McCarthy, Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery, Jim Cassimatis, BAO Interim CEO/Registrar, MPP Brian Saunderson and all Ontario municipalities.

Background

Under the Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act, 2002 (FBCSA), when a cemetery is declared abandoned by a judge of the Superior Court Justice, the local municipality within whose geographic boundaries the land of the cemetery is located, becomes the owner of the cemetery with all the rights and obligations in respect of the cemetery and the assets, trust funds and trust accounts related to it that the previous owner or operator possessed.

Over the last decade there appears to be a trend where cemeteries in Ontario are being transferred, whether through abandonment or a mutually agreed upon transfer, to the care and control of municipalities. This is often seen when there is a breakdown in existing cemetery boards and/or when churches cease operations. For many existing private cemetery boards their board members and volunteers are aging and are unable to assist with the operations and maintenance of the cemetery any longer. Finding new members proves to be difficult for these boards to continue. In addition to aging board members, there are other issues that are contributing to the increase in cemetery transfers:

- high maintenance costs
- inaccuracy of records
- lack of financial and human resources to effectively operate and maintain the cemetery

- increased regulatory processes that require ongoing training for selling of interment rights, and the financial operation of the care and maintenance fund, etc.

Township Owned Cemeteries

The Township of Clearview currently owns and operates nine (9) cemeteries within its geographic boundaries. Out of these nine cemeteries, four (4) are considered active meaning that there are still interment rights to be sold, or burials to take place. Below is a chart outlining these cemeteries and their status:

Cemetery Name	Address	Status
Batteau Hill Cemetery	2670 County Road 124, Duntroon	Inactive
Bethel Union Cemetery	2249 Creemore Avenue, New Lowell	Inactive
Dunedin Union Cemetery	9 Turkeyroost Lane, Dunedin	Active
Duntroon Pioneer Cemetery	2870 County Road 124, Duntroon	Inactive
Lavender Cemetery	827103 Mulmur/Nottawasaga Townline, Creemore	Active
Old Zion Presbyterian Church Cemetery	6130 Highway 26, Sunnidale Corners	Inactive
Second Line Nottawasaga Cemetery	2279 County Road 42, Stayner	Active
Stayner Union Cemetery	7661 Highway 26, Stayner	Active
Zion Presbyterian Church Cemetery	12358 County Road 10, Sunnidale Corners	Inactive

For the Dunedin and Stayner Union Cemetery, the Township looks after the maintenance and burials through a third-party contractor. The maintenance and burials for the Lavender Cemetery are conducted through the Board. For the Second Line Nottawasaga Cemetery all the interment rights have been sold, but there remains one burial to be completed. The cost to maintain an active cemetery is expensive. Although burial costs and the installation of markers, etc. are cost recovery through the purchaser, grounds maintenance is not.

Inactive cemeteries still require consistent grounds maintenance, which includes any monument restoration for health and safety, and record searches for the public register.

Comments and Analysis

When analyzing the number of cemeteries that Clearview Township currently owns and operates, maintenance and administration is a large undertaking. To add any additional cemeteries by way of transfer or abandonment will only compound the issues the Township is already facing. In the past year, the Township has been approached by two separate entities regarding possible cemetery transfers. When a board or cemetery transfers ownership to the municipality, the issues are transferred with it. Municipalities are not immune to the same concerns. It becomes a strain on municipal resources, financially, administratively, and operationally.

Administrative Impact

From an administrative perspective the management of four active cemeteries is both time consuming and complex. No interment is the same, and providing good customer service takes time especially for those making arrangements while also dealing with grief. Administrative tasks include but are not limited to: interment right sales and mapping, burial contracts and scheduling, monument placement, historical record searches, plot and monument staking, fees and charges review, family transfers of interment rights and annual reporting to the Bereavement Authority of Ontario (BAO).

- **Incomplete records**

Often the records accepted by the Township from a dissolved cemetery board or church are incomplete and disorganized. This is no fault of the previous board members, as they are also often operating with limited resources. However, it does make it difficult to manage the cemetery post-transfer when records are sparse. Understanding which plots are occupied and by who is critical to the sound management of a cemetery. Unfortunately, this is not made possible in all cases because of incomplete records. In addition, records received during a transfer usually are maintained under different records management standards and are often organized and named inconsistently. Adaptation to Township records keeping practices takes time.

- **Lack of human resources**

Cemetery management is a highly regulated professional field, with the responsibility of which is often placed on public sector employees who may have limited knowledge of cemeteries in general. With reduced resources within municipalities especially rural ones, the management of cemeteries often becomes a secondary responsibility to another position. There is also a lack of affordable training available for municipal employees who are required to abide by regulations set out by the FBCSA and the BAO.

- Increased regulatory processes

Annual reporting requirements of the BAO can be extensive and complex. This includes monitoring the number of interments, the transfers to the Care and Maintenance Fund (C&M), and how the C&M fund can be used. There are also regulations pertaining to maintaining a public register, how sales are to be conducted and strict guidelines on Cemetery By-law approvals, and expansions including the erection of columbaria structures.

- Inconsistent cemetery regulations

Cemeteries can have many different regulations related to plot size, number of burials allowed in a given plot, monument size, what types of flowers/shrubs are allowed to be installed near a headstone etc. The transfer of different cemeteries having inconsistent regulations can make it difficult to adapt management practices in order to maintain original cemetery operational standards.

Operational Impact

Similarly, from an operational perspective the grounds maintenance of cemeteries, whether active or inactive, is both time consuming and complex. A key issue when analyzing the maintenance component of cemetery management is the lack of financial resources to support the operation. Cemetery maintenance includes, but is not limited to: grass cutting (whipper snipping around monuments), tree and shrub maintenance, monument and corner stone maintenance, water pipe and washroom monitoring, and general upkeep of cemetery grounds (removal of debris, etc.).

- High maintenance costs

As with many services, there are rising costs to contend with. Municipalities have adopted different models to address the maintenance of such, with third party contractors being commonly used or it becomes the responsibility of an internal department such as Parks & Recreation. Regardless the model, the costs have increased significantly over the last decade with equipment purchases/upgrades, insurance requirements for third-party contractors, and the time it takes to cut the grass and whipper snip around monuments. To put it into perspective, the Stayner Union Cemetery with the expansion is 25 acres with monuments to manoeuvre around during ground care. Other considerations for maintenance includes monument restoration and ensuring that they are not deteriorated to the point where they are unsafe. This is important for older cemeteries where restoration hasn't been provided in the past and there are many deteriorating monuments.

- Cost of cemetery management software

Cemetery Management Software can help municipalities manage cemetery records, including plot sale contracts, interment rights certificates, and regulatory reporting.

However, these software solutions are often expensive and require a large amount of staff time to implement especially with incomplete data and records. These software solutions range in price from \$5,000 to \$100,000 with annual maintenance costs. This investment in software can be a large budget request and one that would need to be supported from taxation with the limited funds in cemetery general accounts.

- **Inadequate Care and Maintenance funds**

When the Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act, 2002 (FBCSA) was enacted, it stipulated that a care and maintenance fund for a cemetery shall be established. A cemetery operator is required to make contributions to the fund from the sale of in-ground graves, crypts, tombs, niches, scattering rights and monument installation. The contribution is prescribed under the FBCSA and differs dependant on the interment type. The idea is that the fund (income earned from the fund - interest) pays for maintenance costs after a cemetery has stopped making sales. In reality, this concept does not produce enough funds to maintain a cemetery. Looking at the Stayner Union Cemetery as an example, for the very basics (grass cutting and whipper snipping) the interest from the care and maintenance fund does not provide enough monies to maintain the cemetery for the 7 months it's required. In addition, the care and maintenance fund is also to be utilized for the stabilization, maintenance and security of markers. Cemeteries are not self funding, and maintenance of such is becoming a larger budget concern.

Support Request

Cemetery transfers and abandonments have been an ongoing concern for Clearview Township for many years. When you look at the large geography of the Township there are many cemeteries within the boundaries that have the potential to be transferred. To gauge the concern of other municipalities on this issue, staff addressed it at a Simcoe County Clerks group discussion. Many neighbouring municipalities expressed that they were dealing with the same issues and have also been approached by different external entities on possible transfers.

As result of the discussion, it was agreed that to assist with the real concerns with transfers and abandonments of cemeteries, it's vital that the Province provide assistance to adequately support this infrastructure. Support can be provided in many different forms, with staff making the following recommendations for the Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery and the BAO:

- Amend the Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act, 2002 (FBCSA), to have the Province, through the BAO, identified as the default owner and operator of a cemetery when it is abandoned;

- Provide annual funding (based on the number of cemeteries a municipality owns and operates) to municipalities to assist with the maintenance of inactive and active cemeteries;
- Provide free training opportunities for municipalities regarding cemetery administration; and,
- Investigate and support the design of universal cemetery software for use by municipal cemetery operators that can be offered at an affordable cost.

There is not one solution to solve all the issues, but at the very least it's important to identify the concerns and have open and real discussions at the provincial level on what support can be provided.

Clearview's Strategic Plan

The above initiative supports the following strategic pillars:

- Governance

Financial Implications

It is difficult to identify an exact dollar amount that can be attributed to a cemetery transfer/abandonment to the municipality. Every transfer is different and depends on a multitude of factors beginning with the cemetery status (active/inactive), acreage, care and maintenance fund (if any), maintenance of records, etc. What is being recommended by staff by way of support from the province is not meant to erase the costs entirely, but rather, to alleviate the financial burden in some capacity.

Report Appendices

Not applicable.

Approvals

Submitted by:	Sasha Helmky, B.A., Dipl. M.A., AOMC, Clerk/Director of Legislative Services
Reviewed by:	Krista Pascoe, Deputy Clerk
Financial Implications Reviewed by:	Kelly McDonald, Treasurer
Approved by:	John Ferguson, CAO

March 25, 2024

CL 4-2024, March 21, 2024

CSC 3-2024, March 6, 2024

CSD 7-2024, March 6, 2024

LOCAL AREA MUNICIPALITIES

SENT ELECTRONICALLY

2024 Property Tax Policy, Ratios and Rates

CSD 7-2024

Regional Council, at its meeting held on March 21, 2024, passed the following recommendation of its Corporate Services Committee:

That Report CSD 7-2024, dated March 6, 2024, respecting 2024 Property Tax Policy, Ratios and Rates, **BE RECEIVED** and the following recommendations, **BE APPROVED**:

1. That Regional Council **APPROVE** the following tax ratios and sub-class reductions for the 2024 taxation year:

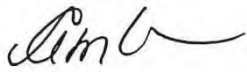
Property Classification	Tax Ratio	Sub-Class Reduction
Residential	1.000000	
New Multi-Residential	1.000000	
Multi-Residential	1.970000	
Commercial	1.734900	
Commercial – Excess Land	1.734900	
Commercial – Vacant Land	1.734900	
Industrial	2.630000	
Industrial – Excess Land	2.630000	
Industrial – Vacant Land	2.630000	
Pipeline	1.702100	
Farmland	0.250000	
Managed Forest	0.250000	
Farmland Awaiting Development 1	1.000000	25.00%
Farmland Awaiting Development 2	Class Ratio	
Landfill Sites	2.940261	

2. That the necessary by-laws **BE PREPARED** and **PRESENTED** to Council for consideration and **BE CIRCULATED** to the Councils of the Area Municipalities for information; and

3. That Report CSD 7-2024 **BE CIRCULATED** to the Councils of the Area Municipalities for information.

Report CSD 7-2024 (report only), By-law No. 2024-18 and By-law No. 2024-19 are enclosed for your reference.

Yours truly,



Ann-Marie Norio

Regional Clerk

:ab

CLK-C 2024-028

cc: H. Furtado, Director, Financial Management and Planning/ Deputy Treasurer
T. Harrison, Commissioner/ Treasurer, Corporate Services
K. Beach, Executive Assistant to the Commissioner/Treasurer, Corporate Services

Subject: 2024 Property Tax Policy, Ratios and Rates

Report to: Corporate Services Committee

Report date: Wednesday, March 6, 2024

Recommendations

1. That Regional Council **APPROVE** the following tax ratios and sub-class reductions for the 2024 taxation year:

Property Classification	Tax Ratio	Sub-Class Reduction
Residential	1.000000	
New Multi-Residential	1.000000	
Multi-Residential	1.970000	
Commercial	1.734900	
Commercial – Excess Land	1.734900	
Commercial – Vacant Land	1.734900	
Industrial	2.630000	
Industrial – Excess Land	2.630000	
Industrial – Vacant Land	2.630000	
Pipeline	1.702100	
Farmland	0.250000	
Managed Forest	0.250000	
Farmland Awaiting Development 1	1.000000	25.00%
Farmland Awaiting Development 2	Class Ratio	
Landfill Sites	2.940261	

2. That the necessary by-laws **BE PREPARED** and **PRESENTED** to Council for consideration and **BE CIRCULATED** to the Councils of the Area Municipalities for information; and
3. That Report CSD 07-2024 **BE CIRCULATED** to the Councils of the Area Municipalities for information.

Key Facts

- The purpose of this report is to set the tax policy for 2024 which includes tax ratios, and other policy considerations which are required to set tax rates. Tax policy accounts for property assessment changes and affects the distribution of actual taxes paid by property owners or classes.
- The recommended tax policy for 2024, supported by Regional staff and Area Treasurers, is to maintain the status quo tax ratio adopted for the 2024 taxation year.
- 2023 represented the last year of the Council approved phase-out schedule of the commercial/industrial vacant/excess land subclass discounts of 7.50%.
- In order for the Area Municipalities to complete final tax billings in June, which includes Regional taxes, the Regional tax rate bylaw need to be established no later than April.
- The analysis in Appendix 1 to Report CSD 07-2024, is based on the actual Region's General Tax Levy for 2023 being \$444 million. The 2024 Budget presentation included \$7.4 million in assessment growth dollars or 1.66% on approved 2023 General Tax Levy. The tax policy decisions also apply to the Special Tax Levies for waste and transit.
- The proposed tax policy and approved Regional General Tax Levy will result in an increase of approximately \$126 for the typical residential property with a current value assessment (CVA) of \$298,000 for an annual Regional property tax of \$1,985.

Financial Considerations

There are no direct costs to the Region as a result of setting 2024 tax policy. There are however, taxpayer impacts as a result of tax shifts between property classes due to assessment growth and tax ratio/discount decisions. Detailed analysis of these impacts are included in the Tax Policy Study attached as Appendix 1 to Report CSD 07-2024.

Analysis

The *Municipal Act, 2001*, provides the Region with the responsibility to establish tax policy to raise levy requirements. Reassessment impacts, assessment growth and Provincial legislation can create tax shifts in burden across all property classes. These factors are outside the control of Niagara Regional Council and the budget process. The only opportunity to affect these is through a thorough analysis of options available for ratios and resulting impacts.

Regional staff engaged the Area Treasurers in the review of the tax study as completed by the Region's external tax consultant as well as discussed potential scenarios for

2024. Based on the feedback provided, both Regional staff and Area Treasurers are recommending to maintain the status quo tax ratio for the 2024 taxation year including the commercial/industrial vacant/excess land subclass discount phase-out from 7.50% to 0%, which results in a shift away from residential taxes and on the other classes of 0.10%, or \$0.3 million.

The following are the key factors that support the recommendation; these are expanded on further in this report:

- Prior to the delay in the reassessment cycle MPAC data indicated larger increases in residential assessment in relation to business classes may result which would result in significant shift of taxes onto the residential classes. While reassessment information is unknown at this time it would be prudent to anticipate the outcome.
- The BMA study demonstrates that all residential taxation categories are above the BMA study average and data provided by the Region's Affordable Housing Strategy Steering Committee indicates that many of the households in core housing need currently reside in single detached homes (included in the residential tax class).
- The Region and local area municipalities offer many incentive programs including tax increment and development charge related grants that reduce the actual tax burden experienced by some business property classes in Niagara.

Analysis of Current State

1. Assessment Growth

The overall real assessment growth that occurred in 2023 for the Region was 1.66%, equivalent to \$7.4 million in General Tax Levy dollars from new taxpayers. The overall assessment growth is net of reduction in assessment due to property assessment appeals.

Table 1 summarizes the overall assessment growth that occurred in 2023 (see Assessment Growth Impacts column) as well as the impacts affecting each of the tax classes based on maintaining the status quo tax ratios and the adjustment to the vacant/excess land subclass discounts from 7.50% to 0% as per the Council approved phase-out schedule (Inter-Class Shift column). Note this phase-out schedule was approved by the Province and has been written into Provincial legislation. Any subsequent changes to the phase-out schedule would require Council to lobby the Province to amend the Ontario regulations 325/01.

The residential increase noted in Table 1 below of 6.92% (which is below the 2024 Regional levy impact of 7.02%) is net of the shift due to the subclass discount reduction (See Appendix 1, Table 6).

Table 1 – 2024 General Tax Levy Impacts by Property Class (Status Quo Policy)

Property Class	2023 Approved General Tax Levy (as revised)	Assessment Growth (AG) Impacts	Inter-class Shift*	2024 General Tax Levy Impacts (net of AG)	2024 Approved General Tax Levy	Avg. General Tax % Increase
Residential	326,174,688	5,485,557	(338,737)	22,895,692	354,217,200	6.92%
New Multi-Res	1,652,208	463,823	(2,161)	146,078	2,259,948	8.71%
Multi-Residential	16,640,413	172,083	(17,159)	1,160,631	17,955,968	6.87%
Farm	3,815,182	139,884	(4,033)	273,035	4,224,068	7.05%
Managed Forest	25,745	(448)	(26)	1,747	27,018	6.68%
Commercial	78,045,275	504,636	206,437	5,442,362	84,198,710	7.24%
Industrial	15,317,343	585,637	158,368	1,109,901	17,171,249	8.28%
Pipelines	2,718,425	17,973	(2,792)	188,903	2,922,509	6.55%
Landfill	57,811	-	(59)	3,991	61,743	6.80%
Total	444,447,090	7,369,145	(162)	31,222,340	483,038,413	7.02%
% Increase		1.66%	0%	7.02%	8.68%	

* Represents a tax shift away from residential of 0.10% as a result of the decrease in vacant/excess land subclass discount from 7.50% to 0% as per Council approved phase-out schedule.

2. Re-Assessment Phase-In and Tax Shift

Reassessments of all properties is mandated by the Province every four years, however, as a result of COVID-19, the 2020 re-assessment has been delayed and the Province has not provided any guidance as to when the next assessment cycle will take place. Therefore, the assessment values for the 2024 tax year will remain the same based on the 2016 valuation date resulting in no tax shift impacts caused by assessment phase-in changes.

Table 2 shows the relative tax share of each tax class from 2023 to 2024. The 2024 amounts are based on the recommended tax policy.

Table 2 – Multi-Year Tax Distribution by Tax Class

Property Class	2023 Year End (As Revised)	% Share	2024 Levy (As Revised)	% Share
Residential	\$326,174,688	73.39%	354,217,200	73.33%
New Multi-Residential	1,652,208	0.37%	2,259,948	0.47%
Multi-Residential	16,640,413	3.74%	17,955,968	3.72%
Farm	3,815,182	0.86%	4,224,068	0.87%
Managed Forest	25,745	0.01%	27,018	0.01%
Commercial	78,045,275	17.56%	84,198,710	17.43%
Industrial	15,317,343	3.45%	17,171,249	3.55%
Pipelines	2,718,425	0.61%	2,922,509	0.61%
Landfill	57,811	0.01%	61,743	0.01%
Total	\$444,447,090	100%	483,038,413	100%

3. Education Rates (no change)

The education tax rates are established by the Province to meet their revenue targets for the year. Typically, the education tax rates decrease from one year to the next as the Provincial policy is to maintain revenue neutrality. In prior years, this Provincial policy has created savings in Niagara which generally assist in offsetting municipal increases. Similar to 2023, the Province has maintained the education tax rates in 2024 for all classes. What this means is that with no changes in property assessment due to reassessment properties will typically pay the same dollars in education taxes as in the prior year.

4. Waste Management Special Levy Rates

Waste management Special Levy tax rates are also set based on the Regional tax ratios. The waste management requisition by municipality was approved through Report CSD 48-2023; however the by-law setting for the waste management special levy tax rates for the 2024 requisitions are brought forward with the 2024 general tax levy by-law as the rates are based on each municipality's assessment and are dependent on the tax ratios (with the exception of Niagara-on-the-Lake). The household impacts reported in the budget will vary based on the tax policy being approved in this report in addition to variations in final assessment growth.

Niagara Transit Commission Special Levy Rates

Similar to Waste Management, Niagara Transit Commission Special Levy tax rates are also set based on the Regional tax ratios. The Transit requisition by municipality was approved through Report NTC 17-2023 and BRC-C 40-2023; however, the by-law setting for transit special levy tax rates for the 2024 requisitions are also brought forward with the 2024 general tax levy by-law as the rates are based on each municipality's assessment and are dependent on the tax ratio. The household impacts reported in the budget will vary based on the tax policy being approved in this report in addition to variations in final assessment growth.

Tax Policy Considerations

The Region considers council priorities, the current environment, as well as utilizing several BMA tax related performance metrics as seen in Appendix 3 of Report CSD 07-2024 to assess policy options.

- Residential taxpayer - The residential class is responsible for 73.33% of the overall tax levy. Under the recommended tax policy, the tax shift away from the residential class will mitigate the overall levy increase on the class from 7.02% to 6.92% (see Table 1). As identified in the most recent BMA study, Niagara's average residential property taxes (including water and wastewater) payable as a percentage of household income is above the BMA study average (2023 - Niagara 5.24% versus BMA average 4.80%). This gap between Niagara and the survey average has increased from 2022 (Niagara 5.33% versus BMA average 5.00%). The benefit of reducing the subclass discount for commercial/industrial vacant/excess lands from 7.50% to 0% will assist with narrowing the gap between Niagara and the BMA average.
- Multi-Residential Tax Class - the multi-residential tax category consists of two property tax classes. The multi-residential class is responsible for 3.72% of the overall tax levy while the new-multi-residential category (which includes multi-residential structures constructed after 2003) is responsible for 0.47%. It is important to note that new construction of purpose-built rental would be in the new multi-residential class, which is taxed at the same rate as residential.

Appendix 3 provides BMA metrics related to two multi-residential structure types (Walk-up and Mid/High-Rise). The walk-up style structure was identified as above the survey average by \$328 and the high-rise structure types are also above the average by \$35 for 2023.

- **Industrial Tax Class** - The relative tax burden averages for standard industrial for the Region is higher than the BMA survey average as provided in Appendix 3 (Niagara is taxing \$2.00/square foot, while the BMA average is \$1.65/square foot). However, this is partially offset by the many incentive programs currently offered by the Region including tax increment and development charge related grants, specifically under the Employment and Brownfield pillars, that reduce the actual tax burden experienced by some industrial properties in Niagara.
- **Commercial Tax Class** - These properties pay the second largest share (after residential) of Regional taxes at 17.43%. Appendix 3 illustrates that Niagara taxation of office buildings and motels are lower than the BMA average (\$3.11 tax/square foot vs. \$3.21 tax/square foot and \$1,223 tax/unit vs. \$1,253 tax/unit respectively) while Niagara’s taxation of shopping centres and hotels (\$4.39 tax/square foot vs. \$3.89 tax/square foot and \$2,054 tax/unit vs. \$1,675 tax/unit respectively) are above the BMA averages. Tax appeals in this class are significant and the property class has benefited from significant reduction due to assessment appeals such that it has generated the lowest assessment growth percentage. The impact of reduced assessment further increases the overall burden experienced by properties in other classes. This property class is also eligible for Employment and Brownfield related tax increment grant programs.

2023 Property Tax Impacts

Table 3 – Regional Tax Increases for Status Quo Policy

Taxation Class	2023 Avg. CVA	2023 Regional Taxes	2024 Avg. CVA	2024 Regional Taxes*	\$ Increase
Residential	\$298,000	\$1,859	\$298,000	\$1,985	\$126
Multi-Residential	\$2,517,300	\$30,913	\$2,517,300	\$33,033	\$2,120
Commercial - Occupied	\$846,692	\$9,157	\$846,692	\$9,784	\$628
Industrial - Occupied	\$1,095,946	\$17,967	\$1,095,946	\$19,200	\$1,232
Farmland	\$411,679	\$642	\$411,679	\$686	\$44

*Based on draft rates utilizing the recommended 2024 tax policy.

Alternatives Reviewed

Regional staff considered alternatives to the recommendations proposed in this report. After engaging with the Area Treasurers and reviewing the tax study and historical Regional tax ratios, it was determined to maintain the status quo tax ratio for the 2024 taxation year.

Relationship to Council Strategic Priorities

This tax policy report is aligned to Effective Region, Delivery of fiscally responsible and sustainable core services.

Other Pertinent Reports

- Bill 2023-95 – 2024 Operating Budget and Tax Levy
- CSD 3-2019 – Vacancy Program Revisions to Ministry of Finance
- CSD 48-2023- Waste Management Services Operating Budget and Requisition
- NTC 17-2023 and BRC-C 40-2023– NTC 2024 Operating Budget Additional Information

Prepared by:

Bobbi Epp
Revenue & Strategy Specialist
Corporate Services

Recommended by:

Todd Harrison, CPA, CMA
Commissioner/Treasurer
Corporate Services

Submitted by:

Ron Tripp, P.Eng.

Chief Administrative Officer

This report was prepared in consultation with Beth Brens, Associate Director, Budget Planning & Strategy, and reviewed by Helen Furtado, Director, Financial Management & Planning.

Appendices

Appendix 1	Niagara Region 2024 Tax Policy Report
Appendix 2	History of Regional Tax Ratios
Appendix 3	Performance Measures
Appendix 4	History of Regional Tax Ratios

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA

BY-LAW NO. 2024-18

A BY-LAW TO SET AND LEVY THE RATE OF
TAXATION FOR REGIONAL GENERAL AND SPECIAL
PURPOSES FOR THE YEAR 2024

WHEREAS the Regional Council of The Regional Municipality of Niagara (hereinafter referred to as "The Regional Corporation") has prepared and adopted a budget including estimates of all sums it required during the year 2024 for the purposes of the Regional Corporation pursuant to Section 289 (1) of the Municipal Act 2001, S.O. 2001, c. 25, as amended (hereinafter referred to as the "Municipal Act");

WHEREAS Regional Council by By-law No. 2023-85 adopted the 2024 Waste Management Budget; and by By-law No. 2023-93 adopted the 2024 Transit Budget; and by By-law No. 2023-95 adopted the 2024 Operating Budget and Tax Levy;

WHEREAS for the purposes of raising the general levy for the Regional Corporation, the Regional Corporation shall pass a by-law directing each Lower-Tier Municipality to levy a separate tax rate, as specified in the by-law, on the assessment in each property class in the Lower-Tier Municipality rate table for the purposes of The Regional Corporation, pursuant to Section 311 (2) of the Municipal Act;

WHEREAS the tax ratios and the tax rate reductions for prescribed property classes for the 2024 taxation year have been set out in By-law No. 2024-19 of The Regional Corporation dated the 21st of March 2024;

WHEREAS The Regional Corporation is responsible for providing Waste Management services pursuant to By-laws 8280-96, 8281-96, 8282-96 and 8283-96;

WHEREAS Regional Council is desirous of imposing a special levy for Waste Management purposes and the sums required by taxation in the year 2024 for the said purposes are to be levied by separate rates by the applicable Area Municipalities as directed by Regional by-law pursuant to Subsection 311 (4) of the Municipal Act;

WHEREAS Regional Council is desirous of imposing a special levy for Transit purposes and the sums required by taxation in the year 2024 for the said purposes are to be levied by separate rates by the applicable Area Municipalities as directed by Regional by-law pursuant to Subsection 311 (4) of the Municipal Act;

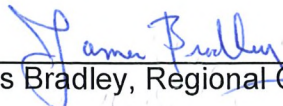
WHEREAS Regional Council established tax rates for property classes, and other decisions consistent with setting and levying rates of taxation for regional purposes for 2024.

NOW THEREFORE the Council of The Regional Municipality of Niagara enacts as follows:

1. That for the year 2024 in The Regional Municipality of Niagara the lower-tier municipalities shall levy upon the property tax classes set out in Schedule "A" the property tax rates applicable thereto.
2. That payment of all amounts directed to be levied pursuant to the provisions of this by-law and due to The Regional Corporation shall be due and payable in the amounts and at the times shown on Schedule "B" attached to this by-law.
3. That for the year 2024 in The Regional Municipality of Niagara, the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake be required to pay \$1,963,233 to the Regional Corporation as the charges for Waste Management purposes set out in Schedule "C". The remaining area municipalities shall levy upon the property tax classes and applicable subclasses the tax rates for Waste Management purposes set out in Schedule "C" attached to this by-law.
4. That payment of all amounts directed to be levied pursuant to the provisions of this bylaw respecting Transit and due to The Regional Corporation shall be due and payable in the amounts and at the times shown on Schedule "D" attached to this by-law.
5. That for the year 2024 in The Regional Municipality of Niagara, the area municipalities shall levy upon the property tax classes and applicable subclasses the tax rates for Transit purposes set out in Schedule "E" attached to this by-law.
6. That if a lower-tier municipality fails to make any payment or portion thereof as provided in this by-law, the lower-tier municipality shall pay to the Regional Corporation interest due on the amount in default at the rate of fifteen (15) per cent per annum from the due date of the payment until the payment is made.

7. That this by-law shall come into force and effect on the day upon which it is passed.

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA



James Bradley, Regional Chair



Ann-Marie Norio, Regional Clerk

Passed: March 21, 2024

Schedule A–2024 TAX RATIOS, SUB-CLASS REDUCTIONS, AND RATES

Property Classification	Tax Ratio	Sub-Class Reduction	Tax Rate by Class
Residential	1.000000	0.0%	0.00666111
New Multi-Residential	1.000000	0.0%	0.00666111
Multi-Residential	1.970000	0.0%	0.01312239
Commercial	1.734900	0.0%	0.01155636
Commercial - Excess	1.734900	0.0%	0.01155636
Commercial - Vacant	1.734900	0.0%	0.01155636
Landfill	2.940261	0.0%	0.01958540
Industrial	2.630000	0.0%	0.01751872
Industrial - Excess	2.630000	0.0%	0.01751872
Industrial - Vacant	2.630000	0.0%	0.01751872
Pipelines	1.702100	0.0%	0.01133788
Farmland	0.250000	0.0%	0.00166528
FAD 1	1.000000	25.0%	0.00499583
FAD 2	Class Ratio	0.0%	Class Ratio
Managed Forests	0.250000	0.0%	0.00166528

Schedule B – 2024 GENERAL TAX LEVY

2024 Upper-Tier General Levy and Dates by Local Municipality (Taxable Levy Only)

Municipality	Interim Payment Due March 6, 2024	Interim Payment Due May 8, 2024	Final Payment Due August 7, 2024	Final Payment Due October 9, 2024	2024 Approved General Levy	Regional Dept.	Niagara Regional Police	Niagara Regional Housing	Niagara Peninsula Conserv Authority	Court Services
Fort Erie	6,959,861	6,959,861	8,496,813	8,496,813	30,913,348	18,108,936	12,061,987	282,382	465,278	(5,235)
Grimsby	8,445,732	8,445,732	9,869,660	9,869,660	36,630,784	21,458,191	14,292,857	334,608	551,331	(6,203)
Lincoln	6,911,590	6,911,590	8,058,220	8,058,220	29,939,620	17,538,529	11,682,052	273,487	450,622	(5,070)
Niagara Falls	23,254,765	23,254,765	27,174,829	27,174,829	100,859,188	59,082,973	39,353,948	921,311	1,518,035	(17,079)
Niagara-on-the-Lake	9,559,325	9,559,325	11,068,611	11,068,611	41,255,872	24,167,552	16,097,506	376,857	620,943	(6,986)
Pelham	4,743,460	4,743,460	5,692,131	5,692,131	20,871,182	12,226,268	8,143,665	190,650	314,133	(3,534)
Port Colborne	3,517,599	3,517,599	4,133,321	4,133,321	15,301,840	8,963,766	5,970,580	139,777	230,308	(2,591)
St. Catharines	28,209,204	28,209,203	32,355,874	32,355,874	121,130,155	70,957,638	47,263,417	1,106,478	1,823,134	(20,512)
Thorold	4,998,433	4,998,433	6,350,039	6,350,039	22,696,944	13,295,794	8,856,053	207,328	341,612	(3,843)
Wainfleet	1,662,599	1,662,599	1,967,985	1,967,985	7,261,168	4,253,568	2,833,214	66,328	109,288	(1,230)
Welland	9,297,393	9,297,393	11,177,596	11,177,596	40,949,978	23,988,360	15,978,150	374,063	616,339	(6,934)
West Lincoln	3,551,812	3,551,812	4,062,355	4,062,355	15,228,334	8,920,707	5,941,899	139,105	229,202	(2,579)
Regional Total Taxable Only	111,111,773	111,111,772	130,407,434	130,407,434	483,038,413	282,962,282	188,475,328	4,412,374	7,270,225	(81,796)

Schedule C – 2024 WASTE MANAGEMENT TAX RATES & LEVY

2024 Upper-Tier Special Levy (Waste Management) and Dates by Local Municipality (Taxable Levy Only)

Municipality	Interim Payment Due March 6, 2024	Interim Payment Due May 8, 2024	Final Payment Due August 7, 2024	Final Payment Due October 9, 2024	2024 Approved Special Levy
Fort Erie	\$856,542	\$856,542	850,933	850,933	3,414,949
Grimsby	\$630,425	\$630,425	618,513	618,512	2,497,875
Lincoln	\$534,804	\$534,804	577,180	577,181	2,223,969
Niagara Falls	\$2,232,108	\$2,232,107	2,174,732	2,174,733	8,813,680
Niagara-on-the-Lake	\$488,057	\$488,057	493,567	493,566	1,963,247
Pelham	\$394,579	\$394,579	399,748	399,748	1,588,654
Port Colborne	\$556,439	\$556,439	540,663	540,663	2,194,204
St. Catharines	\$3,361,269	\$3,361,269	3,350,010	3,350,009	13,422,557
Thorold	\$516,071	\$516,071	572,188	572,187	2,176,517
Wainfleet	\$170,389	\$170,389	163,688	163,689	668,155
Welland	\$1,260,762	\$1,260,762	1,270,148	1,270,1149	5,061,819
West Lincoln	\$290,494	\$290,494	280,574	280,575	1,142,137
Regional Total Taxable Only	11,291,939	11,291,938	11,291,943	11,291,943	45,167,763

Schedule C – 2024 WASTE MANAGEMENT TAX RATES & LEVY

Fort Erie Property Classification	2024 Roll Return CVA	Tax Rate by Class	Waste Management Levy by Class
Residential	3,870,279,233	0.00073584	2,847,917
New Multi-Residential	0	0.00073584	-
Multi-Residential	43,161,796	0.00144960	62,567
Commercial	259,076,705	0.00127661	330,740
Commercial - Excess	5,143,488	0.00127661	6,566
Commercial - Vacant	20,963,200	0.00127661	26,762
Landfill	0	0.00216356	-
Industrial	49,960,854	0.00193526	96,687
Industrial - Excess	981,341	0.00193526	1,899
Industrial - Vacant	4,633,700	0.00193526	8,967
Pipelines	17,389,000	0.00125247	21,779
Farmland	58,959,800	0.00018396	10,846
FAD 1	0	0.00055188	-
Managed Forests	1,190,100	0.00018396	219
Taxable Total	4,331,739,217		3,414,949

Grimsby Property Classification	2024 Roll Return CVA	Tax Rate by Class	Waste Management Levy by Class
Residential	4,624,114,679	0.00045422	2,100,391
New Multi-Residential	0	0.00045422	-
Multi-Residential	27,616,000	0.00089481	24,711
Commercial	334,070,763	0.00078803	263,258
Commercial - Excess	9,973,525	0.00078803	7,859
Commercial - Vacant	16,604,500	0.00078803	13,085
Landfill	0	0.00133553	-
Industrial	51,941,305	0.00119460	62,049
Industrial - Excess	3,617,295	0.00119460	4,321
Industrial - Vacant	4,157,600	0.00119460	4,967
Pipelines	8,287,000	0.00077313	6,407
Farmland	94,763,095	0.00011356	10,761
FAD 1	0	0.00034067	-
Managed Forests	584,800	0.00011356	66
Taxable Total	5,175,730,562		2,497,875

Schedule C – 2024 WASTE MANAGEMENT TAX RATES & LEVY

Lincoln Property Classification	2024 Roll Return CVA	Tax Rate by Class	Waste Management Levy by Class
Residential	3,559,530,667	0.00049480	1,761,250
New Multi-Residential	3,811,500	0.00049480	1,886
Multi-Residential	20,192,200	0.00097476	19,683
Commercial	226,733,342	0.00085843	194,635
Commercial - Excess	8,046,700	0.00085843	6,908
Commercial - Vacant	4,516,500	0.00085843	3,877
Landfill	0	0.00145484	-
Industrial	105,767,058	0.00130132	137,637
Industrial - Excess	2,875,600	0.00130132	3,742
Industrial - Vacant	7,345,000	0.00130132	9,558
Pipelines	21,728,000	0.00084220	18,299
Farmland	536,611,073	0.00012370	66,379
FAD 1	0	0.00037110	-
Managed Forests	926,700	0.00012370	115
Taxable Total	4,498,084,340		2,223,969

Niagara Falls Property Classification	2024 Roll Return CVA	Tax Rate by Class	Waste Management Levy by Class
Residential	9,452,617,426	0.00058209	5,502,229
New Multi-Residential	54,737,900	0.00058209	31,862
Multi-Residential	334,774,189	0.00114672	383,892
Commercial	2,418,254,138	0.00100987	2,442,122
Commercial - Excess	35,777,850	0.00100987	36,131
Commercial - Vacant	128,995,400	0.00100987	130,269
Landfill	3,152,500	0.00171150	5,396
Industrial	110,564,392	0.00153090	169,263
Industrial - Excess	6,296,757	0.00153090	9,640
Industrial - Vacant	28,950,600	0.00153090	44,320
Pipelines	46,591,000	0.00099078	46,161
Farmland	83,474,398	0.00014552	12,147
FAD 1	0	0.00043657	-
Managed Forests	1,707,300	0.00014552	248
Taxable Total	12,705,893,850		8,813,680

Schedule C – 2024 WASTE MANAGEMENT TAX RATES & LEVY

Niagara-on-the-lake Property Classification	2024 Roll Return CVA	Tax Rate by Class	Waste Management Levy by Class
Residential	N/A	N/A	N/A
New Multi-Residential	N/A	N/A	N/A
Multi-Residential	N/A	N/A	N/A
Commercial	N/A	N/A	N/A
Commercial - Excess	N/A	N/A	N/A
Commercial - Vacant	N/A	N/A	N/A
Landfill	N/A	N/A	N/A
Industrial	N/A	N/A	N/A
Industrial - Excess	N/A	N/A	N/A
Industrial - Vacant	N/A	N/A	N/A
Pipelines	N/A	N/A	N/A
Farmland	N/A	N/A	N/A
FAD 1	N/A	N/A	N/A
Managed Forests	N/A	N/A	N/A
Taxable Total			1,963,247

Pelham Property Classification	2024 Roll Return CVA	Tax Rate by Class	Waste Management Levy by Class
Residential	2,803,859,339	0.00050702	1,421,625
New Multi-Residential	966,700	0.00050702	490
Multi-Residential	18,604,000	0.00099883	18,582
Commercial	106,255,150	0.00087963	93,465
Commercial - Excess	674,511	0.00087963	593
Commercial - Vacant	8,200,000	0.00087963	7,213
Landfill	0	0.00149077	-
Industrial	6,442,200	0.00133346	8,590
Industrial - Excess	45,100	0.00133346	60
Industrial - Vacant	101,000	0.00133346	135
Pipelines	17,967,000	0.00086300	15,506
Farmland	173,178,700	0.00012676	21,952
FAD 1	0	0.00038027	-
Managed Forests	3,491,000	0.00012676	443
Taxable Total	3,139,784,700		1,588,654

Schedule C – 2024 WASTE MANAGEMENT TAX RATES & LEVY

Port Colborne Property Classification	2024 Roll Return CVA	Tax Rate by Class	Waste Management Levy by Class
Residential	1,699,662,140	0.00095517	1,623,463
New Multi-Residential	913,000	0.00095517	872
Multi-Residential	39,890,000	0.00188168	75,060
Commercial	140,891,261	0.00165712	233,474
Commercial - Excess	501,900	0.00165712	832
Commercial - Vacant	2,385,400	0.00165712	3,953
Landfill	0	0.00280845	-
Industrial	80,427,390	0.00251210	202,042
Industrial - Excess	2,706,689	0.00251210	6,799
Industrial - Vacant	6,005,400	0.00251210	15,086
Pipelines	10,859,000	0.00162579	17,654
Farmland	57,683,974	0.00023879	13,774
FAD 1	1,359,300	0.00071638	974
Managed Forests	926,100	0.00023879	221
Taxable Total	2,044,211,554		2,194,204

St. Catharines Property Classification	2024 Roll Return CVA	Tax Rate by Class	Waste Management Levy by Class
Residential	12,571,965,833	0.00073812	9,279,700
New Multi-Residential	141,355,620	0.00073812	104,337
Multi-Residential	678,919,668	0.00145410	987,217
Commercial	2,016,852,108	0.00128056	2,582,700
Commercial - Excess	9,195,129	0.00128056	11,775
Commercial - Vacant	22,309,700	0.00128056	28,569
Landfill	0	0.00217027	-
Industrial	158,673,485	0.00194126	308,026
Industrial - Excess	4,500,359	0.00194126	8,736
Industrial - Vacant	21,695,800	0.00194126	42,117
Pipelines	31,393,000	0.00125635	39,441
Farmland	162,242,600	0.00018453	29,939
FAD 1	0	0.00055359	-
Managed Forests	0	0.00018453	-
Taxable Total	15,819,103,302		13,422,557

Schedule C – 2024 WASTE MANAGEMENT TAX RATES & LEVY

Thorold Property Classification	2024 Roll Return CVA	Tax Rate by Class	Waste Management Levy by Class
Residential	2,640,994,960	0.00063876	1,686,982
New Multi-Residential	106,235,800	0.00063876	67,859
Multi-Residential	43,152,800	0.00125836	54,302
Commercial	177,702,596	0.00110818	196,926
Commercial - Excess	2,692,213	0.00110818	2,983
Commercial - Vacant	7,913,200	0.00110818	8,769
Landfill	0	0.00187812	-
Industrial	50,688,966	0.00167994	85,154
Industrial - Excess	3,374,734	0.00167994	5,669
Industrial - Vacant	17,765,100	0.00167994	29,844
Pipelines	27,113,000	0.00108723	29,478
Farmland	53,017,740	0.00015969	8,466
FAD 1	0	0.00047907	-
Managed Forests	531,400	0.00015969	85
Taxable Total	3,131,182,509		2,176,517

Wainfleet Property Classification	2024 Roll Return CVA	Tax Rate by Class	Waste Management Levy by Class
Residential	961,108,525	0.00061294	589,100
New Multi-Residential	0	0.00061294	-
Multi-Residential	457,000	0.00120749	552
Commercial	21,603,605	0.00106339	22,973
Commercial - Excess	929,500	0.00106339	988
Commercial - Vacant	832,500	0.00106339	885
Landfill	0	0.00180220	-
Industrial	8,824,600	0.00161203	14,226
Industrial - Excess	85,300	0.00161203	138
Industrial - Vacant	132,000	0.00161203	213
Pipelines	6,016,000	0.00104329	6,276
Farmland	212,224,215	0.00015324	32,521
FAD 1	0	0.00045971	-
Managed Forests	1,848,789	0.00015324	283
Taxable Total	1,214,062,034		668,155

Schedule C – 2024 WASTE MANAGEMENT TAX RATES & LEVY

Welland Property Classification	2024 Roll Return CVA	Tax Rate by Class	Waste Management Levy by Class
Residential	4,699,985,491	0.00082338	3,869,864
New Multi-Residential	28,213,500	0.00082338	23,230
Multi-Residential	137,789,700	0.00162206	223,503
Commercial	391,327,283	0.00142848	559,003
Commercial - Excess	9,271,728	0.00142848	13,244
Commercial - Vacant	21,418,600	0.00142848	30,596
Landfill	0	0.00242095	-
Industrial	131,644,043	0.00216549	285,074
Industrial - Excess	3,570,500	0.00216549	7,732
Industrial - Vacant	6,345,500	0.00216549	13,741
Pipelines	22,108,000	0.00140148	30,984
Farmland	22,417,900	0.00020585	4,615
FAD 1	0	0.00061754	-
Managed Forests	1,134,200	0.00020585	233
Taxable Total	5,475,226,445		5,061,819

West Lincoln Property Classification	2024 Roll Return CVA	Tax Rate by Class	Waste Management Levy by Class
Residential	1,848,487,509	0.00049959	923,480
New Multi-Residential	0	0.00049959	-
Multi-Residential	7,043,000	0.00098419	6,932
Commercial	79,198,299	0.00086674	68,644
Commercial - Excess	1,157,900	0.00086674	1,004
Commercial - Vacant	2,967,300	0.00086674	2,572
Landfill	0	0.00146892	-
Industrial	38,335,500	0.00131392	50,370
Industrial - Excess	387,300	0.00131392	509
Industrial - Vacant	1,032,000	0.00131392	1,356
Pipelines	29,179,000	0.00085035	24,812
Farmland	497,581,032	0.00012490	62,148
FAD 1	0	0.00037469	-
Managed Forests	2,481,900	0.00012490	310
Taxable Total	2,507,850,740		1,142,137

Schedule D – 2024 TRANSIT TAX RATES & LEVY

2024 Upper-Tier Special Levy (Transit) and Dates by Local Municipality (Taxable Levy Only)

Municipality	Interim Payment Due March 6, 2024	Interim Payment Due May 8, 2024	Final Payment Due August 7, 2024	Final Payment Due October 9, 2024	2024 Approved Special Levy
Fort Erie	\$718,972	\$718,972	889,164	889,163	3,216,271
Grimsby	\$419,950	\$419,950	589,023	589,022	2,017,945
Lincoln	\$356,865	\$356,865	428,338	428,338	1,570,406
Niagara Falls	\$3,640,497	\$3,640,497	4,157,089	4,157,089	15,595,172
Niagara-on-the-Lake	\$646,247	\$646,247	761,359	761,359	2,815,212
Pelham	\$279,630	\$279,630	193,639	193,638	946,537
Port Colborne	\$234,510	\$234,510	275,027	275,028	1,019,075
St. Catharines	\$5,442,724	\$5,442,724	5,068,239	5,068,239	21,021,926
Thorold	\$443,855	\$443,855	558,448	558,448	2,004,606
Wainfleet	\$62,349	\$62,349	65,989	65,990	256,677
Welland	\$1,762,220	\$1,762,220	1,349,636	1,349,636	6,223,712
West Lincoln	\$132,530	\$132,530	141,639	141,639	548,338
Regional Total Taxable Only	14,140,349	14,140,349	14,477,590	14,477,589	57,235,877

Schedule E – 2024 TRANSIT TAX RATES & LEVY

Fort Erie Property Classification	2024 Roll Return CVA	Tax Rate by Class	Transit Levy by Class
Residential	3,870,279,233	0.00069303	2,682,226
New Multi-Residential	0	0.00069303	-
Multi-Residential	43,161,796	0.00136527	58,928
Commercial	259,076,705	0.00120234	311,498
Commercial - Excess	5,143,488	0.00120234	6,184
Commercial - Vacant	20,963,200	0.00120234	25,205
Landfill	0	0.00203769	-
Industrial	49,960,854	0.00182267	91,062
Industrial - Excess	981,341	0.00182267	1,789
Industrial - Vacant	4,633,700	0.00182267	8,446
Pipelines	17,389,000	0.00117961	20,512
Farmland	58,959,800	0.00017326	10,215
FAD 1	0	0.00051977	-
Managed Forests	1,190,100	0.00017326	206
Taxable Total	4,331,739,217		3,216,271

Grimsby Property Classification	2024 Roll Return CVA	Tax Rate by Class	Transit Levy by Class
Residential	4,624,114,679	0.00036695	1,696,831
New Multi-Residential	0	0.00036695	-
Multi-Residential	27,616,000	0.00072289	19,963
Commercial	334,070,763	0.00063662	212,676
Commercial - Excess	9,973,525	0.00063662	6,349
Commercial - Vacant	16,604,500	0.00063662	10,571
Landfill	0	0.00107893	-
Industrial	51,941,305	0.00096508	50,128
Industrial - Excess	3,617,295	0.00096508	3,491
Industrial - Vacant	4,157,600	0.00096508	4,012
Pipelines	8,287,000	0.00062459	5,176
Farmland	94,763,095	0.00009174	8,694
FAD 1	0	0.00027521	-
Managed Forests	584,800	0.00009174	54
Taxable Total	5,175,730,562		2,017,945

Schedule E – 2024 TRANSIT TAX RATES & LEVY

Lincoln Property Classification	2024 Roll Return CVA	Tax Rate by Class	Transit Levy by Class
Residential	3,559,530,667	0.00034939	1,243,667
New Multi-Residential	3,811,500	0.00034939	1,332
Multi-Residential	20,192,200	0.00068830	13,898
Commercial	226,733,342	0.00060616	137,437
Commercial - Excess	8,046,700	0.00060616	4,878
Commercial - Vacant	4,516,500	0.00060616	2,738
Landfill	0	0.00102730	-
Industrial	105,767,058	0.00091890	97,189
Industrial - Excess	2,875,600	0.00091890	2,642
Industrial - Vacant	7,345,000	0.00091890	6,749
Pipelines	21,728,000	0.00059470	12,922
Farmland	536,611,073	0.00008735	46,873
FAD 1	0	0.00026204	-
Managed Forests	926,700	0.00008735	81
Taxable Total	4,498,084,340		1,570,406

Niagara Falls Property Classification	2024 Roll Return CVA	Tax Rate by Class	Transit Levy by Class
Residential	9,452,617,426	0.00102996	9,735,837
New Multi-Residential	54,737,900	0.00102996	56,378
Multi-Residential	334,774,189	0.00202902	679,264
Commercial	2,418,254,138	0.00178688	4,321,130
Commercial - Excess	35,777,850	0.00178688	63,931
Commercial - Vacant	128,995,400	0.00178688	230,499
Landfill	3,152,500	0.00302835	9,547
Industrial	110,564,392	0.00270879	299,496
Industrial - Excess	6,296,757	0.00270879	17,057
Industrial - Vacant	28,950,600	0.00270879	78,421
Pipelines	46,591,000	0.00175309	81,678
Farmland	83,474,398	0.00025749	21,494
FAD 1	0	0.00077247	-
Managed Forests	1,707,300	0.00025749	440
Taxable Total	12,705,893,850		15,595,172

Schedule E – 2024 TRANSIT TAX RATES & LEVY

Niagara-on-the-lake Property Classification	2024 Roll Return CVA	Tax Rate by Class	Transit Levy by Class
Residential	4,443,315,978	0.00045454	2,019,662
New Multi-Residential	3,041,000	0.00045454	1,382
Multi-Residential	16,745,500	0.00089544	14,995
Commercial	760,457,432	0.00078858	599,682
Commercial - Excess	15,324,278	0.00078858	12,084
Commercial - Vacant	17,702,000	0.00078858	13,959
Landfill	0	0.00133647	-
Industrial	44,828,100	0.00119544	53,589
Industrial - Excess	192,700	0.00119544	230
Industrial - Vacant	15,270,500	0.00119544	18,255
Pipelines	19,135,000	0.00077367	14,804
Farmland	584,396,423	0.00011364	66,411
FAD 1	0	0.00034091	-
Managed Forests	1,402,100	0.00011364	159
Taxable Total	5,921,811,011		2,815,212

Pelham Property Classification	2024 Roll Return CVA	Tax Rate by Class	Transit Levy by Class
Residential	2,803,859,339	0.00030209	847,019
New Multi-Residential	966,700	0.00030209	292
Multi-Residential	18,604,000	0.00059512	11,072
Commercial	106,255,150	0.00052410	55,688
Commercial - Excess	674,511	0.00052410	354
Commercial - Vacant	8,200,000	0.00052410	4,298
Landfill	0	0.00088822	-
Industrial	6,442,200	0.00079450	5,118
Industrial - Excess	45,100	0.00079450	36
Industrial - Vacant	101,000	0.00079450	80
Pipelines	17,967,000	0.00051419	9,238
Farmland	173,178,700	0.00007552	13,078
FAD 1	0	0.00022657	-
Managed Forests	3,491,000	0.00007552	264
Taxable Total	3,139,784,700		946,537

Schedule E – 2024 TRANSIT TAX RATES & LEVY

Port Colborne Property Classification	2024 Roll Return CVA	Tax Rate by Class	Transit Levy by Class
Residential	1,699,662,140	0.00044362	753,997
New Multi-Residential	913,000	0.00044362	405
Multi-Residential	39,890,000	0.00087393	34,861
Commercial	140,891,261	0.00076964	108,436
Commercial - Excess	501,900	0.00076964	386
Commercial - Vacant	2,385,400	0.00076964	1,836
Landfill	0	0.00130436	-
Industrial	80,427,390	0.00116672	93,836
Industrial - Excess	2,706,689	0.00116672	3,158
Industrial - Vacant	6,005,400	0.00116672	7,007
Pipelines	10,859,000	0.00075509	8,200
Farmland	57,683,974	0.00011091	6,398
FAD 1	1,359,300	0.00033272	452
Managed Forests	926,100	0.00011091	103
Taxable Total	2,044,211,554		1,019,075

St. Catharines Property Classification	2024 Roll Return CVA	Tax Rate by Class	Transit Levy by Class
Residential	12,571,965,833	0.00115602	14,533,502
New Multi-Residential	141,355,620	0.00115602	163,410
Multi-Residential	678,919,668	0.00227736	1,546,144
Commercial	2,016,852,108	0.00200558	4,044,958
Commercial - Excess	9,195,129	0.00200558	18,442
Commercial - Vacant	22,309,700	0.00200558	44,744
Landfill	0	0.00339900	-
Industrial	158,673,485	0.00304033	482,420
Industrial - Excess	4,500,359	0.00304033	13,683
Industrial - Vacant	21,695,800	0.00304033	65,962
Pipelines	31,393,000	0.00196766	61,771
Farmland	162,242,600	0.00028901	46,890
FAD 1	0	0.00086702	-
Managed Forests	0	0.00028901	-
Taxable Total	15,819,103,302		21,021,926

Schedule E – 2024 TRANSIT TAX RATES & LEVY

Thorold Property Classification	2024 Roll Return CVA	Tax Rate by Class	Transit Levy by Class
Residential	2,640,994,960	0.00058831	1,553,730
New Multi-Residential	106,235,800	0.00058831	62,500
Multi-Residential	43,152,800	0.00115897	50,013
Commercial	177,702,596	0.00102066	181,374
Commercial - Excess	2,692,213	0.00102066	2,748
Commercial - Vacant	7,913,200	0.00102066	8,077
Landfill	0	0.00172978	-
Industrial	50,688,966	0.00154726	78,429
Industrial - Excess	3,374,734	0.00154726	5,222
Industrial - Vacant	17,765,100	0.00154726	27,487
Pipelines	27,113,000	0.00100136	27,150
Farmland	53,017,740	0.00014708	7,798
FAD 1	0	0.00044123	-
Managed Forests	531,400	0.00014708	78
Taxable Total	3,131,182,509		2,004,606

Wainfleet Property Classification	2024 Roll Return CVA	Tax Rate by Class	Transit Levy by Class
Residential	961,108,525	0.00023547	226,305
New Multi-Residential	0	0.00023547	-
Multi-Residential	457,000	0.00046388	212
Commercial	21,603,605	0.00040852	8,826
Commercial - Excess	929,500	0.00040852	380
Commercial - Vacant	832,500	0.00040852	340
Landfill	0	0.00069234	-
Industrial	8,824,600	0.00061929	5,465
Industrial - Excess	85,300	0.00061929	53
Industrial - Vacant	132,000	0.00061929	82
Pipelines	6,016,000	0.00040079	2,411
Farmland	212,224,215	0.00005887	12,494
FAD 1	0	0.00017660	-
Managed Forests	1,848,789	0.00005887	109
Taxable Total	1,214,062,034		256,677

Welland Property Classification	2024 Roll Return CVA	Tax Rate by Class	Transit Levy by Class
Residential	4,699,985,491	0.00101238	4,758,151
New Multi-Residential	28,213,500	0.00101238	28,563
Multi-Residential	137,789,700	0.00199439	274,806
Commercial	391,327,283	0.00175638	687,319
Commercial - Excess	9,271,728	0.00175638	16,285
Commercial - Vacant	21,418,600	0.00175638	37,619
Landfill	0	0.00297666	-
Industrial	131,644,043	0.00266256	350,510
Industrial - Excess	3,570,500	0.00266256	9,507
Industrial - Vacant	6,345,500	0.00266256	16,895
Pipelines	22,108,000	0.00172317	38,096
Farmland	22,417,900	0.00025310	5,674
FAD 1	0	0.00075929	-
Managed Forests	1,134,200	0.00025310	287
Taxable Total	5,475,226,445		6,223,712

West Lincoln Property Classification	2024 Roll Return CVA	Tax Rate by Class	Transit Levy by Class
Residential	1,848,487,509	0.00023985	443,364
New Multi-Residential	0	0.00023985	-
Multi-Residential	7,043,000	0.00047250	3,328
Commercial	79,198,299	0.00041612	32,956
Commercial - Excess	1,157,900	0.00041612	482
Commercial - Vacant	2,967,300	0.00041612	1,235
Landfill	0	0.00070522	-
Industrial	38,335,500	0.00063081	24,182
Industrial - Excess	387,300	0.00063081	244
Industrial - Vacant	1,032,000	0.00063081	651
Pipelines	29,179,000	0.00040825	11,912
Farmland	497,581,032	0.00005996	29,835
FAD 1	0	0.00017989	-
Managed Forests	2,481,900	0.00005996	149
Taxable Total	2,507,850,740		548,338

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA

BY-LAW NO. 2024-19

A BY-LAW TO SET TAX RATIOS AND TAX RATE
REDUCTIONS FOR PRESCRIBED PROPERTY
SUBCLASSES FOR REGIONAL PURPOSES AND
AREA MUNICIPAL PURPOSES FOR THE YEAR 2024

WHEREAS pursuant to Section 308 (5) of the *Municipal Act, 2001*, S.O. 2001, c. 25 as amended (referred hereinafter as “the *Municipal Act, 2001*”), The Regional Municipality of Niagara (referred hereinafter as “The Regional Corporation”) may establish the tax ratios for The Regional Corporation and the Area Municipalities;

WHEREAS the tax ratios determine the relative amount of taxation to be borne by each property class;

WHEREAS the property classes have been prescribed by the Ministry of Finance pursuant to Section 7 of the *Assessment Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c. A.31, as amended;

WHEREAS pursuant to Section 313 (1) of the *Municipal Act, 2001*, The Regional Municipality of Niagara may establish tax reductions for prescribed property subclasses for The Regional Corporation and the Area Municipalities; and,

WHEREAS the property subclasses for which tax rate reductions are to be established are in accordance with Section 8 of the *Assessment Act*.

NOW THEREFORE the Council of The Regional Municipality of Niagara enacts as follows for the 2024 taxation year:

1. That the tax ratio for property in:
 - a. The residential property class is 1.000000;
 - b. The new multi-residential property class is 1.000000;
 - c. The multi-residential class is 1.970000;
 - d. The commercial property class is 1.734900;
 - e. The industrial property class is 2.630000;
 - f. The pipelines property class is 1.702100;
 - g. The farm property class is 0.250000;
 - h. The managed forest property class is 0.250000;
 - i. The landfill property class is 2.940261.

2. That the municipal purpose tax reduction for:
 - a. The first class of farmland awaiting development in the residential, multi-residential, commercial or industrial property classes is 25%;
 - b. The second class of farmland awaiting development in the residential, multi-residential, commercial or industrial property classes is 0%.
3. That for the purposes of this bylaw:
 - a. The industrial property class includes all properties classified as industrial and large industrial as per Ontario Regulation 282/98;
 - b. The first class of farmland awaiting development and the second class of farmland awaiting development consists of land as defined in accordance with Ontario Regulation 282/98.
4. That this by-law shall come into force and effect on the day upon which it is passed.

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA



James Bradley, Regional Chair



Ann-Marie Norio, Regional Clerk

Passed: March 21, 2024

Subject: Securing the Future of Natural Gas in Ontario | Keeping Energy Costs Down Act - registration deadline to speak is March 26 at noon

From: Julie Alexander <Julie.Alexander@enbridge.com>

Sent: March 25, 2024 4:26 PM

To: Mallory Luey <MLuey@wainfleet.ca>

Cc: Amber Chrastina <AChrastina@wainfleet.ca>

Subject: Securing the Future of Natural Gas in Ontario | Keeping Energy Costs Down Act - registration deadline to speak is March 26 at noon

Good afternoon Mayor Grant,

Enbridge has voiced numerous concerns with the Ontario Energy Board's (OEB) decision on Phase 1 of the Enbridge Gas 2024 rebasing application, which was issued on December 21, 2023. The disappointing decision puts future access to natural gas in doubt and sets a deliberate course to eliminate natural gas from Ontario's energy mix. We took action. In January, we appealed the decision in Divisional Court, and filed a Motion to Review evidence with the OEB.

The Government of Ontario has taken action as well and introduced the [Keeping Energy Costs Down Act](#).

Today I'm reaching out to ensure you and your municipality is aware that the Standing Committee on the Interior will meet to Consider Bill 165 on Monday, April 8 and Tuesday, April 9. Interested people who wish to be considered to make an oral presentation on Bill 165 are required to register by noon on March 26. Those interested in commenting on the Bill may send a written submission by April 9. Details can be found at the following link: [Request to participate in committees | Legislative Assembly of Ontario \(ola.org\)](#)

We commend the Government for its efforts in taking definitive action in support of affordable energy and consumer choice. The proposed legislation reinforces the critical role of natural gas in keeping energy costs down for Ontarians and the importance of natural gas and its associated infrastructure in achieving Ontario's energy transition. Enbridge has registered to make an oral presentation to share our position on the proposed legislation and I have attached our key themes and focus areas in the attached file.

In addition, I am also pleased to provide an updated fact sheet with information on the OEB's decision, the role of natural gas in Ontario, and correct the record on numerous claims being circulated by activists that are simply untrue. You can also find information and resources on our website at [Natural Gas Matters | Enbridge Gas](#).

I welcome the opportunity to discuss any of these items with you at your earliest convenience, and thank you for your support in securing Ontario's energy future.

With thanks,
Julie

Julie Alexander
Senior Advisor, Municipal and Stakeholder Engagement

ENBRIDGE GAS INC.
OFFICE: 905-984-4956 | CELL: 289-257-6036 | EMAIL: julie.alexander@enbridge.com
P.O Box 1051, Thorold, Ontario L2V 5A8

Canada's Anti-Spam Legislation (CASL) requires Enbridge Gas Inc., to provide you with an option to unsubscribe from receiving commercial electronic messages (CEM) including certain emails promoting our services. If you wish to opt-out from receiving further commercial electronic messages, please [Click here to unsubscribe.](#)

Bill 165 Committee Hearing

- The Government of Ontario must be commended for its efforts in taking a definitive action in support of affordable energy and consumer choice by introducing the Keeping Energy Costs Down Act.
- This proposed legislation is a step in the right direction to addressing energy affordability, resiliency, and reliability. However, given that the core of the OEB Rebasing decision remains, there continues to be critical barriers that must be addressed to ensure the decision does not have significant negative impacts on Ontario's growth plans, including on housing developments and Ontario's broader economic development plans for its industrial and agricultural sectors.
- This proposed legislation reinforces the critical role of natural gas in keeping energy costs down for Ontarians and the importance of natural gas and its associated infrastructure in achieving Ontario's energy transition in a measured and practical way. Supporting affordable access to natural gas will help fuel a better and more prosperous future for Ontario.
- We were heartened to see language in Bill 165 that speaks to the importance of broader engagement on the part of the OEB, as engaging the right stakeholders and the right economic sectors at the right times can only help the Board develop a more complete understanding of the impacts of every potential decision.

Policy Clarity

- This bill sends a strong signal about the importance of ensuring all Ontarians can access the affordable, reliable energy they need today and into the future.
- It is critical that the Government provide timely clarity to investors and regulators, through a Natural Gas Policy Statement, on the critical role natural gas plays in Ontario's energy future including in supporting affordable housing and ensuring economic development can be realized.
 - The statement should address the importance of regulatory recovery certainty to ensure investments can be made to support the energy infrastructure required by Ontario's residents and businesses.

Revenue Horizon

- Bill 165, if passed, would reset that horizon from zero to 40 years, as prescribed in OEB's long-standing regulation, E.B.O. 188.
- The concern about an abrupt shift to a zero-revenue horizon is three-fold:
 - It would have an immediate impact on the cost of individual new homes.
 - It could also significantly slow overall residential development just as the More Homes Built Faster Act attempts to address a generational housing crisis in this province.
 - And it raises some important questions about the capacity of the electricity system to meet a sudden spike in residential demand.
 - If the 1.5 million new homes proposed in the More Homes Built Faster Act over 10 years were all-electric, a very conservative estimate is that an additional 750 MW in electric demand would be added annually.

- The proposed legislation reversing the Revenue Horizon decision is an important step in the right direction to remove what would have been a new barrier to accessing affordable energy.
 - Once the government introduces a Natural Gas Policy Statement, it intends through regulation to require the OEB to consider this issue again. After the time-limited authority expires, the exclusive jurisdiction to determine a revenue horizon will be returned to the OEB.

Capital Envelope

- The OEB’s decision strips Enbridge’s capital budget of \$300 million in 2024 and billions over the next five years. This will significantly constrain Enbridge’s ability to invest in energy projects that contribute to Ontario’s economic development, competitiveness, and emissions reductions.
- The reduction in capital immediately puts at risk thousands of planned connections in 2024 and will significantly constrain our ability to invest in energy projects that contribute to addressing Ontario’s housing affordability crisis and Ontario’s economic development, competitiveness, and emissions reductions.
- Serving our 3.9 million existing customers safely and reliably will always be our priority, and that’s where we will direct our dollars first. If there is no remaining capital to support growth projects and development across Ontario, greenhouses, grain dryers, industrial parks, and any new businesses or housing developments seeking access to natural gas will be at risk.
- It is imperative that strategic investments in the energy infrastructure are backed by a supportive regulatory environment that not only incentivizes and facilitates those investments but also ensures the availability of capital to meet Ontario’s growing demand for affordable, reliable, and resilient energy.
- Government must send a clear signal that for existing and continued capital investments in energy infrastructure, which are required to meet Government policy goals and/or the needs of Ontario customers, that the OEB shall ensure cost recovery mechanisms that provide regulatory certainty for recovery of and fair returns on such capital.

LTC

- We commend the government for heeding the concerns voiced by municipalities and municipal and agricultural organizations regarding the outdated \$2 million threshold that triggers requirements to obtain Leave to Construct (LTC) for small pipeline projects.
- These changes will help to expedite the development of crucial infrastructure such as housing and transit. The proposed legislation will also save tens of thousands of dollars, which would have otherwise been passed on to ratepayers.
- These changes will go a long way in reducing costs, improving efficiency, and promoting development in Ontario’s energy sector.

Affordable, reliable, sustainable energy — can Ontarians have it all?

Absolutely, and to do so requires a responsible approach that includes both natural gas and electricity, with collaboration between energy providers, regulators and governments.

However, Ontario's energy transition pathway has reached a divide with a recent Ontario Energy Board (OEB) decision.

- From 2025 onwards, builders and developers will be required to pay for all construction costs related to new gas connections at the start of the design of the project. Depending on the size of the project, it could mean millions of dollars of carrying costs for years in advance of any sales or occupancies.
- The OEB decision has cut the 2024 Enbridge Gas capital budget by \$300 million. This means that opportunities to invest in or grow natural gas infrastructure to meet increased demand will be limited. We are assessing which planned and future projects will be impacted.
- The OEB's decision is intended to be effective immediately for all connections, with no recognition of agreements signed before the implementation dates of 2024 and 2025.

On Feb. 22, 2024, the Ontario Government introduced Bill 165, the Keeping Energy Costs Down Act that, if passed, would reverse elements of the Dec. 2023 OEB decision that would have significantly increased the cost of gas connections for new homes and businesses. Public hearings, which include presentations and written submissions, will be held in Toronto on April 8, 2024 and April 9, 2024.

Natural gas plays a critical role in Ontario

- Natural gas provides twice the energy of electricity at a quarter of the cost.
- Natural gas delivers five times more capacity than the maximum electricity demand in Ontario on a peak winter day. In any weather, our reliable natural gas system delivers.
- With unmatched energy intensity, natural gas is the energy backbone for Ontario industry and manufacturing.
- Natural gas partners well with renewable sources of energy and will support the evolution to a more electrified future.
- Leveraging pipeline infrastructure to deliver lower-carbon fuels, such as renewable natural gas and hydrogen, can be part of Ontario's lower carbon future.

There is a lot of information out there and we understand that it can be confusing. We are here to help cut through the information clutter and get to the facts.

- ✗ **Myth:** Enbridge Gas receives subsidies for new gas infrastructure from the Government of Ontario.
 - ✓ **Fact:** This is simply not true. Unlike Ontario's heavily-subsidized electricity system, Enbridge Gas does not receive subsidies, nor does Enbridge Gas receive taxpayer money.
-
- ✗ **Myth:** Existing Enbridge Gas customers subsidize new natural gas connections.
 - ✓ **Fact:** Enbridge Gas abides by an existing Ontario Energy Board policy, EBO-188, which protects existing customers from the cost of expanding the natural gas system. It ensures costs are appropriately attributed to the customers who will benefit from that expansion.
-
- ✗ **Myth:** If natural gas infrastructure is unavailable as a result of the OEB's decision to reduce Enbridge Gas' capital budget, other energy sources are available to replace.
 - ✓ **Fact:** The OEB decision did not provide evidence that other energy sources are ready to replace natural gas. For builders and developers, this could limit the ability to construct in 2024 and beyond.

Enbridge Gas applauds the Government of Ontario for advancing legislation and advocating for access to safe and reliable natural gas at a reasonable cost.

If you would like to ensure access to reliable and affordable natural gas for Ontario, we encourage you to speak up!

- 1 **Support the Ontario Government's actions:** There are two ways you can participate in Bill 165's public hearings: you can register as a presenter or you can submit your comments through written submission. For details on how you can have your voice heard, please contact your Enbridge Gas Municipal Advisor.
- 2 **Engage publicly:** Post on your website and on social media, respond publicly to media coverage with countering arguments on the need for access, customer choice and natural gas infrastructure.
- 3 **Engage with the OEB:** Send a letter to the OEB, letting them know how these changes will impact your business.

Have questions? We have answers.

Contact municipalaffairs@enbridge.com to get started or visit enbridgegas.com/natural-gas-matters to learn why natural gas matters to Ontario.

We are committed to advocating for natural gas infrastructure in Ontario's energy evolution and ensuring our customers can access safe, reliable, affordable energy.



Northumberland County

Council Resolution

SENT VIA EMAIL

March 25, 2024

Hon. Doug Ford (Premier of Ontario)
Hon. Michael Parsa (Minister of Children, Community, and Social Services)
Hon. Paul Calandra (Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing)
Hon. Sylvia Jones (Minister of Health)
Hon. David Piccini (Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development and
MPP for Northumberland-Peterborough South)
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
Ontario Municipal Social Services Association
Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus
All Ontario Municipalities

Re: Northumberland County Resolution – County of Prince Edward ‘Review of Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Program Financial Assistance Rates’

At a meeting held on March 20, 2024 Northumberland County Council approved the following Council Resolution # 2024-03-20-190 adopting the below recommendation from the March 6, 2024 Social Services Committee meeting.

Moved by: Councillor Robert Crate

Seconded by: Councillor Scott Jibb

“**That** the Social Services Committee, having considered the correspondence from the County of Prince Edward regarding 'Review of Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Program Financial Assistance Rates', recommend that County Council support this correspondence and direct staff to send a copy of this resolution to the Honourable Doug Ford (Premier of Ontario), the Honourable Michael Parsa (Minister of Children, Community, and Social Services), the Honourable Paul Calandra (Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing), the Honourable Sylvia Jones (Minister of Health), the Honourable David Piccini (Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development and MPP for Northumberland-Peterborough South), the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Ontario Municipal Social Services Association, the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus, and all Ontario municipalities.”



**The Corporation of the
County of Northumberland**
555 Courthouse Road
Cobourg, ON, K9A 5J6

"Council Resolution # 2024-03-20-190

Carried

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned at matherm@northumberland.ca or by telephone at 905-372-3329 ext. 2238.

Sincerely,
Maddison Mather

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "M. Mather".

Manager of Legislative Services / Clerk
Northumberland County

Council Resolution

Moved By _____ *Crate*
 Seconded By _____ *Jibb*

Agenda Item 10 Resolution Number
 2024-03-20- 110


Council Date: March 20, 2024

^{MM}
 "That Council adopt all recommendations from the four Standing Committees, as contained within the Committee Minutes (meetings held March 5 and 6), ~~with the exception of the following items (referenced from the Standing Committee Minutes), that will be held for discussion:~~

Committee Name	Item #	Description	Held By
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And Further That the items listed above and held for separate discussion each require a separate resolution."

Recorded Vote Requested by _____
 Councillor's Name

Carried 
 Warden's Signature

Deferred _____
 Warden's Signature

Defeated _____
 Warden's Signature

Social Services Committee Resolution

Committee Meeting Date: March 6, 2024

Agenda Item: 7.a

Resolution Number: 2024-03-06- 159

Moved by: O. Hankivsky

Seconded by: B. Ostrander

Council Meeting Date: March 20, 2024

"**That** the Social Services Committee, having considered the correspondence from the County of Prince Edward regarding 'Review of Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Program Financial Assistance Rates', recommend that County Council support this correspondence and direct staff to send a copy of this resolution to the Honourable Doug Ford (Premier of Ontario), the Honourable Michael Parsa (Minister of Children, Community, and Social Services), the Honorable Paul Calandra (Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing), the Honourable Sylvia Jones (Minister of Health), the Honorable David Piccini (Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development and MPP for Northumberland-Peterborough South), the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Ontario Municipal Social Services Association, the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus, and all Ontario municipalities."

Carried 
Committee Chair's Signature

Defeated _____
Committee Chair's Signature

Deferred _____
Committee Chair's Signature



From the Office of the Clerk
The Corporation of the County of Prince Edward
T: 613.476.2148 x 1021 | F: 613.476.5727
clerks@pecounty.on.ca | www.thecounty.ca

February 16, 2024

Please be advised that during the regular Council meeting of February 13, 2024 the following resolution regarding support for a review of the Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Program Financial Assistance Rates was carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-81

DATE: February 13, 2024

MOVED BY: Councillor Roberts

SECONDED BY: Councillor Hirsch

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;

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

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

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

WHEREAS Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) benefit rates have been increased by 6.5 per cent as of July 2023 to keep up with inflation, however even with the increase, ODSP rates still fall below their value in 2018 (\$1,376 when adjusted for inflation) and significantly below the disability-adjusted poverty line (\$3,091 per month)

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;

WHEREAS the poverty risk profile for Prince Edward County created by Vital Signs states that 10.1% - 13.5% of County residents are living on low income;



From the Office of the Clerk
The Corporation of the County of Prince Edward
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clerks@pecounty.on.ca | www.thecounty.ca

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

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;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of Prince Edward County joins the Town of Orangeville to calls on the Provincial Government to urgently:

- a) At least double Ontario Works and ODSP rates and index rates to inflation, answering calls already made by “Raise the Rates” campaign and the “Income Security Advocacy Centre”;
- b) Commit to ongoing cost of living increases above and beyond the rate of inflation to make up for the years they were frozen;
- c) Commit to jointly working between the Ministry of Children, Community, and Social Services and the Ministry of Health on the best methods of assessing client needs and then matching those in need to the services they require;

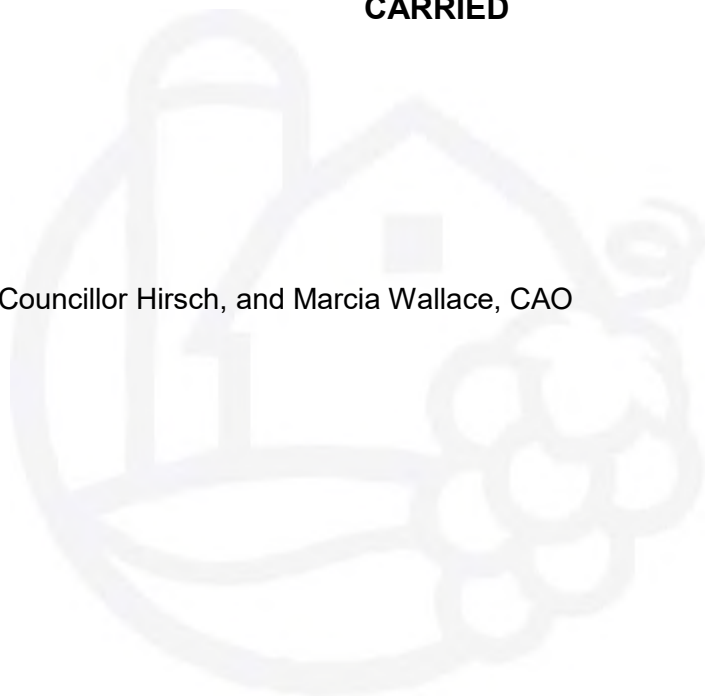
AND FURTHER THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to the Minister of Children, Community, and Social Services, the Minister of Health, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Ontario Municipal Social Services Association, Prince Edward Lennox and Addington Social Services, the Eastern Ontario Wardens Caucus, and all Ontario Municipalities.

CARRIED

Yours truly,

Catalina Blumenberg, **CLERK**

cc: Mayor Steve Ferguson, Councillor Roberts, Councillor Hirsch, and Marcia Wallace, CAO



March 26, 2024

Sent by E-mail
sylvia.jones@ontario.ca

Received March 26, 2024
C-2024-127

Hon. Sylvia Jones, Minister of Health
Ministry of Health
5th Floor - 777 Bay St.
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3

Re: Public Health Ontario Labs

Dear Minister Jones,

At its regular meeting held March 12, 2024, the Council of the Township of Asphodel-Norwood passed a resolution expressing concern about the possible closure of regional Public Health Ontario (PHO) laboratories, as stated in the [Office of the Auditor General of Ontario's Value-for Money Audit: Public Health Ontario](#).

WHEREAS the mission of Public Health Ontario (PHO) is to "enable informed decisions and get actions that protect and promote health and contribute to reducing health inequities", there are grave concerns that the closure of six community-based PHO labs will increase health inequities, especially for rural communities; and

WHEREAS combined these labs collect and process thousands of water samples and time sensitive medical tests each day; and

WHEREAS there are grave concerns about the integrity of samples being compromised if travel time is increased by centralizing all tests to a few locations; and

WHEREAS these labs already process overflow tests and samples when labs such as Toronto and Ottawa cannot keep up to demand and many scaled up to meet demand during the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS frequent drinking water testing services is vital for Ontarians who draw their water from private drinking water systems (i.e. wells) and protecting groundwater quality and quantity is a shared responsibility.

As stewards of care for the *Safe Drinking Water Act, 2022*, Council urges the provincial government to take caution against acting on the recommendations stated in the aforementioned audit report.

-2-

Sincerely,



Melanie Hudson, Clerk
Township of Asphodel-Norwood

Encl./ Letter of Concern from former senior managers of Public Health Ontario (PHO)

Cc: MPP David Piccini | david.piccinico@pc.ola.org
MP Philip Larence | philip.lawrence@parl.gc.ca
Ontario Municipalities

Letter of Concern regarding Regional Public Health Ontario Laboratories

December 18, 2023

We, the undersigned, are a group of retired senior managers who were long term employees of Public Health Ontario (PHO), with extensive knowledge of regional laboratory operations and the public health system. We are writing to express our concerns with PHO's laboratory modernization plan, discussed recently in the Office of the Auditor General of Ontario's *Value-for-Money Audit: Public Health Ontario* (report dated December 2023).

Our major concern rests with the recommendation to close 6 of the 10 regional, fully accredited laboratories based in Peterborough, Orillia, Hamilton, Kingston, Sault Ste. Marie and Timmins, which serve communities in 15 public health unit jurisdictions. This change will impact about 85 laboratory personnel and a number of Infection, Prevention and Control (IPAC) staff who are also housed in some of those sites. In addition to these closures, there is a concerning recommendation to gradually eliminate drinking water testing services for Ontarians who draw their water from private drinking water systems (e.g. wells). We believe the associated risks to public health were not properly analyzed during the investigative process and such measures, if approved by the Ontario government, could be detrimental.

The regional laboratory sites serve all of PHO's clients located outside the Greater Toronto Area (GTA). They act as a first contact when specific testing is required by public health units, hospital and community labs, long term care homes, clinicians and private citizens within their regions; and they provide access to over 270 diagnostic tests related to diseases of public health significance listed in O. Reg 135/18 under the *Health Protection and Promotion Act*. The high number of specimens processed during the COVID pandemic at these locations is a testament to the ability of these labs to respond quickly to emerging pathogens, to manage outbreaks and to assist with surveillance.

The Auditor General's report has a financial focus, and in this respect, inefficiencies are outlined which we acknowledge need to be addressed. However, PHO's regional laboratory sites indicated for closure offer analyses requiring specialized training, such as the identification of parasites, ticks (important due to the increasing risk of Lyme disease), and pathogenic fungi. Having multiple sites competent in these specialty tests adds backup support into the system and enables the management of surge capacity, especially in outbreak situations. Two of these regional sites are also associated with postsecondary institutions, providing academic placements and research opportunities.

In addition to the diagnostic testing of medical samples, regional laboratory locations conduct the majority of testing for indicators of bacterial contamination in private drinking water systems, as well as public drinking water and beach water submitted by Ontario Parks and public health unit staff, supporting their Safe Water programs under Ontario public health standards. With water samples being time and temperature sensitive, any increase in the transportation time can have a negative impact on sample integrity. The current geographical configuration of PHO's laboratory network allows clients direct access to information and testing, and samples are transported from drop off depots in the communities quickly and efficiently. Loss of these regional labs could result in increased courier costs, increased turn-around times, and possible rejection of samples, due to integrity issues. In short, their closing will have a direct and dramatic impact on PHO's ability to achieve its mandate: the protection and promotion of public health.

PHO's laboratory sites test between 150,000 to 175,000 private drinking water samples each year at no cost to the submitter. With the recommendation to phase out PHO's drinking water service, private citizens who do not have access to municipally treated drinking water will have to submit their samples to a licensed private laboratory, which currently can cost more than \$150 per sample. Considering the current economic state in Ontario, some residents may consider the cost prohibitive and decide not to monitor their water source, thereby reducing sampling rates. As a result, people will be unaware of the quality of their drinking water, which can put them at a higher risk of contamination. Private drinking water sources, in particular, are susceptible to contamination at significantly higher rates than municipal systems. With the removal of this testing service at PHO, there will also no longer be a centralized database containing bacteriological test results that are available for PHO's researchers or public health unit staff, who use it to determine contamination rates in their regions.

The *Report of the Walkerton Inquiry* (2002) discusses the tragic impact of provincial budget cuts on water testing services in the 1990s in Walkerton, Ontario. In 1996, the Ministry of Environment regional laboratories were closed as a cost saving measure, and the testing that they performed on municipal drinking water systems was privatized. Justice Dennis O'Connor, who authored the Walkerton report, highlighted how this action "connected directly" to the Walkerton *E.coli* O157:H7 and *Campylobacter jejuni* outbreak in May 2000 (part 1, p. 406), which resulted in seven deaths and 2,300 illnesses. Recognizing the importance of the private drinking water testing service offered by Ontario's public health laboratory sites, Justice O'Connor suggested that the province maintain free, bacteriological water testing for private well owners.

Overall, we are concerned that, if the recommendation to close 6 of the 10 regional PHO locations and to phase out private water testing is approved, there will be serious negative impacts on public health. Rather than reduce health inequities across the province of Ontario, we feel the proposed changes will do the opposite. We caution the provincial government against acting on these recommendations without fully understanding the ramifications and the complex logistics required in specimen handling to deliver timely results. While the Auditor General's report has a financial focus, which is important, we caution that an up-to-date, independent impact assessment be carried out using a *public health* focus. Stakeholders, including members of the public, should be consulted, as well. As we have seen in the past, an effective public health network is needed, not only to ensure essential day-to-day testing, but also to respond to emerging public health emergencies, such as Walkerton, SARS, West Nile and COVID.

Key Resources

O'Connor, Dennis R. (2002). *Report of the Walkerton Inquiry*. 2 parts. Toronto: Ontario Ministry of the Attorney General. https://www.archives.gov.on.ca/en/e_records/walkerton/index.html

Office of the Auditor General of Ontario. (2023). *Value-for-Money Audit: Public Health Ontario*. https://auditor.on.ca/en/content/annualreports/arreports/en23/AR_publichealth_en23.pdf

Signatories

Rena Retallick

Former Operations Director, Regional Public Health Laboratories

CONTACT: rena.retallick@gmail.com

Jean Cousineau

Former Technical Manager, Timmins Regional Public Health Laboratory

Elizabeth Pszczolko
Former Manager, Thunder Bay Regional Public Health Laboratory

John Jessop
Former Manager, Sault Ste. Marie, Sudbury and Timmins Regional Public Health Laboratories

Leslee Shuttleworth
Former Manager, Ottawa Public Health Laboratory

Robin Eddington
Former Manager, Orillia Public Health Laboratory

Cindy Froats
Former Manager, Kingston Public Health Laboratory

Pamela O'Brien
Former Manager, Peterborough Public Health Laboratory

Suzan Breton
Former Manager, Sault Ste. Marie Public Health Laboratory

Monica Murphy
Former Quality and Technical Manager, Public Health Laboratories
Former Manager, Windsor Public Health Laboratory

Debbie Sikora
Former Manager, Kingston Public Health Laboratory

Doreen Graham
Former Senior Manager, Central North Region

Dr. Fred Ball
Former Manager, Thunder Bay Public Health Laboratory

Twyla Harcourt
Former Manager, Peterborough Public Health Laboratory

Received March 26, 2024
C-2024-128

March 25, 2024

Via Email:

Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
premier@ontario.ca

Re: Memorandum from H. Ellis, Council and Committee Coordinator, dated February 2, 2024 re: Whitby Sustainability Advisory Committee Request that Council Support the Ontario Energy Board's Decision to end the Gas Pipeline Subsidy

Please be advised that at its meeting held on March 18, 2024, the Council of the Town of Whitby adopted the following as Resolution # 50-24:

Whereas residents are struggling with energy bill increases and need relief; and,

Whereas natural gas is no longer the cheapest way to heat homes because electric heat pumps are now much more efficient, can provide all heating needs even in cold climates, and result in far lower energy bills compared to gas heating; and,

Whereas natural gas is methane gas, which is a fossil fuel that causes approximately one-third of Ontario's GHG emissions, and must be phased out because it is inconsistent with all climate targets, while heat pumps result in the lowest GHG emissions and are consistent with a zero-carbon future; and,

Whereas the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) decided to end a subsidy for methane gas pipelines to be built in new construction developments, effective 2025, finding that this would lower energy bills for existing gas customers and improve affordability for new homebuyers, but this decision is at risk of being overturned by the provincial government; and,

Whereas the OEB decision will help lower energy bills and encourage heating systems that are consistent with climate targets and plans; and,

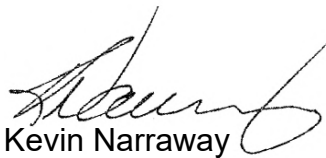
Whereas the construction of new methane gas pipelines, which have 60-year lifetimes, should not be subsidized because they are inconsistent with the Town's climate targets and will result in higher carbon emissions, higher energy bills, higher future decarbonization retrofit costs to phase out fossil fuel heating, and a

continued financial drain as dollars leave the province to pay for fossil fuels extracted in other jurisdictions.

Now therefore, be it resolved:

1. That the Town of Whitby expresses its support for the decision of the Ontario Energy Board to end the gas pipeline subsidy and ask the Ontario Government to allow the decision to stand; and,
2. That this resolution be circulated to Premier Doug Ford; the Minister of Energy, Todd Smith; the Minister of Finance, Peter Bethlenfalvy; the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Paul Calandra; the Associate Minister of Housing, Rob Flack; President of AMO, Colin Best, the Region of Durham, and all local Ontario municipalities requesting support of the proposed changes.

Should you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact Sarah Klein, Director, Strategic Initiatives at 905-430-4338.



Kevin Narraway
Sr. Manager of Legislative Services/Deputy Clerk

Copy: C. Harris, Director, Legislative Services/Town Clerk – clerk@whitby.ca
S. Klein, Director, Strategic Initiatives – kleins@whitby.ca

Honourable Todd Smith, Minister of Energy
Honourable Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance
Honourable Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Honourable Rob Flack, Associate Minister of Housing
Colin Best, President of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario
A. Harras, Regional Clerk, Regional Municipality of Durham
All Ontario Municipalities



Council Resolution Form

Date: 21 Mar 2024 No: Resolution No.61-24
Moved By: Councillor Popkie Disposition: CARRIED.
Seconded by Councillor Thomson
Item No: 12.1

Description: Cemetery Transfer/Abandonment Administration & Management Support

RESOLUTION:

That Council support the resolution passed by the Council of Tay Township during their December 20, 2023 Council Meeting regarding the Provincial Cemetery Management Support Request, including that the Province through the Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery and the Bereavement Authority of Ontario (BAO) consider several points of concern to assist municipalities with the growing concern of cemetery transfers;

And furthermore, that a copy of this resolution and a copy Tay Township's resolution be circulated to the Honourable Todd McCarthy, Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery, Jim Cassimatis, BAO Interim CEO/Registrar, John Yakabuski, MPP for Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke, and all Ontario Municipalities.

Recorded Vote Requested by:

.....n/a.....

	Yea	Nay
J. Levesque	___	___
T. Popkie	___	___
L. Thomson	___	___
R. Tripp	___	___
R. Weir	___	___



MAYOR

Declaration of Pecuniary Interest:

.....n/a.....

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

TAY TOWNSHIP

450 Park Street
PO Box 100
Victoria Harbour, Ontario
L0K 2A0



Received December 21, 2023
C-2023-442

December 21, 2023

Hon. Todd McCarthy
Minister of Public and Business Service Delivery
5th Floor
777 Bay St.
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3

sent via email Todd.McCarthy@pc.ola.org

Dear Hon. Todd McCarthy,

Re: Provincial Cemetery Management Support Request – Tay Township

Tay Township Council passed the following resolution during the December 20, 2023 Council Meeting regarding the Provincial Cemetery Management Support Request:

Whereas under the Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act, 2002 (FBCSA), when a cemetery is declared abandoned by a judge of the Superior Court Justice, the local municipality within whose geographic boundaries the land of the cemetery is located, becomes the owner of the cemetery with all the rights and obligations in respect of the cemetery and the assets, trust funds and trust accounts related to it that the previous owner or operator possessed;

And Whereas over the last decade, there has been an increase in the number of churches and local cemetery boards initiating processes to transfer ownership or abandon their owned and operated cemeteries to the local municipality due to such issues as high maintenance costs, inaccuracy of records, lack of financial and human resources to effectively operate and maintain the cemetery, increased regulatory processes regarding training, selling of interment rights, financial operation of the care and maintenance fund, etc.;

And Whereas municipalities experience the same issues and pressures that churches and local boards experience with the operation and maintenance of cemeteries within its jurisdiction, and additional transfers of cemetery lands only compound the burden on municipal taxpayers;

And Whereas cemeteries are important infrastructure where the reasonable costs for interment rights, burials, monument foundations, corner stones and administration charges do not sufficiently support the general operation of cemeteries;

TAY TOWNSHIP

450 Park Street
PO Box 100
Victoria Harbour, Ontario
L0K 2A0



And Whereas the interest earned from the care and maintenance fund(s) of a cemetery do not provide adequate funding to maintain the cemetery with the rising costs of lawn and turf maintenance contracts and monument restoration;

Now Therefore Be It Resolved that Council of the Township of Tay requests that the Province through the Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery and the Bereavement Authority of Ontario (BAO) consider the following to assist municipalities in this growing concern of cemetery transfers:

- Amending the Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act, 2002 (FBCSA), to have the Province, through the BAO, identified as the default owner and operator of a cemetery when it is abandoned;
- Provide annual funding (based on the number of cemeteries a municipality owns and operates) to municipalities to assist with the maintenance of inactive and active cemeteries;
- Provide free training opportunities for municipalities regarding cemetery administration; and,
- Investigate and support the design of universal cemetery software for use by municipal cemetery operators that can be offered at an affordable cost;

And that this resolution be circulated to the Hon. Todd McCarthy, Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery, Jim Cassimatis, BAO Interim CEO/Registrar, MPP Jill Dunlop and all Ontario municipalities.

Sent on behalf of Tay Township Council.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Katelyn Johns'.

Katelyn Johns, MPPA
Municipal Clerk

Cc: Jim Cassimatis, BAO Interim CEO/Registrar, Hon. Jill Dunlop, Minister of Colleges and Universities/MPP, and all Ontario municipalities.



niagara
transit
commission

MEMORANDUM

Subject: Niagara Transit Commission – Solar Eclipse Service Plan

Date: March 27, 2024

To: Regional Council, Area CAO's, Niagara Transit Commission Board

From: Rob Addy, Deputy General Manager Transit Operations

After careful consideration regarding the suspension of transit services during the Solar Eclipse on April 8th, initially discussed at the February 20th Niagara Transit Commission (NTC) Board meeting, the NTC's Operations Team has opted to maintain regular service throughout the day. Niagara Region Transit (NRT) will operate at full capacity on April 8th, albeit with anticipated significant delays. Our communications team will advise riders to limit non-essential travel and expect delays accordingly. To ensure operational efficiency, a full complement of supervisors will be deployed across all hubs and terminals to monitor service adjustments as necessary.

Due to expected network congestion, CAD/AVL services may experience limitations or interruptions as indicated by the Regional Emergency Operations Centre (REOC). Consequently, vehicle communications and tracking will rely on our LMR radio system exclusively.

Our decision to maintain service aligns with feedback from key stakeholders, including post-secondary institutions and health services, who have not planned schedule alterations. Additionally, heightened event activity in key communities and on campuses underscores the need for uninterrupted transit services.

In Niagara Falls, we will assist in moving attendees to and from events with the WEGO fleet. The service normally supports major events in the tourism core and will focus on moving people to or away from the Table Rock or main stage areas before and after concerts etc. connecting with the Niagara Parks Commission's Greenline WEGO buses and GO trains. Planned route alterations will be similar to New Year's Eve service and other large events in the Clifton Hill, and Queen Victoria Park tourism areas.

For our specialty services providers, we recommend limiting pre-bookings on April 8th. On the day, bookings for all vehicles will be open to optimize ride distribution and accommodate traffic disruptions, ensuring efficient delivery of specialized trips.

As a safety precaution, viewing glasses will be provided to staff, with explicit instructions against their use while driving. During the period of totality, all buses will pull over under the direction of Supervision.

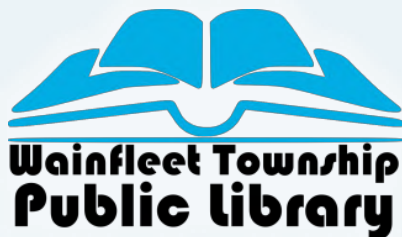
The plans around the day remain fluid, as more information comes in. NRT remains committed to prioritizing safety in our service delivery, despite potential reliability challenges on that day. There are planned meetings with supervisory staff, and community partners to ensure we can effectively address concerns and provide up-to-date information to help keep the buses moving.

NTC Operations is dedicated to providing safe, reliable transit service to our riding public. While reliability may be compromised on April 8th, our unwavering focus on safety will remain paramount.

Respectfully submitted and signed by



Rob Addy
Deputy General Manager Transit Operations



CHECK IT OUT @ YOUR LIBRARY

APRIL 2024 NEWSLETTER

31909 Park Street, P.O. Box 118, Wainfleet, ON L0S 1V0
Phone: 905-899-1277 | Fax: 905-899-2495 | Website: www.wainfleetlibrary.ca



Hours:

Monday & Thursday:
10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday:
10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Saturday:
10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Sunday:
Closed

Notice:

**The Library will be closed
Good Friday - March 29 and
Easter Monday - April 1.**



March Break was so much fun!



368 participants attended 21 programs during March Break!

Inside This Issue

Community Open House	2	Libby eBooks.....	4
One-on-one Computer Training	2	Printing, Copying, etc.....	4
Visiting Library Service	2	Board & Staff Picks	5
Libraries in Niagara Cooperative	2	New Material	5
Programs	3	Library Board & Staff	6
InfoBase.....	4	April Calendar	6
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New and exciting things are happening at the Wainfleet Township Public Library!

6th Annual Community Open House & Free Skate



Enjoy free public skating and learn more about the services / opportunities available in Wainfleet.

Wednesday, April 24th from 5 to 8 p.m. Wainfleet Arena, 31917 Park St.



One-on-One Computer Training



First hour FREE!
\$10.00 per hour thereafter.

1 hour training sessions can be tailored to a program or topic of your choice.

Contact library staff for more information!

VISITING LIBRARY SERVICE

Are you or someone you know unable to visit the Library due to health reasons and/or physical limitations? The Library offers a visiting Library service designed specifically for those who cannot come to the Library. For further information or to schedule deliveries to your home, please call the Library at 905-899-1277.



Wainfleet Township Public Library is part of Libraries in Niagara Cooperative (LiNC)

LiNC is a partnership of many Niagara public library systems to share resources and a catalogue system called Evergreen.

LiNC Public Libraries include: Lincoln Pelham, Fort Erie, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Thorold, Grimsby, Welland, Port Colborne, West Lincoln and Wainfleet.

If you have a Wainfleet Township Public Library Card you are automatically a LiNC cardholder. You can visit any LiNC library and borrow in person, or you can place holds and have items sent to Wainfleet for pick up. Items can be returned to any of the LiNC Libraries. Books and audiobooks can be borrowed for 3 weeks; magazines and DVDs can be borrowed for 1 week.

The Library catalogue allows you to search our Library or the entire LiNC catalogue. You can place holds, renew items, create reading lists and track your reading history.

To access the catalogue, go to www.wainfleetlibrary.ca and click on Catalogue in the upper right corner. To sign in, enter your library card number and your password is either the last 4 digits or last 7 digits of your phone number.

Sign In

CARD NUMBER

Library Card Number

PASSWORD

Last 4 or 7 digits of phone #

Stay signed in

Sign in

PROGRAMS

To sign up for programs that require registration, please visit <https://wainfleetlibrary.ca/programs/current-programs>.

Spring Colouring Contest - April 1 - 30

Hop into the library to pick up your entry for our spring colouring contest for all ages. One prize will be awarded to the top winner in each of the following age categories: preschool, elementary, secondary, adult and seniors (65+). Entries due by 5:00 p.m. on April 30.



Homeschool Craft - Friday, April 5 at 2:15 p.m. and Monday, April 22 at 1:00 p.m.

Join us for one or all of these crafting programs just for our homeschool families. Registration required. Project details can be found in the registration form.



Time for Tots and Craft - Thursday, April 11, 18 & 25 from 10:30 - 11:15 a.m.

Join us for stories, songs, activities and crafts for tots ages 4 months to 4 years and their caregivers. Spaces are limited, please register by Monday, April 8.



Drop-In Resume Refresh with PC Works - Monday, April 15 and 29 from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Drop-in and bring a paper or digital copy of your resume and get tips on how to improve it. Don't have a resume yet? PC Works can help get you started. There is no charge for this program.



Service Canada in Your Community - Thursday, April 18 from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Canada Pension, Old Age Security and Employment Insurance help is available. A Service Canada representative will be on site to help you with your questions, update your address or banking information and to accept your applications. Valid government issued photo identification and your Social Insurance Number is required for all services. If you need a Social Insurance Number this service is also available. Please check the Canada.ca website for required documentation before you come. Service is first come, first served. Passport service is not available at this clinic.



6th Annual Community Open House - Wednesday, April 24 from 5:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Join us at the arena for a free skate and visit the booths in the Moore room to learn more about our local services and community groups.

Thursday Afternoon Book Club - Thursday, April 25 at 2:00 p.m.

This month's book is *Elephants Can Remember* by Agatha Christie. This month's club is full.



DIY Spring Painting - Thursday, April 25 at 6:00 p.m.

Join us as we lead you step-by-step in creating a beautiful spring painting. This program is for everyone ages 6+. Registration required by Friday, April 19.



Monday Evening Book Club - Monday, April 29 at 6:30 p.m.

This month's book is *Untamed* by Glennon Doyle. Registration is required.

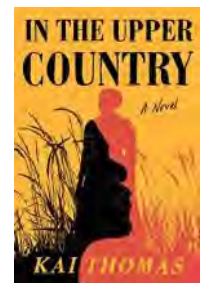


One Book, One Niagara 2nd Annual Event

Tuesday, April 23 from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

The libraries of Niagara are thrilled to announce the second annual One Book, One Niagara event will be held on Tuesday, April 23 at Welland Centennial Secondary School. We're so happy to have award winning author Kai Thomas with us to discuss his debut novel *In the Upper Country*. Tickets are free and are available at:

<https://www.simpletix.com/e/one-book-one-niagara-featuring-kai-thomas-tickets-162628#host>





Infobase Learning Cloud provides on-demand video training for more than 400 software applications, including:

- Microsoft Word & Excel
- Adobe Photoshop & Dreamweaver
- Zoom & iPad
- iMovie & GarageBand
- HTML5 & CSS3
- Social Media & WordPress
- Google Docs & Meet

*Find the link on our website.
The passcode is ontario.*



We are a FamilySearch affiliate library!

Access FamilySearch from any of the library's public computers or via WTPPL wifi for a vast collection of records, resources and services designed to help you learn more about your family history. Build your family tree today!



OverDrive

Borrow magazines, ebooks & audiobooks, all in one app!



Read on Libby.

The one-tap reading app from our library.



PRINTING, COPYING, LAMINATING AND FAXING

New pricing effective January 2024

PRINTING & COPYING

We offer black and white or colour printing and copying. Black and white starts at \$0.30 and colour starts at \$0.60. Quantities of 25+ and 100+ are discounted. We can copy and print up to 11 x 17" size.



LAMINATING


We laminate from card-size up to 11 x 17". The cost ranges from \$0.65 to \$2.65 per sheet depending on the size.



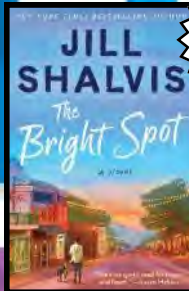
FAXING

The cost to send or receive faxes is \$2.50 plus long distance charges if applicable. There is no limit on the amount of pages per fax.

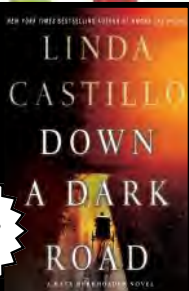




Check out our
BOARD & STAFF PICKS



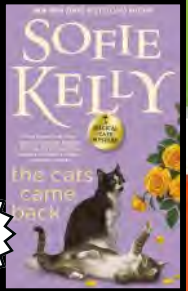
Loorrie's
Pick



Dianne's
Pick



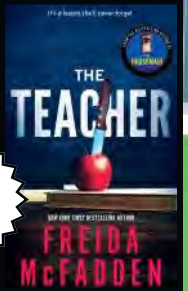
Joan's
Pick



Rosalie's
Pick



Carrie's
Pick



Cheryl's
Pick

NEW LIBRARY MATERIALS

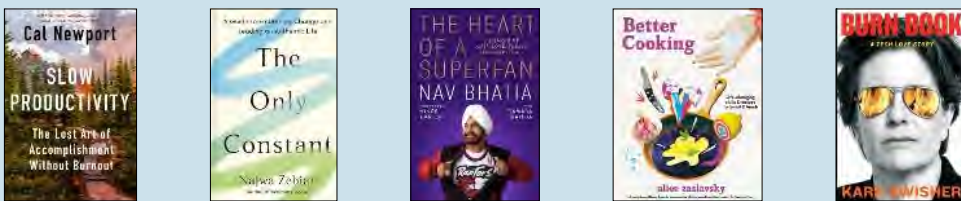
Adult Fiction Books



DVDs



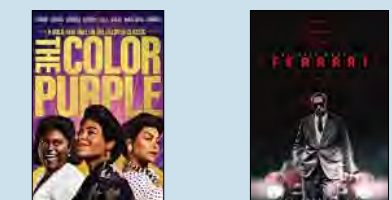
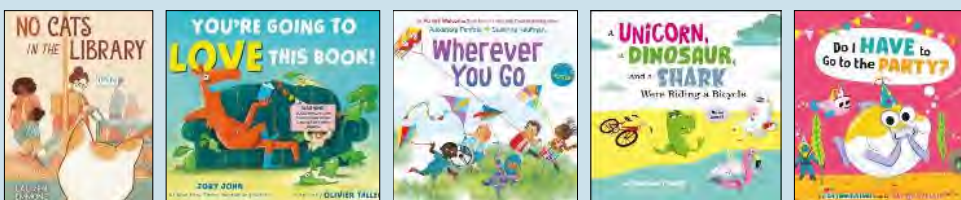
Adult Non-Fiction Books

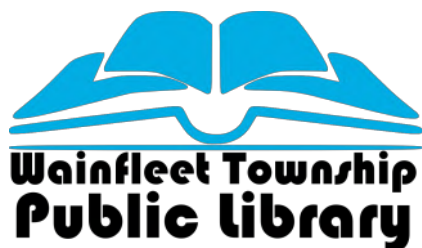


Juvenile & YP Fiction Books



Juvenile Picture Books





MISSION STATEMENT

The Wainfleet Township Public Library Board guarantees equitable access to all with diverse opportunities for personal enrichment and lifelong learning.

LIBRARY STAFF

Lorrie Atkinson, CEO/Chief Librarian

latkinson@wainfleetlibrary.ca

Carrie Mayr, Library Programmer

cmayr@wainfleetlibrary.ca

Cheryl Davis-Catchpaw, Secretary/Library Clerk

cdavis-catchpaw@wainfleetlibrary.ca

Dianne Boru, Library Clerk

dboru@wainfleetlibrary.ca

Rosalie Kasm, Library Clerk

rkasm@wainfleetlibrary.ca

Kayla Spark, Student Page

Dariusz Zelichowski, IT Specialist

darius@wainfleet.ca

In Memory of Patricia Wilson



The Board and Staff are saddened by the passing of Patricia Wilson.

She served on the Library Board and will be remembered for her kindness, humour and contributions to the Library.

LIBRARY BOARD

Lynn J. Hunt

Chairperson

Lynn Gibson

Vice-Chairperson

Joan Anderson

Council Representative

Lois Johnson

Trustee

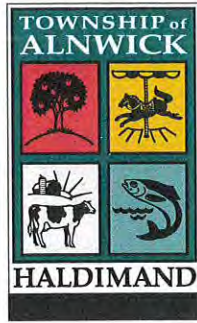
Chris Summerhayes

Trustee

Library Board meetings are held the second Wednesday of February, April, May, June, September, October, November and December and are open to the public.

April 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 CLOSED 	2 Class Visits	3 Class Visits	4 Class Visits	5 2:15 p.m. Homeschool Craft	6
7	8 	9	10 10 a.m. Library Board Meeting	11 10:30 a.m. Time for Tots & Craft	12 Class Visits	13
14	15 1 p.m. Drop-In Resume Refresh with PC Works	16 Class Visits	17 Class Visits	18 10:30 a.m. Time for Tots & Craft 1 p.m. Service Canada	19 Class Visits	20
21	22 1 p.m. Homeschool Craft	23 7 p.m. One Book, One Niagara Event (Welland Centennial School)	24 5 p.m. Community Open House (Arena)	25 10:30 a.m. Time for Tots & Craft 2 p.m. Afternoon Book Club 6 p.m. DIY Spring Painting	26 Class Visits	27
28	29 1 p.m. Drop-In Resume Refresh with PC Works 6:30 p.m. Evening Book Club	30 Colouring Contest closes at 5 p.m. Class Visits				



Received March 27, 2024
C-2024-132

March 27, 2024

Tammy J. Godden, Clerk (Clerks@stcharlesontario.ca)
The Municipality of St. Charles
2 King Street East, P.O. Box 70
St. Charles, ON P0M 2W0

Dear Ms. Godden:

RE: Support of Resolution – Municipalities Retaining Surplus Proceeds from Tax Sales

This is to advise that the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Alnwick/Haldimand at their Regular Council Meeting on September 5th, 2023, passed the following resolution supporting the Municipality of St. Charles Resolution and the Town of Essex in the reinstatement of previous legislation that permitted municipalities to apply for and retain surplus proceeds from tax sales in their jurisdictions:


Moved by Councillor Greg Booth, seconded by Councillor Mike Ainsworth;

"Be it resolved that Council support the correspondence from the Municipality of St. Charles regarding retention of surplus proceeds from tax sales; and

Further that Council direct staff to forward a copy of this resolution to the County of Northumberland and all Ontario municipalities."

CARRIED

Yours truly,


Yolanda Melburn, Deputy Clerk
Township of Alnwick/Haldimand
905-349-2822 ext. 32
ymelburn@ahtwp.ca
Encl.

The Corporation of the Municipality of St. Charles
RESOLUTION PAGE



Regular Meeting of Council

Agenda Number: 10.3.
Resolution Number 2023-151
Title: Resolution Stemming from May 17, 2023 Regular Meeting of Council (Item 9.1 - Correspondence #9 and 15) and from the June 21, 2023 Regular Meeting Council (Item 9.1 - Correspondence #19)
Date: July 19, 2023

Moved by: Councillor Loftus
Seconded by: Councillor Lachance

WHEREAS prior to being repealed by the Modernizing Ontario's Municipal Legislation Act, 2017, Section 380(6) of the Municipal Act, 2001, allowed for a municipality to retain surplus proceeds from tax sales within their jurisdiction;

AND WHEREAS the current Public Tax Sale process is a burdensome process to a municipality that invests a considerable amount of time and money recovering these proceeds for the potential sole benefit of the Crown in Right of Ontario;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council for the Corporation of the Municipality of St.-Charles supports the Corporation of the Town of Essex in the reinstatement of previous legislation that permitted municipalities to apply for and retain surplus proceeds from tax sales in their jurisdictions;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this Resolution be circulated to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH); the Ministry of Finance (MOF); the Ontario Municipal Tax & Revenue Association (OMTRA); the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the local Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP); and, all Ontario Municipalities.

CARRIED


MAYOR



CLEARVIEW
TOWNSHIP

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

Received March 27, 2024
C-2024-133

March 27, 2024

Honourable Arif Virani
Minister of Justice & Attorney General
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

Sent by Email

RE: Township of Clearview Endorsement of Bill C-63 in the House of Commons

Please be advised that Council of the Township of Clearview at its meeting held on March 25, 2024, passed the following resolution in support of the endorsement of Bill C-63 in the House of Commons:

Moved by Councillor Dineen, Seconded by Councillor Broderick, Whereas The Canadian Federal Government has drafted Bill C-63, The Online Harms Act, currently in front of Parliament and has had its first reading; and,

Whereas Bill C-63 requires that online tech companies and social media platforms remove child pornography and other dangerous content within 24 hours once the operator identifies the content, while also mandating the following duties:

- Duty to protect children;
- Duty to act responsibly;
- Duty to remove egregious content; and,

Whereas The Canadian Federal Government proposes to establish a "Digital Safety Commission" and nominate an "independent" Ombudsperson to proactively circumvent potential harms on behalf of Canadians; and,

Whereas online tech companies and social media platforms need to adhere to existing Criminal Laws; and,

Whereas online tech companies and social media platforms need to be held accountable to keep platforms safe from predators targeting children and other vulnerable Canadians and to protect them from bullying, hate, extremism, violence, discrimination, self harm, exploitation and sexual extortion that can lead to the most dire of consequences; and,

Whereas Clearview Township, as all Canadians, endeavours to foster safe homes, communities, schools and public spaces;

Be It Resolved That the Mayor and Council of Clearview Township endorse the passing of Bill C-63 in the House of Commons and the establishment of a "digital safety commission" and nomination of an "independent" Ombudsperson; and,

That a copy of this resolution be circulated to all municipalities in Ontario; the Association of Municipalities of Ontario; Terry Dowdall, MP; The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada and The Honourable Arif Virani, Minister of Justice & Attorney General of Canada. Motion Carried.

Sincerely,



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

cc: Right Honourable Prime Minister Justin Trudeau
Simcoe Grey MP Terry Dowdall
Association of Municipalities of Ontario
Ontario Municipalities

TOWNSHIP OF EDWARDSBURGH CARDINAL

i) i.

March 25, 2024

Resolution Number: ~~2024-~~ 061
Moved By: [Signature]
Seconded By: [Signature]

Received March 27, 2024
C-2024-134

WHEREAS the Edwardsburgh Cardinal Fire Department is comprised of a Fire Chief, Deputy Chief and has two fire stations, which are both staffed with three Captains and a complement of volunteer firefighters; and

WHEREAS the Edwardsburgh Cardinal Fire Department volunteer firefighters typically do not reach the 200-hour threshold within a calendar year to qualify for an increase to the tax credit from \$3,000 to \$10,000; and

WHEREAS the Government of Canada should support all volunteer firefighters whether or not they accumulate 200-hours of volunteer services within a calendar year; and

WHEREAS the Edwardsburgh Cardinal Fire Department and Township of Edwardsburgh Cardinal believe that all volunteer firefighters that have actively contributed to their communities through firefighting and search and rescue services should be recognized and included within the Bill C-310 to increase the amount of the tax credits permitted; and

WHEREAS volunteer firefighters and search and rescue services that have accumulated between 0 to 199 hours of volunteer services should be considered with Bill C-310 for an increase to the amount of tax credit from \$1,000 to \$3,000.

NOW BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Municipal Council of the Township of Edwardsburgh Cardinal call upon the Government of Canada to support Bill C-310 and enact amendments to subsection 118.06(2) and 118.07(2) of the Income Tax Act in order to increase the amount of the tax credits for volunteer firefighting and search and rescue volunteer services from \$1,000 to \$3,000 for any member that has completed between 0 to 199 hours of volunteer services in a calendar year.

Carried Defeated Unanimous

Mayor: [Signature]

RECORDED VOTE REQUESTED BY: _____

NAME	YEA	NAY
Councillor J. Martelle		
Councillor W. Smail		
Councillor C. Ward		
Deputy Mayor S. Dillabough		
Mayor T. Deschamps		
TOTAL		

i)2.

TOWNSHIP OF EDWARDSBURGH CARDINAL

March 25, 2024

Resolution Number ~~2024-~~ 0601
 Moved By: [Signature]
 Seconded By: [Signature]

AND FURTHER THAT the Municipal Council of the Township of Edwardsburgh Cardinal supports Bonfield Township Resolution No. 15 calling upon the Government of Canada to support Bill C-310 and enact amendments to subsection 118.06(2) and 118.07(2) of the Income Tax Act in order to increase the amount of the tax credits for volunteer firefighting and search and rescue volunteer services from \$3,000 to \$10,000.

Carried Defeated Unanimous

Mayor: _____

RECORDED VOTE REQUESTED BY: _____		
NAME	YEA	NAY
Councillor J. Martelle		
Councillor W. Smail		
Councillor C. Ward		
Deputy Mayor S. Dillabough		
Mayor T. Deschamps		
TOTAL		

Terrace Bay
Regular Council - 04 Mar 2024

Item b)

Date: March 4, 2024

CR60-2024

Moved by *Gary Adduono*
Seconded by *[Signature]*

WHEREAS access to natural gas is important to residents and businesses in our community for affordability and reliability

AND WHEREAS the Ontario Energy Board's (OEB) decision on Phase 1 of the Enbridge Gas 2024 rebasing application, issued on 21 December 2023, has concerning implications including putting into question the future access to natural gas that support of economic development, affordable housing growth, and energy reliability in communities such as the Township of Terrace Bay;

AND WHEREAS Ontario is growing and access to affordable energy to support this growth for homes and businesses is crucial, as is a measured approach to energy transition as not having access to natural gas will stifle economic growth and put housing and energy affordability at risk;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: THAT the Township of Terrace Bay supports a measured approach to Ontario's energy transition;

AND FURTHER, that the Municipality of ~~Tweed~~ ^{Terrace Bay} recognizes that there may not be enough electricity available to replace the energy provided by natural gas and meet the increased demand from electrification;

AND FURTHER, that natural gas must continue to play an integral role in meeting the energy needs of Ontario;

AND FURTHER, that the Municipality of ~~Tweed~~ ^{Terrace Bay} supports the work the Government of Ontario has done to date, including the Natural Gas Expansion Program and Electrification and Energy Transition Panel's call for a clear policy on the role of natural gas to secure access to affordable energy;

AND FURTHER, that this resolution be circulated to the President of AMO, Colin Best, Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, Hon. Todd Smith, the Minister of Energy, Lise Vaugeois, Member of Provincial Parliament for Thunder Bay - Superior North, all regional municipalities as significant actors to ensuring the need for natural gas in Ontario as part of a measured approach towards energy transition, and submitted to municipalaffairs@enbridge.com

Carried Defeated Recorded Vote

Recorded Vote:

	Yes	No
Mayor Paul Malashewski		
Councillor Gary Adduono		
Councillor Chris Dube		

Councillor Bert Johnson		
Councillor Rick St. Louis		



Mayor

Terrace Bay
Regular Council - 18 Mar 2024

Received March 27, 2024
C-2024-136

Item a)

Date: March 18, 2024

CR78-2024

Moved by
Seconded by



WHEREAS as a past attendee of combined conferences, it makes great sense for the OGRA & ROMA conferences to be returned to a combined conference effort, not only financially for the municipality but also for availability for participation of members of Council and staff; and

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

WHEREAS during the 2019 OGRA conference AGM a resolution was passed regarding the re-establishment of an annual combined conference for both OGRA & ROMA; and

WHEREAS it is understandable that little movement has happened since the resolution at the 2019 OGRA conference AGM was passed, due to delays of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS not all persons who wish to attend can do so in person, that a hybrid participation option be considered for the sessions;


NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Township of Terrace Bay call upon both the ROMA & OGRA boards to re-establish a combined OGRA & ROMA annual conference.

FURTHERMORE that this resolution be forwarded to Premier Doug Ford, Minister Paul Calandra, MPP Vaugeois and be circulated to Municipalities of Ontario; as required.

Carried Defeated Recorded Vote

Recorded Vote:

	Yes	No
Mayor Paul Malashewski		
Councillor Gary Adduono		
Councillor Chris Dube		
Councillor Bert Johnson		
Councillor Rick St. Louis		



Mayor

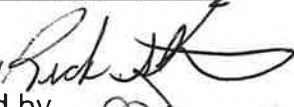

Terrace Bay
Regular Council - 20 Feb 2024

Received March 27, 2024
C-2024-137

Item d)

Date: February 20, 2024

CR39-2024

Moved by 
Seconded by 

WHEREAS the Council of Prince Edward County (PEC) passed the following resolution at their January 16, 2024 regular meeting:

WHEREAS By-Law 3256-2013, being a By-Law to Establish, Maintain, and Operate a Fire Department established service level standards for the Corporation of the County of Prince Edward Fire Department;

AND WHEREAS apparatus and equipment are directly tied to the delivery of fire protection services authorized by Council in By-Law 3256-2013, and a safe, reliable and diverse fleet is required to serve operational needs;

AND WHEREAS fire Apparatus is governed by industry best practices, the application of law and recognized industry partners, including the Ontario Fire Service Section 21 Guidance Notes, National Fire Protection Association Standards, The Occupational Health and Safety Act, and Fire Underwriters Survey (FUS);

AND WHEREAS Fire Underwriters Survey (FUS) is a provider of data, underwriting, risk management and legal/regulatory services focusing on community fire-protection and fire prevention systems in Canada, establishing apparatus replacement schedules based on safety and risk mitigation practices;

AND WHEREAS on November 16, 2023, Council, received report FD-06-2023 regarding asset Management - Fire Apparatus Fleet Report and noted the budgetary pressures of meeting FUS replacement schedules;

AND WHEREAS no provincial funding is available for new fire trucks, yet, small and rural municipalities must meet the same standards set by FUS as larger municipalities for fire equipment, including additional pressure to move fire trucks out when they reach a specific age, even though they can still meet the safety regulations;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of Prince Edward County direct the Mayor to draft a letter to MPP Minister Todd Smith requesting a meeting to discuss the life span of fire apparatus, specifically pertaining to the replacement of fire trucks due to insurance requirements; and

THAT the Mayor draft a letter to FUS requesting the creation of a new community fire-protection and fire prevention insurance system that does not put all municipalities under the same umbrella, with distinct categories for rural and urban municipalities;

THAT this resolution be sent to Premier Doug Ford, the Honourable David Piccini, Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development, Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing requesting a response on this matter within 30 days of receipt; and

THAT this resolution be shared with all 444 municipalities in Ontario, The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), The Association of Municipalities Ontario (AMO), and The Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus (EOWC).

AND WHEREAS the Township of Terrace Bay supports the resolution and initiative of Prince Edward County;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT this resolution of support be sent to Premier Doug Ford, the Honourable David Piccini, Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development, Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing;

THAT this resolution of support be shared with all 444 municipalities in Ontario, The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), The Association of Municipalities Ontario (AMO), The Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus (EOWC) and, the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association

Carried Defeated Recorded Vote

Recorded Vote:

	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No
Mayor Paul Malashewski		
Councillor Gary Adduono		
Councillor Chris Dube		
Councillor Bert Johnson		
Councillor Rick St. Louis		



Mayor

**Terrace Bay
Regular Council - 04 Mar 2024**

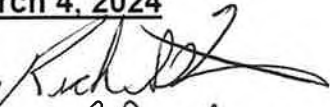
Received March 27, 2024
C-2024-138

Item a)

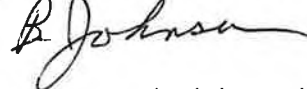
Date: March 4, 2024

CR59-2024

Moved by



Seconded by



WHEREAS current provincial-municipal fiscal arrangements are undermining Ontario's economic prosperity and quality of life

WHEREAS nearly a third of municipal spending in Ontario is for services in areas of provincial responsibility and expenditures are outpacing provincial contributions by nearly \$4 billion a year

WHEREAS municipal revenues, such as property taxes, do not grow with the economy or inflation

WHEREAS unprecedented population and housing growth will require significant investments in municipal infrastructure

WHEREAS municipalities are being asked to take on complex health and social challenges – like homelessness, supporting asylum seekers and addressing the mental health and addictions crises

WHEREAS inflation, rising interest rates, and provincial policy decisions are sharply constraining municipal fiscal capacity

WHEREAS property taxpayers – including people on fixed incomes and small businesses – can't afford to subsidize income re-distribution programs for those most in need

WHEREAS the province can, and should, invest more in the prosperity of communities

WHEREAS municipalities and the provincial government have a strong history of collaboration

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Province of Ontario commit to undertaking with the Association of Municipalities of Ontario a comprehensive social and economic prosperity review to promote the stability and sustainability of municipal finances across Ontario

AND FURTHER THAT a copy of this motion be sent to the Premier of Ontario (premier@ontario.ca); Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing (minister.mah@ontario.ca); the Minister of Finance (minister.fin@ontario.ca); and to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (amo@amo.on.ca).

Carried

Defeated

Recorded Vote

Recorded Vote:

	Yes	No
Mayor Paul Malashewski		

Councillor Gary Adduono		
Councillor Chris Dube		
Councillor Bert Johnson		
Councillor Rick St. Louis		



Mayor

Terrace Bay
Regular Council - 20 Feb 2024

Received March 27, 2024
C-2024-139

Item a)

Date: February 20, 2024

CR37-2024

Moved by 
Seconded by 

WHEREAS the following resolution was passed by Council of the City of Greater Sudbury on December 5, 2023: CC2023-303:

WHEREAS in 2015 the City of Greater Sudbury (the "City") entered into a contract with a contractor experienced in road construction projects to complete a project on Elgin Street in the City's downtown core;

AND WHEREAS the contract provided that the contractor would be the constructor for the project as that term is defined in the Occupational Health and Safety Act (the "Act");

AND WHEREAS an employee of the constructor operating a grader on the project struck and killed a pedestrian;

AND WHEREAS the City was charged with offences under the Act as the constructor and the employer;

AND WHEREAS after being acquitted at trial and on appeal, the Ontario Court of Appeal, in a decision issued on April 23, 2021, found the City to be liable for contraventions of the Construction Regulations as an employer as it employed quality control inspectors to monitor the quality of work on the project from time-to-time;

AND WHEREAS the Supreme Court of Canada, in a decision issued on November 10, 2023, was evenly divided 4-4 on the issue resulting in dismissal of the City's appeal;

AND WHEREAS the consequence of this decision is that municipalities in Ontario, as well as all other owners of property in the province, who wish to undertake construction, are subject to being charged and convicted as an employer for offences in relation to project sites for which they have no control and have, in accordance with the Act, contracted with an entity to assume plenary oversight and authority over the work on such site as the constructor;

AND WHEREAS the potential of an owner being charged as an employer as that term is defined in the Act in circumstances where it has engaged a constructor disregards and renders meaningless the owner-constructor provisions contained in the Act and presents an unacceptable level of increased risk and confusion for owners and contractors throughout the province;

AND WHEREAS the City believes that the safety of workers is paramount however the safety of workers on construction projects in Ontario is not increased by placing liability on parties that do not have control of and are not responsible for the conduct of the work on such sites;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council for the City of Greater Sudbury requests that the province amend the Occupational Health and Safety Act to clarify the definition of "employer" to exclude owners that have contracted with a constructor for a project;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this motion be provided to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, the Honourable David Piccini, Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development, the Honourable Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, France Gelinas, MPP for Nickel Belt, Jamie West, MPP for Sudbury, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities, Ontario's Big City Mayors, Mayors and Regional Chairs of Ontario, Northern Ontario Large Urban Mayors, the Council of Ontario Construction Associations, the Ontario Chamber of Commerce and all Ontario municipalities.

AND WHEREAS the Township of Terrace of Terrace Bay supports the City of Greater Sudbury's request that the province amend the Occupational Health and Safety Act to clarify the definition of "employer" to exclude owners that have contracted with a constructor for a project;

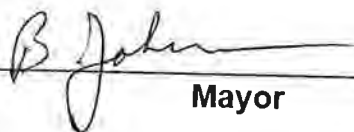
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council for the Township of Terrace Bay also requests that the province amend the Occupational Health and Safety Act to clarify the definition of "employer" to exclude owners that have contracted with a constructor for a project;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this motion be provided to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, the Honourable David Piccini, Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development, the Honourable Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Lise Vaugeois, MPP for Thunder Bay Superior North, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities, Ontario's Big City Mayors, Mayors and Regional Chairs of Ontario, Northern Ontario Large Urban Mayors, the Council of Ontario Construction Associations, the Ontario Chamber of Commerce and all Ontario municipalities.

Carried Defeated Recorded Vote

Recorded Vote:

	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No
Mayor Paul Malashewski		
Councillor Gary Adduono		
Councillor Chris Dube		
Councillor Bert Johnson		
Councillor Rick St. Louis		



 Mayor

**CORPORATION OF THE
TOWNSHIP OF NORTH GLENGARRY**

Council Meeting

Resolution # 11

Date: Monday, March 25, 2024

Moved by: Carma Williams

Seconded by: Michael Madden

WHEREAS current provincial-municipal fiscal arrangements are undermining Ontario’s economic prosperity and quality of life; and

WHEREAS nearly a third of municipal spending in Ontario is for services in areas of provincial responsibility and expenditures are outpacing provincial contributions by nearly \$4 billion a year; and

WHEREAS municipal revenues, such as property taxes, do not grow with the economy or inflation; and

WHEREAS unprecedented population and housing growth will require significant investments in municipal infrastructure; and

WHEREAS municipalities are being asked to take on complex health and social challenges like homelessness, supporting asylum seekers and addressing the mental health and addictions crises; and

WHEREAS inflation, rising interest rates, and provincial policy decisions are sharply constraining municipal fiscal capacity; and

WHEREAS property taxpayers – including people on fixed incomes and small businesses – can’t afford to subsidize income re-distribution programs for those most in need; and

WHEREAS the province can, and should, invest more in the prosperity of communities; and

WHEREAS municipalities and the provincial government have a strong history of collaboration; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Province of Ontario commit to undertaking with the Association of Municipalities of Ontario a comprehensive social and economic prosperity review to promote the stability and sustainability of municipal finances across Ontario; and further.

Carried

Deferred

Defeated

Mayor / Deputy Mayor

The Office of the Mayor
Ian Boddy
City Hall
808 2nd Avenue East
Owen Sound, ON N4K 2H4



Telephone: 519-376-4440 ext. 1212
Facsimile: 519-376-3579
Email: iboddy@owensound.ca
Website: www.owensound.ca

Received March 28, 2024
C-2024-141

March 28, 2024

Via Email

Re: Support for the Province to Expand the Life Span of Fire Apparatus

The City of Owen Sound's Corporate Services Committee, at its meeting held on February 8, 2024, considered correspondence from the County of Prince Edward respecting support for the Province to expand the life span of fire apparatus, specifically pertaining to the replacement of fire trucks due to insurance requirements. As a result, Resolution No. 2024-46 CR-240208-008 was carried:

"THAT in consideration of correspondence provided for information purposes listed on the February 8th Corporate Services Committee agenda, the Corporate Services Committee recommends that City Council request that the Mayor send a letter in support of the Prince Edward County resolution to the 444 municipalities in Ontario, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), the Association of Municipalities Ontario (AMO), the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus (EOWC), Premier Doug Ford, Rick Byers, Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound MPP, the Honourable David Piccini, Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development, and Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing."

Owen Sound City Council at its meeting held on February 26, 2024, considered the [minutes](#) of the Corporate Services Committee meeting held on February 8, 2024, and passed Resolution No. R-240226-014:

"THAT the minutes of the Corporate Services Committee meeting held on February 8, 2024 be received and the recommendations contained therein be approved."

A safe, reliable, and diverse fleet of fire apparatus is required to serve the operational needs of all our communities.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Ian C. Boddy
Mayor

cc: 444 Municipalities in Ontario
Owen Sound City Council
Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus (EOWC)
Premier Doug Ford
Rick Byers, Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound MPP
The Honourable David Piccini, Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training &
Skills Development
Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Bonnie Crombie, Leader of the Ontario Liberal Party
Marit Stiles, Leader of the Ontario New Democratic Party
Mike Schreiner, Leader of the Ontario Green Party



Received March 28, 2024
C-2024-142

March 28, 2024

Julie Kirkelos, Clerk
Town of Lincoln
4800 South Service Road
Beamsville, ON L0R 1B1

Sent via Email: jkirkelos@lincoln.ca

Dear Julie:

Sent via E-mail

Re: Increased Funding to Libraries and Museums in Ontario

Please be advised that at its meeting of March 19, 2024, the Council of the City of Niagara Falls passed the following motion:

Ordered on the motion of Councillor Mike Strange, seconded by Councillor Ruth-Ann Nieuwesteeg, THAT Council support the resolution from the Town of Lincoln regarding urgent need for increased funding for museums and libraries.

Carried Unanimously

I trust that this information will be of assistance.

Sincerely,

As per:

Bill Matson
City Clerk

cc:

Premier of Ontario
Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport
Wayne Gates, MPP for Niagara Falls
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
Local Area Municipalities

Working Together to Serve Our Community

Clerks
Ext 4342 Fax 905-356-9083
billmatson@niagarafalls.ca



4800 SOUTH SERVICE RD
BEAMSVILLE, ON L0R 1B1

905-563-8205

February 28, 2024

SENT VIA EMAIL: Premier@ontario.ca

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

Dear Honourable Doug Ford:

RE: Town of Lincoln Council Resolution – Urgent Need for Increased Funding to Libraries and Museums in Ontario

Please be advised that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Lincoln at its Council Meeting held on February 26, 2024, passed the following motion regarding an Urgent Need for Increased Funding to Libraries and Museums in Ontario:

Resolution No: RC-2024-23

Moved by Mayor Easton; Seconded by Councillor Mike Mikolic

WHEREAS the provincial funding for public libraries is currently based on population levels from 25 years ago, which fails to reflect the substantial growth and changing needs of our communities. The Town of Lincoln Council wishes to draw your attention to the "Overdue" report of 2023 from the Canadian Urban Council, which emphasizes the pivotal role libraries play in various aspects of community life, including knowledge distribution, culture, health, reconciliation, belonging, and our democracy; and

WHEREAS libraries, situated at the heart of our communities, serve as multifaceted institutions catering to diverse needs. They provide essential services such as access to culture and information, refuge for those experiencing domestic violence, election information centers, job search facilities, health clinics, language learning centers for newcomers, and spaces for educational and community events. Despite their vital role, public libraries in Ontario have not seen an increase in provincial funding for over 25 years, leading to a decrease in the value of the province's investment by over 60%; and

WHEREAS the Town of Lincoln Council urges the Provincial Government to

consider increasing provincial funding for Ontario's public libraries to address critical shared priorities and community needs. While over 90% of library funding comes from local municipal governments, provincial operating funding is crucial for providing stability to library budgets, especially in times of inflation, technological changes, and increasing demands on libraries as community hubs; and

WHEREAS the Town of Lincoln Council would like to bring to the Provincial Government's attention the pressing need to increase the funding envelope for the Community Museum Operating Grant (CMOG). The Town of Lincoln currently receives \$25,000 annually, the maximum amount through this grant, but the funding envelope has remained stagnant for over 15 years. This limitation hampers the ability of community museums to offset increasing operational expenses, impacting their role in preserving and promoting local stories, attracting cultural tourists, supplementing school curriculum, and contributing to vibrant and vital communities; and

WHEREAS the Lincoln Museum and Cultural Centre is a community hub critical to the health and vibrancy of our community. An increase in CMOG funding will enable our museum to continue its valuable service to the community, creating a sense of place, attracting cultural tourists, and preserving local stories that define our unique identity; and

WHEREAS Cultural institutions, particularly museums, play a vital role in shaping and preserving our community's identity. They contribute to tourism, social participation, senior well-being, skill-building, and learning. As the largest government funder for most of Ontario's smaller museums, municipalities create value in their communities through the work of these institutions.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Town of Lincoln Council urges the Provincial Government to support increasing funding to both public libraries and community museums. Recognizing these institutions as national assets and strategically investing in their potential will contribute significantly to renewing post-pandemic social cohesion, economic well-being, and community resilience; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this resolution be circulated to the Province, the Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport, Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the Niagara Region, the 12 Local Area Municipalities in Niagara and all municipalities of Ontario for endorsement.

CARRIED

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

Regards,



Julie Kirkelos

Town Clerk

jkirkelos@lincoln.ca

JK/dp

Cc: Premier of Ontario
Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
Ann-Marie Norio, Clerk, Niagara Region
Local Area Municipalities
All Ontario Municipalities