

1. **C-2024-143**
Correspondence dated March 28, 2024 from the Town of Pelham to The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario respecting a resolution of support for the OEB decision to end the gas pipeline subsidy.
2. **C-2024-144**
Correspondence dated March 21, 2024 from the Township of Greater Madawaska respecting a resolution of support for the Association of Ontario Road Supervisors to develop a Municipal Equipment Operator Course.
3. **C-2024-145**
Correspondence dated March 21, 2024 from the Township of Greater Madawaska respecting a resolution of support for the City of Greater Sudbury correspondence regarding the Occupational Health and Safety Act Definition of "Employer".
4. **C-2024-146**
Correspondence dated March 22, 2024 from the Township of Alnwick/Haldimand respecting a resolution of support for the Municipality of St. Charles and City of Cambridge correspondence regarding Highway Traffic Act Amendments.
5. **C-2024-147**
Correspondence dated March 25, 2024 from the Town of Shelburne respecting a resolution calling on all levels of government to eradicate all forms of racism especially Islamophobia and antisemitism.
6. **C-2024-148**
Correspondence dated March 24, 2024 from the Niagara Region Labour Council respecting a request to proclaim April 28th as the "National Day of Mourning" and to fly flags at half-mast on that day.
7. **C-2024-149**
Correspondence dated April 3, 2024 from the City of St. Catharines to the Town of Lincoln respecting a resolution of support for their correspondence regarding Urgent Need for Increased Funding for Museums and Libraries.
8. **C-2024-150**
Correspondence dated April 4, 2024 from the City of Guelph to The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario and The Honourable Todd Smith, Minister of Energy respecting a resolution of support for the OEB decision to end the fossil gas infrastructure subsidy.
9. **C-2024-151**
Correspondence dated April 4, 2024 from the Ministry of Finance respecting announcements related to municipal taxation made in the 2024 Ontario Budget.

10. **C-2024-152**
Correspondence dated April 4, 2024 from the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority respecting New Conservation Authorities Act Legislative and Regulatory Requirements – NPCA Housekeeping Policy Amendments and Transition Plan

11. **C-2024-153**
Correspondence dated April 3, 2024 from the Town of Lincoln to The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario respecting a resolution requesting that Subsection 27(16) of the *Ontario Heritage Act* be amended to extend the deadline to January 1, 2030.

March 28, 2024

Received March 28, 2024
C-2024-143

premier@ontario.ca

Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
823 Albion Road
Etobicoke, ON M9V 1A3

Dear Honourable Doug Ford:

Decision of the Ontario Energy Board to End the Gas Pipeline Subsidy

At their regular meeting of March 27, 2024, Council of the Town of Pelham endorsed the following:

WHEREAS residents of the Town of Pelham and other Ontario municipalities are struggling with rising energy costs;

AND WHEREAS natural gas is no longer the only desirable way to heat homes because of innovations in electric heat pumps which can provide all heating needs even in cold climates, and result in competitive energy bills relative to gas heating;

AND WHEREAS natural gas is a fossil fuel that contributes to Ontario's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and should be phased out over time when possible and practical, while heat pumps currently result in the lower GHG emissions and are consistent with a zero-carbon future;

AND WHEREAS on December 21, 2023, the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) released a decision that eliminated a subsidy for the installation of gas pipelines in new construction developments as of January 1, 2025, finding that this would lower energy bills for existing gas customers and improve affordability for new homebuyers;

AND WHEREAS on February 22, 2024, the provincial government introduced Bill 165 which, if passed, will effectively overturn the OEB decision;

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 get off fossil fuel heating;

AND WHEREAS the Town of Pelham supports the decarbonization of heating and cooling systems in existing and future building stock within the community;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council endorses and supports the OEB decision to end the gas pipeline subsidy, opposes the provisions of Bill 165 that would effectively reverse the OEB decision, and calls on the Honourable T. Smith, Minister of Energy, and the Government of Ontario, to rescind or amend Bill 165 accordingly;

THAT this resolution be circulated to the Premier of Ontario, Doug Ford; Minister of Energy, Todd Smith; Minister of Finance, Peter Bethlenfalvy; MPP, Sam Oosterhoff, the President of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, Colin Best; and Local Area Municipalities.

Should you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact Town Clerk, William Tigert 905-892-2607 ext 316.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "WT", written over a light blue horizontal line.

William Tigert, Town Clerk

/jl

c. Niagara Region ann-marie.norio@niagararegion.ca; Town of Fort Erie PTodd@forterie.ca; Town of Grimsby clerks@grimsby.ca; Town of Lincoln clerks@lincoln.ca; City of Niagara Falls billmatson@niagarafalls.ca; Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake clerks@notl.com; City of Port Colborne saima.tufail@portcolborne.ca; City of St. Catharines ddelvecchio@stcatharines.ca; City of Thorold clerk@thorold.ca; Town of Wainfleet mkirckham@wainfleet.ca; City of Welland clerk@welland.ca; Town of West Lincoln jscime@westlincoln.ca



Council Resolution Form

Date: 21 Mar 2024 No: Resolution No.63-24
 Moved By: Councillor Tripp Disposition: CARRIED.
Seconded by Councillor Popkie
 Item No: 12.3

Description: Funding for the 2024 Municipal Equipment Operator Course

RESOLUTION:

WHEREAS, municipal public works departments from across the Province of Ontario provide invaluable services to our communities ensuring the health and safety of all residents;

AND WHEREAS, if it was not for our municipal public works employees from across the Province of Ontario maintaining our public roads systems, our communities would not be able to function as emergency personnel could not respond to calls, school buses could not get our children to school, residents would not be able to get to work, school or appointments and many more basic functions would not be able to happen;

AND WHEREAS, municipal public works departments are already feeling the impacts of a labour shortage, which will only be exasperated over the next three to five years, which will cause levels of service municipalities are able to provide to ensure the health and safety of our residents to decrease;

AND WHEREAS, there is currently no provincial-wide course that properly trains potential municipal public works employees, specifically relating to municipal heavy equipment.

THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED, that the Township of Greater Madawaska supports the work of the Association of Ontario Road Supervisors to develop a Municipal Equipment Operator Course to address this issue;

| | | |
|-----------------------------|-------|-------|
| Recorded Vote Requested by: | | |
|n/a..... | | |
| | Yea | Nay |
| J. Levesque | _____ | _____ |
| T. Popkie | _____ | _____ |
| L. Thomson | _____ | _____ |
| R. Tripp | _____ | _____ |
| R. Weir | _____ | _____ |

_____ Page 1 of 2 _____
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

AND THAT, the Township of Greater Madawaska calls 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;

AND THAT, a copy of this resolution be sent to the Minister of Labour, Training, Immigration and Skilled Trades David Piccini, MPP John Yakabuski, the Association of Ontario Road Supervisors, 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



Council Resolution Form

Date: 21 Mar 2024 No: Resolution No.62-24
Moved By: Councillor Tripp Disposition: CARRIED.
Seconded by Councillor Popkie
Item No: 12.2

Description: Occupational Health and Safety Act Definition of "Employer"

RESOLUTION:

That Council support Resolution CC2023-303 passed by the Council of the City of Greater Sudbury on December 5, 2023 regarding the Amendment of the Occupational Health and Safety Act to Clarify the Definition of "Employer", including that the definition of "employer" excludes owners that have contracted with a constructor for a project;

And furthermore that a copy of this resolution and a copy of the City of Greater Sudbury's resolution be circulated 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, John Yakabuski, MPP for Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario 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

December 12, 2023

Sent Via Email

Municipalities of Ontario

Re: Amendment to the Occupational Health and Safety Act to Clarify the Definition of "Employer"

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;

PO BOX 5000 STN A
200 BRADY STREET
SUDBURY ON P3A 5P3

CP 5000 SUCC A
200, RUE BRADY
SUDBURY ON P3A 5P3

705.671.2489

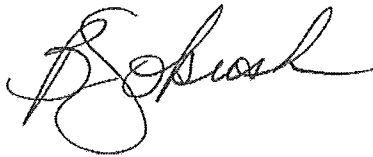
www.greatersudbury.ca
www.grandsudbury.ca

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 Gelin, 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.

Yours truly,

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

Brigitte Sobush
Manager of Clerk's Services/Deputy City Clerk

- c. Members of City Council
Eric Labelle, City Solicitor and Clerk



Received March 28, 2024
C-2024-146

March 28, 2024

David Piccini, MPP
Northumberland-Peterborough South
Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development
117 Peter Street,
Port Hope, ON L1A 1C5

Dear Sir:

RE: Support of Resolution – Highway Traffic Act Amendments, Automated Speed Enforcement Systems

This is to advise that the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Alwicks/Haldimand at their Regular Council Meeting on September 5th, 2023, passed the following resolution supporting the resolutions of the Municipality of St. Charles and City of Cambridge regarding Highway Traffic Act Amendments:

Moved by Councillor Greg Booth, seconded by Councillor Mary Catherine O'Neill;

"Whereas Council reviewed the correspondence "Highway Traffic Act Amendments, Automated Speed Enforcement (ASE) Systems" from the Municipality of St. Charles, and the Resolution from the City of Cambridge;

Be it resolved that the Council of the Township of Alwicks/Haldimand support amendments to the Highway Traffic Act that would allow municipalities to locate an ASE system permanently or temporarily on any roadway under the jurisdiction of municipalities, and as determined by municipalities, and not be restricted to only community safety zones and school safety zones; and

Further that Council direct staff to forward a copy of this resolution to local MPP David Piccini, the Minister of Transportation, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, AMO, and all Ontario municipalities."

CARRIED

A copy of the above noted resolution from both the Municipality of St. Charles and the City of Cambridge is attached for your reference.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Yolanda Melburn', with a long, sweeping underline.

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

Encl.

Cc: (via email)
Clerk, City of Cambridge
Clerk, Municipality of St. Charles
Prabmeet Sarkaria, Minister of Transportation
Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
All Ontario Municipalities

**The Corporation of the City of Cambridge
Corporate Services Department
Clerk's Division
The City of Cambridge
50 Dickson Street, P.O. Box 669
Cambridge ON N1R 5W8
Tel: (519) 740-4680 ext. 4585
mantond@cambridge.ca**

May 10, 2023

Re: Highway Traffic Act Amendments

Dear Ms. Mulronev,

At the Council Meeting of May 9, 2023, the Council of the Corporation of the City of Cambridge passed the following Motion:

WHEREAS speeding on our roads is a major concern in our community,

AND WHEREAS speeding can occur in all areas of our community,

AND WHEREAS barriers and delays to enforcement pose a danger to our community,

AND WHEREAS our municipality has limited resources to implement speed mitigation road design and re-design,

AND WHEREAS our local police service has limited resources to undertake speed enforcement,

AND WHEREAS s.205.1 of the Highway Traffic Act (HTA) provides that Automated Speed Enforcement systems (ASE) may only be placed in designated community safety zones and school safety zones,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the City of Cambridge request that the Ontario Government amend s.205.1 of the HTA to permit municipalities to locate an ASE system permanently or temporarily on any roadway under the jurisdiction of municipalities and as determined by municipalities and not be restricted to only community safety zones and school safety zones;

AND THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Ontario Minister of Transportation, the Ontario Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, local area MPPs, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and all Ontario Municipalities.

Should you have any questions related to the approved resolution, please contact me.

Yours Truly,



Danielle Manton
City Clerk

Cc: (via email)
Steve Clark, Ontario Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Local Area MPPs
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
All Ontario Municipalities



TOWN OF SHELburne

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Received March 28, 2024
C-2024-147

No. 08

Date: 3/25/24

Moved: Councillor Benotto

Seconded by: Councillor Wegener

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council of the Town of Shelburne encourages all levels of government to eradicate all forms of racism especially Islamophobia and antisemitism, and that this motion be sent to our MP and MPP and all municipalities.

CARRIED, W. Mills

Requested Vote to be Recorded Yes No

| | Yea | Nay |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Mayor Mills | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Deputy Mayor Hall | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Councillor Benotto | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Councillor Fegan | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Councillor Guchardi | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Councillor Sample | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Councillor Wegener | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |



Niagara Regional Labour Council

March 24, 2024

Mayor Brian Grant
Township of Wainfleet
31940 Highway #3,
P.O. Box 40
Wainfleet, ON
L0S 1V0

Dear Mayor Grant:

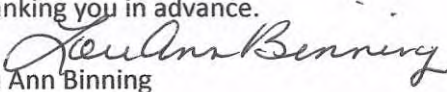
On April 28th, the Niagara Regional Labour Council will observe the National Day of Mourning to remember those who have suffered injury and/or died on the job. As we remember those who have died in workplace catastrophes, those who have been exposed to toxic substances and those who have been injured due to dangerous work conditions, we rededicate ourselves to fight for safe workplaces.

Therefore, as we approach April 28th, we are requesting that City Council consider and issue a Proclamation with respect to the "National Day of Mourning".

We are also requesting that all flags be flown at Half-Mast at the City Hall on the 28th, as we remember those who have been injured or were killed in the workplace.

We have also attached the schedule of the ceremonies for the day if you are available to attend.

Thanking you in advance.


Lou Ann Binning
President
Niagara Regional Labour Council
nrlc.clc@gmail.com

April 3, 2024

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

Sent via email: jkirkelos@lincoln.ca

**Re: Urgent Need for Increased Funding for Museums and Libraries
Our File 35.11.2**

Dear Ms. Kirkelos,

At its meeting held on March 18, 2024, St. Catharines City Council approved the following motion:

That Council endorse Sub-Item 2, Resolution from the Town of Lincoln regarding Urgent Need for Increased Funding for Libraries and Museums

If you have any questions, please contact the Office of the City Clerk at extension 1524.



Kristen Sullivan, City Clerk
Legal and Clerks Services, Office of the City Clerk
:sm

Encl. Resolution from the Town of Lincoln regarding Urgent Need for Increased Funding for Libraries and Museums



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.

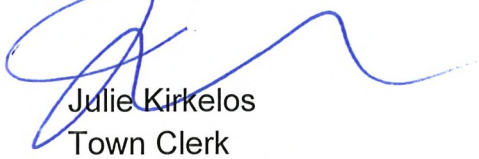
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Town of Lincoln Council urges the Provincial Government to support increasing funding to both public libraries and community museums. Recognizing these institutions as national assets and strategically investing in their potential will contribute significantly to renewing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

Thursday, April 4, 2024

Sent via email to: premier@ontario.ca; MinisterEnergy@ontario.ca;

The Honourable Doug Ford

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

The Honourable Todd Smith

Minister of Energy
10th Floor, 77 Grenville Street
Toronto, ON M7A 2C1

RE: Guelph City Council Resolution to Support the Decision of the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) to End the Subsidization of Fossil Gas

Dear Premier Ford and Minister Smith,

Guelph City Council at its meeting held on March 26, 2024 passed the following resolution in support of the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) decision to revise the revenue horizon for calculating the upfront cost for new natural gas connections, and to end the Gas Pipeline Subsidy:

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

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 the cold climates, and result in far lower energy bills over the long term compared to gas heating;

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;

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;

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

City Hall
1 Carden St
Guelph, ON
Canada
N1H 3A1

T 519-822-1260
TTY 519-826-9771

guelph.ca



WHEREAS, the construction of new methane gas pipelines, which have 60-year lifetimes, should not be subsidized because they are inconsistent with the City's climate targets and will result in higher carbon emissions, higher energy bills, higher future decarbonization retrofit costs to get off fossil fuel heating, and a continued financial drain as dollars leave the province to pay for fossil fuels extracted in other jurisdictions;

WHEREAS, Guelph City Council acknowledged the climate crisis (May 2019), passed a resolution to support the phase-out of gas-fired energy plants by 2030 (December 2020); and passed a resolution of support to the United Nations Race to Zero commitment (December 2021);

WHEREAS, transforming our existing and new buildings by supporting actions that improve the energy efficiency and GHG profile within the City is a stated goal of our Community Energy Initiative (CEI), our Official Plan and our Strategic Plan;

WHEREAS, the City of Guelph is actively working to support the decarbonization of heating and cooling systems in existing and future building stock within the community, as demonstrated by the Guelph Green Homes Energy Retrofit Program, which will provide 0% interest loans to Guelph homeowners to enable them to transition away from fossil-fuel powered heating and cooling equipment to low carbon air or ground source heat pump systems.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

(a) That the City of Guelph expresses its support for the decision of the Ontario Energy Board to end the fossil gas infrastructure subsidy and requests that the Ontario Government withdraw Bill 165 and allow the OEB decision to stand; and

(b) That this resolution be circulated to the President of Association of Municipalities of Ontario, Colin Best; Premier of Ontario, Doug Ford; Minister of Energy, Todd Smith; Minister of Finance, Peter Bethlenfalvy, MPP Mike Schreiner, and all Ontario Municipalities requesting support for the proposed changes.

Sincerely,

Intergovernmental Services on behalf of Guelph City Council

Chief Administrative Office

Intergovernmental.relations@guelph.ca

City Hall, 1 Carden Street, Guelph ON N1H 3A1

519-822-1260 x5602



TTY: 519-826-9771

CC: The Honourable Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance;
Mike Schreiner, MPP;
Colin Best, President of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario;
All Ontario Municipalities

Ministry of Finance

Provincial-Local Finance Division

Frost Building North
95 Grosvenor Street
Toronto ON M7A 1Z1

Fax: 1 888 333-2138

Ministère des Finances

Division des relations provinciales
municipales en matière de finances

Édifice Frost nord
95 rue Grosvenor
Toronto ON M7A 1Z1

Télééc. : 1 888 333-2138



Received April 4, 2024
C-2024-151

April 4, 2024

Dear Municipal Treasurer / Clerk-Treasurer:

I am writing to inform you of a few announcements related to municipal taxation made in the 2024 Ontario Budget, including:

1. A new property tax option available to municipalities.
2. Extension of Municipal Vacant Home Tax authority, as well as the release of a Provincial Policy Framework.

Taxation of new multi-residential rental properties

Ontario is committed to addressing the current housing crisis and increasing housing affordability for the people of Ontario. To further encourage the development of purpose-built rental properties, effective immediately, Ontario is providing municipalities with the flexibility to offer a reduced municipal property tax rate on new multi-residential rental properties.

Municipalities will be able to offer this type of tax reduction through the adoption of an optional new multi-residential property subclass within the new multi-residential property class.

Single-tier or upper-tier municipalities that are interested in offering a reduced municipal property tax rate can do so by passing a municipal by-law adopting the subclass and setting a reduction percentage of up to 35%, as determined by the municipality.

Only new multi-residential developments would qualify for a reduced property tax rate, pursuant to a building permit issued on or after an effective date specified in the municipal by-law. Consistent with the approach taken for the previously implemented new multi-residential property class, a property would be subject to the tax reduction once construction has been completed and the building is ready for occupancy. The property would benefit from a reduced rate for a period of 35 years.

Amendments have been made to regulations under the *Assessment Act*, *Municipal Act, 2001*, and the *City of Toronto Act, 2006*. These enabling regulations are available on e-laws at the following links:

- [O. Reg. 140/24: GENERAL \(ontario.ca\)](#)

- [O. Reg. 141/24: TAX MATTERS – SPECIAL TAX RATES AND LIMITS \(ontario.ca\)](#)
- [O. Reg. 142/24: TRADITIONAL MUNICIPAL TAXES, LIMITS AND COLLECTION \(ontario.ca\)](#)

If you have any questions related to this new flexibility, please contact Chris Broughton, Director of the Property Tax Policy Branch at Chris.Broughton@ontario.ca or 416-455-6307.

Municipal Vacant Home Taxes

An unoccupied home is unacceptable in a housing crisis. That is why Ontario is empowering municipalities to make more vacant homes available for housing.

Ontario has responded to municipal requests for additional clarity and flexibility around the existing municipal Vacant Home Tax authority by:

- Extending authority broadly to all single- and upper-tier municipalities to impose a tax on vacant homes, effective immediately.
- Releasing a Provincial Policy Framework. Municipalities will be supported with a new Provincial Policy Framework that sets out best practices for implementing a Vacant Home Tax. The Framework will also encourage municipalities to set a higher Vacant Home Tax rate for foreign-owned vacant homes.

Amendments have been made to the relevant regulations under the *Municipal Act, 2001*. This enabling regulation is available on e-laws at the following link:

- [O. Reg. 143/24: OPTIONAL TAX ON VACANT RESIDENTIAL UNITS - DESIGNATED MUNICIPALITIES](#)

The Provincial Policy Framework for municipal Vacant Home Taxes has been released, and is available at:

- [Provincial Policy Framework](#)

If you have any questions related to the Municipal Vacant Home Tax authority, please contact Mary Iannaci, Director of the Municipal Funding Policy Branch at Mary.Iannaci@ontario.ca or 647-407-0820.

Sincerely,



Ian Freeman, CPA, CMA
Assistant Deputy Minister
Provincial-Local Finance Division

April 04, 2024

**City of Hamilton
Haldimand County
Regional Municipality of Niagara
Local Area Municipalities**

SENT ELECTRONICALLY

**Resolution No. FA-19-24 pertaining to Report No. FA-09-24
RE: New Conservation Authorities Act Legislative and Regulatory Requirements –
NPCA Housekeeping Policy Amendments and Transition Plan**

At the Board of Directors meeting held on March 22, 2024, the Board passed the following resolution:

Resolution No. FA-19-24

WHEREAS the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA) Policy Document: Policies for Planning and Development in the Watersheds of the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority was approved by the Board of Directors on November 4, 2022, through Resolution No. FA-105-2022, with additional approval of deferred policies on November 18, 2022, through Governance Committee Recommendation No. GC-37-2022;

WHEREAS on February 16, 2024, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry issued a notice on the Environmental Registry of Ontario of the government's decision to proclaim legislative and regulatory amendments under the *Conservation Authorities Act* that will come into force on April 1, 2024;

NOW THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED THAT Report No. FA-09-24 RE: New *Conservation Authorities Act* Legislative and Regulatory Requirements – NPCA Housekeeping Policy Amendments and Transition Plan BE APPROVED;

THAT staff BE AUTHORIZED to implement the transition plan identified in Appendix 2 and to report to the Board periodically on these matters;

THAT a copy of the Board of Directors decision and Report FA-09-24 RE: New *Conservation Authorities Act* Legislative and Regulatory Requirements – NPCA Housekeeping Policy Amendments and Transition plan be **CIRCULATED** to the Office

of the Clerk for NPCA's watershed upper, single, and lower-tier municipalities for their information, and **POSTED** on the NPCA's website.

A copy of Report No. FA-09-24 and associated Appendices are enclosed for your reference.

Sincerely,



Melanie Davis
Manager, Office of the CAO & Board
Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority

cc: Chandra Sharma, CAO / Secretary - Treasurer
Leilani Lee-Yates, Director, Planning & Development

Report To: Board of Directors

Subject: New Conservation Authorities Act Legislative and Regulatory Requirements – NPCA Housekeeping Policy Amendments and Transition Plan

Report No: FA-09-24

Date: March 22, 2024

Recommendation:

WHEREAS the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA) Policy Document: Policies for Planning and Development in the Watersheds of the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority was approved by the Board of Directors on November 4, 2022, through Resolution No. FA-105-2022, with additional approval of deferred policies on November 18, 2022, through Governance Committee Recommendation No. GC-37-2022;

WHEREAS on February 16, 2024, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry issued a notice on the Environmental Registry of Ontario of the government's decision to proclaim legislative and regulatory amendments under the *Conservation Authorities Act* that will all come into force on April 1, 2024;

NOW THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED THAT Report No. FA-09-24 RE: New Conservation Authorities Act Legislative and Regulatory Requirements – NPCA Housekeeping Policy Amendments and Transition Plan **BE APPROVED**;

THAT staff **BE AUTHORIZED** to revise NPCA Policy Document: Policies for Planning and Development in the Watersheds of the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority to include housekeeping amendments described in Appendix 1 for implementation on the provincially set date of April 1, 2024;

THAT staff **BE AUTHORIZED** to implement the transition plan identified in Appendix 2 and to report to the Board periodically on these matters;

THAT a copy of the Board of Directors decision and Report FA-09-24 RE: New Conservation Authorities Act Legislative and Regulatory Requirements – NPCA Housekeeping Policy Amendments and Transition Plan be **CIRCULATED** to the Office of the Clerk for NPCA’s watershed upper, single and lower-tier municipalities for their information, and **POSTED** on the NPCA’s website.

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to inform the Board of the new provisions under the *Conservation Authorities Act* and new regulations coming into effect on April 1, 2024, to provide a summary of key changes, and to seek approval of staff recommendations for housekeeping amendments to the NPCA Policy Document and a transition plan for conforming to the legislative and regulatory changes.

Background:

In recent years, the *Conservation Authorities Act*, has been amended through several pieces of legislation starting in 2017 with the *Building Better Communities and Conserving Watersheds Act*, and more recently in late 2022 through the *More Homes Built Faster Act* (Bill 23). These amendments have been implemented at various times per legislative proclamations. In late 2022, a regulatory proposal for “Proposed updates to the regulation of development for the protection of people and property from natural hazards in Ontario” was posted on the Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO) for consultation.

Conservation authorities across the province, including the NPCA, have provided comments to the Provincial Government on the proposed changes either directly or through Conservation Ontario. During the consultation on Bill 23, the NPCA sent comments directly through the ERO and was invited to make a delegation to the Standing Committee on Heritage, Culture and Infrastructure Policy.

On February 16, 2024, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) provided notice that the proclamation of provisions of the *Conservation Authorities Act* related to work permits and compliance and enforcement, as well as the approval of Ontario Regulation (O. Reg.) 688/21: Rules of Conduct in Conservation Areas, O. Reg. 41/24: Prohibited Activities, Exemptions and Permits, and amendments to O. Reg. 686/21: Mandatory Programs and Services made under the act (O. Reg. 42/24), will all come into effect on April 1, 2024.

E-laws has been updated to include the proclamation date within the *Conservation Authorities Act* and the new regulations:

- Conservation Authorities Act: <https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/90c27>
- O. Reg. 688/21: Rules of Conduct in Conservation Areas: <https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/210688>

- O. Reg. 41/24: Prohibited Activities, Exemptions and Permits: <https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/r24041#BK0>
- O. Reg. 42/24: Mandatory Programs and Services: <https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/r24042>

Effective April 1, 2024, O. Reg. 41/24: Prohibited Activities, Exemptions and Permits sets out details on prohibited activities and areas where a conservation authority permit is required, exemptions from a permit for certain low-risk activities, the process for applying for a conservation authority permit, and service requirements for conservation authorities in reviewing permit applications. The new regulation will apply to all conservation authorities and the existing 36 conservation authority-specific regulations (“Regulation of Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses”) will be revoked.

Amendments to O. Reg. 686/21: Mandatory Programs and Services, also in effect April 1, 2024, prescribes requirements for conservation authorities to prepare an annual report that outlines statistics on permits, including reporting on their level of compliance with the requirements set out in O. Reg. 41/24

Since 2018, the NPCA Planning and Development division has been developing policies, procedural guidance, customer service standards and regulatory mapping updates to improve customer service delivery and respond to the on-going changes to the *Conservation Authorities Act*.

In 2020, the process to update the NPCA Policy Document began and in 2022, the Board of Directors approved an updated Policy Document and Procedural Manual to provide much-needed clarity and direction to staff and applicants for planning and permit applications under the current legislation while establishing a solid foundation for future updates that would be required. This focus on continuous improvement has positioned NPCA to effectively transition to preparing new and updated policies and procedures to ensure the Planning and Development programs and services conform to the pending legislative and regulatory changes.

Discussion:

The new legislative structure includes requirements for the administration of work permits, enforcement of offences and public use of conservation authority properties in both the *Conservation Authorities Act* and regulations. The following summary highlights key changes resulting from the passing of the new regulation and the enactment of amended sections under the *Conservation Authorities Act*.

Defining Regulated Activities and Areas

- The term, “development” has been replaced by “development activity” but the definition remains the same.
- The definition of a “watercourse” has been amended to require that a watercourse be a defined channel, having a bed and banks or sides (formerly defined as an identifiable depression in the ground).
- The definition of “pollution” is removed, which is an amendment related to the new criteria or ‘tests’ of a permit.
- The regulated area adjacent to a wetland is changed to 30m for all wetlands and there are no size thresholds. The former legislation included 120m for provincially significant wetlands and wetlands greater than two hectares in size, and 30m for wetlands less than two hectares in size.
- The hazard allowances, which are regulated areas adjacent to apparent and non-apparent river or stream valleys (including floodplains) has been standardized for all conservation authorities. The existing exception for hazard allowance to non-apparent valleys has remained unchanged for the NPCA.
- The description of regulated areas adjacent or close to the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River System continues to include the 100-year flood level, plus the appropriate allowance for wave uprush and also specifies, “other water-related hazards, including ship-generated waves, ice piling and ice jamming.”
- A standard 30m allowance from a dynamic beach associated with waterfront lands has been added.
- A standard additional 15m allowance inland from the further extent of the regulated areas from the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River System has been included.

Regulation Mapping

- Maps depicting regulated areas must be made available to the public on an authority’s website, and any other means the authority considers advisable.
- At least once annually the authority must review mapping to determine if updates are required and make any updates available to the public.
- Where significant mapping updates are to be made, an authority shall provide notice to the public, municipalities, and stakeholders at least 30 days prior to any authority meeting to consider the changes.
- Regulation continues to state that in the case of a conflict regarding the boundaries of the regulated areas, the description of those areas in O. Reg. 41/24 prevails over the depiction of the areas in the maps.

Exemptions for Low-Risk Activities

- A number of development activities considered low-risk are exempt from requiring a permit.
- The exempted development activities are mainly minor in nature and would fall under the NPCA “minor” or “routine” permit category. There are size threshold and location criteria that also must be met.
- Generally, the exempted activities include:
 - Seasonal or floating dock
 - fencing
 - agricultural in-field erosion control structures
 - non-habitable accessory structures
 - non-habitable garage reconstruction
 - unenclosed detached decks or patio
 - installation/maintenance of tile drains
 - installation/maintenance of an offline pond for watering livestock
 - the maintenance or repair of municipal drains (previously permits were required for municipal drain works within wetlands).
Conservation Ontario is seeking clarification from the Province on revisions to the DART protocol.
 - maintenance/repair of private driveway/laneway or public road/driveway

Permit Application Requirements

- An authority and applicant can engage in pre-submission consultation. If an applicant requests a pre-submission consultation, the authority is required to engage in the consultation.
- More detailed list of permit application requirements, including fee submission and landowner authorization.
- The applicant must be notified in writing within 21 days of receiving an application if application is deemed complete.
- Once an application is deemed complete, no new studies/plans can be requested unless agreed to by the applicant; however, the authority may ask the applicant for clarification or further details regarding any matter related to the application.
- An applicant may request an administrative review by an authority if they do not receive a notice of complete application within 21 days or if the applicant disagrees with the authority’s determination of a complete application or the request for additional information/studies/plans is unreasonable.
 - Administrative reviews must be completed within 30 days of request.
 - There is no appeal mechanism if the applicant disagrees with the outcome of the review.

- Requests for permit fee reconsideration must be responded to within 30 days and can be appealed to the Ontario Land Tribunal (OLT) for non-decision or continued objection to fee amount.

Permits

- Existing permit approval ‘tests’ related to “pollution” and “conservation of land” are removed.
- New tests added for consideration of “unstable soil or bedrock”, “health or safety of persons”, and “damage or destruction of property”. The control of flooding, erosion, and dynamic beaches remains.
- Permit conditions are limited to those which assist in preventing or mitigating hazards or effects on health and safety or property damage, or which support permit administration.
- Maximum period of validity for permits increases from 24 to 60 months.
- If the authority fails to give the applicant notice of a decision on a complete application within 90 days, the applicant can appeal directly to the OLT. Former guidance through Conservation Ontario has been to provide notice of a decision within 30 days for minor permits and 90 days for major permits.
- New powers for the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry to issue permits and/or direct an authority not to issue a permit.
- Applicants may request a Minister’s review where the authority refuses a permit or imposes conditions on a permit to which an applicant objects. The Minister’s decision is final.
- An applicant may appeal an authority’s decision to refuse a permit or issue a permit subject to conditions following a hearing of the Board to the OLT.
- Provision allows for the exemption of development from obtaining a permit within a municipality prescribed by regulation where the development has been authorized under the *Planning Act*. However, a regulation under this section **has not** been made at this time.

Enforcement and Offences

- Appointment of Officers moved from individual regulations (to be revoked) to Part VII of the *Conservation Authorities Act*.
- Minor changes to provisions for power of entry to private property.
- New powers for Officers to issue Stop Orders where:
 - Officer forms reasonable grounds to believe that a person is engaging in activity or about to engage in activity that contravenes the Act, regulations or permit conditions;
 - Activity has caused or is causing significant damage that would affect natural hazards, health and safety of persons or damage property; or
 - Order will prevent/reduce damage.

- Maximum penalties for offences increased – up to \$50,000 and up to three months imprisonment for individuals and \$1 million for corporations, plus additional daily fines and/or court-imposed amounts.

Reporting and Policies

- Authorities shall develop policy and procedure documents for permit applications and reviews.
- Authorities shall prepare and publish an annual report that outlines statistics on permits and its level of compliance with the requirements of O. Reg. 41/24.

Conservation Areas

- Enactment of O. Reg. 688/21: Rules of Conduct in Conservation Areas replaces individual conservation authority regulations.
- Outlines prohibited activities and activities requiring a permit on lands owned by conservation authorities.
- Enforcement provisions remain unchanged.

Transition Plan to Achieve Conformity with Legislation

Given the short amount of transition time (six weeks) to the date (April 1, 2024) the amended legislation and regulations come into force, conservation authorities are working closely with Conservation Ontario to ensure conformity to the Legislation is achieved in a timely and coordinated manner. NPCA has been proactively working on some of these items over the past few years. While NPCA is expected to comply with the proclaimed pieces of legislation as of April 1, 2024, best efforts will be made to prepare and update policies and procedures in a timely yet thorough manner.

It is recommended that the NPCA take a phased approach to implementing the changes, beginning with key housekeeping amendments to the NPCA Policy Document and administrative updates to forms and templates, followed by more comprehensive work requiring further time and resources.

Appendix 1 describes the nature of the proposed housekeeping amendments to the NPCA Policy Document that staff will endeavour to have completed and posted to the NPCA website by April 1, 2024. These amendments include updating legislation and regulation references, revising definitions, revising descriptions of regulated areas, updating references to the 'tests' of a permit and including the permit exemptions.

Appendix 2 includes a transition plan that identifies the administrative updates, such as re-delegation of authority for permits, re-appointment of Officers, and

updates to permit application forms and templates that will be in place by April 1, 2024, and the long-term workplan with general timelines that are required to bring the NPCA policies and procedures in conformity with the amended legislation and regulations.

Planning and Development staff will report to the Board of Directors periodically to provide status updates on the implementation of the transition plan.

Financial Implications:

There are no financial implications associated with this report. Resources required to implement the legislative and regulatory changes under the *Conservation Authorities Act* are funded through the approved budget.

Links to Policy/Strategic Plan

The mandated regulatory role of conservation authorities aligns with the NPCA's 10-year Strategic Plan goals to protect people and properties from natural hazards and climate impact, and maintain a high standard of client services, tools and procedures for planning review and permits.

Related Reports and Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Housekeeping Amendments to the NPCA Policy Document: Policies for Planning and Development in the Watersheds of the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority

Appendix 2 – NPCA Planning and Development Transition Plan to Conform to Legislative and Regulatory Changes Under the *Conservation Authorities Act*

Authored by:

Original signed by: _____
Leilani Lee-Yates, MCIP, RPP
Director, Planning and Development

Submitted by:

Original signed by: _____
Chandra Sharma, MCIP, RPP
Chief Administrative Officer/Secretary-Treasurer

Appendix 1

Housekeeping Amendments to the NPCA Policy Document: Policies for Planning and Development in the Watersheds of the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority

It is recommended that the following housekeeping amendments be made to the NPCA Policy Document to provide the necessary clarity and guidance for the implementation of legislative and regulatory amendments under the *Conservation Authorities Act* that come into force on April 1, 2024.

| Section of NPCA Policy Document | Description of Housekeeping Amendments |
|---|---|
| <p><u>Part A: Watershed Context</u> <u>Chapter 1: Introduction</u></p> <p>This section provides an introduction, watershed context, direction from the 10-year Strategic Plan, a summary of roles and responsibilities of the NPCA and the Legislative Framework affecting NPCA's plan review and permitting functions.</p> | <p>Updates to this section will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changing references of the former O. Reg. 155/06 to O. Reg. 41/24. • Update references to numbering of sections within the <i>Conservation Authorities Act</i> that have changed. • Revise references to the permit approval 'tests' • Further clarify NPCA roles and responsibilities to align with the legislative changes. |
| <p><u>Part B: Environmental Planning</u> <u>Chapter 2: Environmental Planning Areas of Interest</u></p> <p>This section contains policies related to NPCA's role and responsibilities related to the review of applications under the <i>Planning Act</i> and other legislation.</p> | <p>Updates to this section will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removal to references to natural heritage and stormwater management plan review services and related municipal MOUs, which is no longer allowed under changes to O. Reg. 686/21. • Changing references of the former O. Reg. 155/06 to O. Reg. 41/24. • Update policies related to permit exemptions for maintenance and repair of municipal drains. • Update references to numbering of sections within the <i>Conservation Authorities Act</i> that have changed. • Further clarify NPCA roles and responsibilities to align with the legislative changes. <p>Future amendments to this section will be required after the release of the pending Provincial Planning Statement, and the</p> |

| Section of NPCA Policy Document | Description of Housekeeping Amendments |
|---|--|
| <p><u>Part B, Chapter 2 continued</u></p> | <p>updated Drainage Act and Conservation Authorities Act Protocol. The <i>Environmental Assessment Act</i> is currently under review, and future amendments to this section may be required to align with changes to the Act.</p> |
| <p><u>Part C: Policies for the Administration of Ontario Regulation 155/06</u></p> <p>This section provides detailed policies for the specific areas regulated by the NPCA.</p> | <p>Updates to this section will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changing references of the former O. Reg. 155/06 to O. Reg. 41/24. • Update references to numbering of sections within the <i>Conservation Authorities Act</i> that have changed. • Change specific section references within the new O. Reg. 41/24. • Revise policies related to the former permit ‘tests’ to reflect the deletions and additions in the <i>Conservation Authorities Act</i> and O. Reg. 41/24. • Update policies for development activities that do not require a permit as identified in O. Reg. 41/24. • Replace “development” with “development activity”. • Revise definition of “watercourse”. • Update descriptions of regulated areas adjacent or near the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River System and areas adjacent to wetlands in accordance with the changes in O. Reg. 41/24. • Update the Hazardous Lands policies to include “unstable soil” and “bedrock”. <p>Future amendments to this section may be required upon the completion of the updates to the Lake Ontario and Lake Erie Shoreline Management Plans that may result in recommended changes to policies based on revised technical information.</p> |
| <p><u>Definitions</u></p> | <p>The definitions section will be updated to revise any changes to definitions resulting</p> |

| Section of NPCA Policy Document | Description of Housekeeping Amendments |
|---|--|
| Includes definitions of terms used in the document. | from the amendments to the <i>Conservation Authorities Act</i> and O. Reg. 41/24/ |
| <u>Appendix A</u> : Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) Delegation of Natural Hazards to Conservation Authorities MOU | This appendix will be deleted, because O. Reg. 686/21 mandates the role and responsibilities of conservation authorities to provide programs and services for the purpose of commenting on prescribed Acts related to the natural hazard risks and ensuring decisions under the <i>Planning Act</i> are consistent with the natural hazard policies in policy statements and provincial plans. |
| <u>Appendix B</u> : Conservation Authorities Act, Regulation 686/21, Mandatory Programs and Services | O. Reg. 686/21 has been amended since the date of the NPCA Policy Document was approved. As such the most recent version of the regulation will be included in this Appendix. |
| <u>Appendix C</u> : Conservation Authorities Act, Ontario Regulation 155/06 | This Appendix will be changed to replace O. Reg. 155/06 with a copy of O. Reg. 41/24 |
| <u>Appendix D</u> : Municipal Plan Review MOUs | The MOUs with City of Hamilton and Haldimand County will be removed, because NPCA no longer provides natural heritage and stormwater management plan review services to the municipalities. |
| <u>Appendix E</u> : NPCA By-law 01-2021, Being a By-law to Amend the NPCA Administrative By-law governing the calling of meetings and procedures to be followed at meetings | Conservation Ontario is updating their Hearing Guidelines to reflect amendments to the <i>Conservation Authorities Act</i> related to hearing requests and notifications. Future amendments to the NPCA Administrative By-law will be required at which time this Appendix will be updated to include the new By-law. |

Appendix 2

NPCA Planning and Development Transition Plan to Conform to Legislative and Regulatory Changes Under the Conservation Authorities Act

The following transition plan identifies a phased approach to bring the NPCA policies and procedures in conformity with the legislative and regulatory changes under the *Conservation Authorities Act*. Planning and Development staff will report to the Board of Directors periodically to provide status updates on the implementation of the transition plan. In the meantime, NPCA Planning and Development staff will ensure that the authority continues to carry out its duties, functions and responsibilities to administer and enforce the provisions of Part VI and VII of the *Conservation Authorities Act* and any regulations made under those Parts.

Review of Permit Applications

Applications for permission to develop in a regulated area or interfere with a wetland or watercourse **received prior to April 1, 2024**, will be subject to the provisions of the Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses Regulation (O. Reg. 155/06) in effect at the time the application was received. If the subject application for the proposed works is not within an area or an activity regulated under the new regulation (O. Reg. 41/24), then the applicant will be advised in writing that a permit is not required for the proposed works. All applications **received on or after April 1, 2024**, will be subject to the provisions of O. Reg. 41/24.

Review of Planning Applications

For planning applications **submitted prior to April 1, 2024**, the NPCA will continue to review the application in accordance with O. Reg. 155/06 that was in effect at the time the application was received and in accordance with O. Reg. 686/21: Mandatory Programs and Services. NPCA staff will note in their comments that O. Reg. 41/23 comes into effect on April 1, 2024, however, the application continues to be reviewed in accordance with O. Reg. 155/06. Those planning applications **submitted after April 1, 2024**, will be reviewed in accordance with O. Reg. 41/24 and O. Reg. 686/21.

Violation Notices and Legal Actions

Violation Notices issued **prior to April 1, 2024**, will be addressed and remedied by CA Provincial Offences Officers in accordance with the Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses Regulation (O. Reg. 155/06).

Violation Notices issued **prior to April 1, 2024**, for works in an area or activity no longer regulated under the new O. Reg. 41/24, upon satisfactory resolution of the matter, the proponent will be issued a letter advising that the works occurring in violation of O. Reg. 155/06 have remedied/ rectified and the violation notice is revoked.

Violation notices issued and prosecutions commenced on or after April 1, 2024, will confirm with Parts VI and VII of the Act and O. Reg. 41/24.

NPCA Planning and Development Transition Plan

| Actions | Timeline |
|---|---|
| Delegation of authority for permit signatories to CAO, Director of Planning and Development, Senior Manager of Environmental Planning and Policy, and Manager of Planning and Permits | March 22, 2024 Board Approval (Report No. FA-12-24) |
| Delegation of authority for permit administrative reviews to CAO and Director of Planning and Development | March 22, 2024 Board Approval (Report No. FA-12-24) |
| Re-appointment of Officers under the <i>Conservation Authorities Act</i> | March 22, 2024 Board Approval (Report No. FA-13-24) |
| Communication to watershed municipalities | March 2024 May 2024 – training session with Niagara Area Planners |
| Prepare a Permit Pre-Submission Consultation Checklist | April 1, 2024 |
| Revise Permit Application Form | April 1, 2024 |
| Revise Permit Template | April 1, 2024 |
| NPCA Policy Document Housekeeping Amendments | March 22, 2024 Board Approval (Report No. FA-09-24) April 1, 2024 Completion |
| Update NPCA Planning and Permits website to include revised permit application documents, updated NPCA Policy Document and related Board Reports | April 1, 2024 |
| Update NPCA Section 28 Compliance and Enforcement Procedural Manual | May 2024 |
| Update Compliance and Enforcement Standard Operating Procedures | May 2024 |
| Update NPCA Client Service Standards for Plan and Permit Review Conservation Ontario is preparing an updated guidance document on service delivery standards | Summer 2024 |
| Prepare administrative review policies and procedure Conservation Ontario is preparing a new guidance document for administrative reviews | Summer 2024 |

| Actions | Timeline |
|--|---|
| <p>Update the hearing procedures within the NPCA Administrative By-law</p> <p>Conservation Ontario is updating their Hearing Guidelines</p> | <p>To be determined based on timing of Conservation Ontario updating their Hearing Guidelines and any additional broader updates to the by-law</p> |
| <p>Update NPCA Planning and Permitting Procedural Manual</p> <p>Board Resolution No. FA-105-22 authorizes staff to maintain and update the procedural manual as needed to reflect evolving best practices and technical guidance documents issued from Provincial Ministries</p> | <p>Review of the procedural manual has begun. Updates will be made on an on-going basis as staff receive further guidance from Conservation Ontario and the Province releases updated technical guidelines. Updated versions and notices will be posted to the NPCA Planning and Permitting website and shared with watershed municipalities.</p> |
| <p>Regulation mapping updates</p> | <p>Regular updates to the regulation mapping to reflect planning and permit approvals are on-going. Updates to wetlands and watercourses have begun and are anticipated to be completed in 2025. Staff will provide a status update on the mapping workplan by end of 2024.</p> |
| <p>Workplan for comprehensive review of NPCA Policy Document</p> | <p>Present workplan to Board for approval by end of 2024</p> |
| <p>Presentations and communications to broader stakeholders and communities</p> <p>Staff are reaching out to various stakeholders and communities through the NPCA Public Advisory Committee</p> | <p>On-going outreach and engagement throughout 2024</p> |

4800 SOUTH SERVICE RD
BEAMSVILLE, ON L0R 1B1

905-563-8205

April 3, 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 – Extension of Bill 23 Timelines regarding Heritage Registry Lists

Please be advised that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Lincoln at its Council Meeting held on March 25, 2024, passed the following motion regarding the Extension of Bill 23 Timelines regarding Heritage Registry Lists:

Resolution No: RC-2024-33

Moved by Mayor Easton; Seconded by Councillor Lynn Timmers

WHEREAS subsection 27(16) of the *Ontario Heritage Act* stipulates that any non-designated heritage property listed on the municipal register of properties as of December 31, 2022 shall be removed from the municipal register on or before January 1, 2025, if the council of the municipality does not give a notice of intention to designate the property under subsection 29(1) of the *Ontario Heritage Act* on or before January 1, 2025; and

WHEREAS since January 1, 2023, municipal staff and members of the Heritage Advisory Committee have been diligently working to: review the municipal heritage register; research the heritage value and interest of listed (non-designated) properties; review and research the heritage value and interest of non-designated properties; determine which properties should potentially be designated in accordance with the provisions of Section 29 of the *Ontario Heritage Act*; and take all required steps to designate such properties; and

WHEREAS the above-noted work involving 247 listed properties in the Town of Lincoln is extremely time-consuming and cannot be completed by December 31, 2024, with the limited municipal resources available.

WHEREAS the Heritage Advisory Committee on March 14, 2024 provided support to extend the January 1, 2025 deadline for five years to January 1, 2030 to continue efforts required to designate properties.

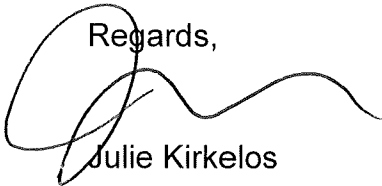
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Town of Lincoln authorize the Mayor to promptly send a letter to Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, and Michael Ford, Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism, requesting that Subsection 27(16) of the *Ontario Heritage Act* be amended to extend the above-noted deadline for five years from January 1, 2025 to January 1, 2030; and

FURTHER THAT Council direct staff to forward this resolution to all municipalities in Ontario seeking support of the ACO correspondence.

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 Citizenship and Multiculturalism
All Ontario Municipalities