

COUNCIL INFORMATION PACKAGE

July 14, 2026

1. **C-2026-181**
Correspondence dated July 8, 2026 from the Ministry of Energy and Mines respecting Municipal Energy Plan Program Review – Invitation to Provide Feedback.
2. **C-2026-182**
Correspondence dated July 8, 2026 from the Town of Lincoln respecting a resolution regarding Environmental Registry of Ontario proposals which impact municipal planning processes.
3. **C-2026-183**
Correspondence dated June 24, 2026 from the Municipality of Kincardine respecting a request to extend the deadline for notice of intention to designate listed heritage properties.
4. **C-2026-184**
Correspondence dated July 14, 2026 from Bill Fordy, Chief of Police respecting an invitation to participate in the 2026 Community Safety Survey.

Ministry of Energy and Mines

Distribution, Conservation and Innovation
Policy Division

77 Grenville Street, 5th Floor
Toronto ON M7A 2C1

Ministère de l'Énergie et des Mines

Division des politiques relatives à la
distribution, la conservation et l'innovation

77, rue Grenville, 5^e étage
Toronto ON M7A 2C1



Subject: Municipal Energy Plan Program Review – Invitation to Provide Feedback

July 8, 2026

Greetings,

The Ministry of Energy and Mines is undertaking a review of the [Municipal Energy Plan Program](#) and is seeking input from municipalities across Ontario.

The Municipal Energy Plan Program is a voluntary application-based grant program that offers matched funding to municipalities to develop or enhance community energy plans. These plans identify opportunities for community-wide energy efficiency and cost savings. They both inform, and are informed by, land-use, transportation, housing, and economic planning priorities.

Through this review, we are exploring how the program could better support communities in advancing energy infrastructure, strengthening integrated energy planning, improving energy system resilience and reliability, and supporting economic growth.

We are inviting municipalities to participate through the following engagement opportunities to inform the program review and any future program changes:

A survey to gather municipal perspectives

- The survey is open from July 8 to August 22, 2026
- Your municipality can access and fill out the survey at this [link](#).

An Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO) posting outlining objectives for a renewed Municipal Energy Plan grant program

- The posting is open for feedback from July 8 to August 22, 2026
- The links to the posting are found here:
 - English: [Review of Ontario's Municipal Energy Plan Grant Program | Environmental Registry of Ontario](#)
 - French: [Examen du Programme des plans énergétiques municipaux | Registre environnemental de l'Ontario](#)

Thank you for your continued collaboration and leadership in advancing municipal energy planning in Ontario. Your input will help shape the future of the Municipal Energy Plan Program.

If you have any questions, please contact us at MEP@ontario.ca.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mike Smith', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mike Smith
Assistant Deputy Minister
Distribution, Conservation and Innovation Policy Division
Ministry of Energy and Mines

4800 SOUTH SERVICE RD.,
BEAMSVILLE, ON L3J 1L3
905-563-2799

July 8, 2026

SENT VIA EMAIL

RE: Town of Lincoln Council Resolution – Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO) Proposals

Please be advised that Council of the Corporation of the Town of Lincoln at its Council Meeting held on July 6, 2026, passed the following resolution regarding a Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO) Proposals, with the following motion:

Resolution Number: RC-2026-59

Moved by: Councillor Adam Russell; Seconded by: Councillor Mike Mikolic

WHEREAS The Province of Ontario has introduced Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO) Proposals 026-0310 and 026-0426, which propose significant changes to municipal planning processes, including reforms to site plan control and planning approvals for publicly funded schools; and

WHEREAS Council for the Town of Lincoln supports the timely construction of publicly funded schools and recognizes the need for efficient development approval processes to support growing communities; and

WHEREAS Municipalities are responsible for transportation networks, stormwater management, municipal servicing, environmental protection, public safety, urban design, and ensuring compatibility between new development and surrounding land uses; and

WHEREAS Site plan control is an important planning tool that enables municipalities to review technical information and address matters such as grading and drainage, landscaping, lighting, traffic circulation, environmental impacts, and other site-specific development considerations; and

WHEREAS Site plan control also supports public safety by providing municipalities with the ability to review matters such as emergency access, fire routes, pedestrian and cycling connections, school transportation operations, accessibility, lighting,

and stormwater management; and

WHEREAS The proposed removal or significant reduction of site plan control would limit the ability of municipalities to address local impacts associated with development while continuing to hold municipalities responsible for the resulting infrastructure, servicing, environmental, and public safety considerations; and

WHEREAS Municipalities are accountable to their residents for ensuring that growth occurs in a safe and responsible manner that reflects local needs and conditions;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

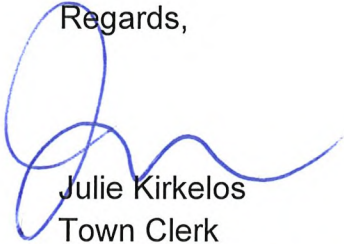
1. Endorse the staff recommendation outlined in Planning and Development Report PD-15-26 and reaffirm its support for retaining site plan control as an essential planning tool under the Planning Act;
2. Request that the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing and the Minister of Education amend ERO Proposals 026-0310 and 026-0426 to preserve municipal authority to require site-specific planning information, technical studies, and development standards necessary to evaluate development impacts, protect public safety, and safeguard the public interest;
3. Request that the Province consult with municipalities, school boards, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the Ontario Professional Planners Institute (OPPI), conservation authorities, and other stakeholders prior to implementing any changes that would remove or substantially limit site plan control;
4. Request that the Province ensure municipalities retain the authority to require and review information necessary to address public safety considerations, including emergency services access, traffic operations, active transportation connections, accessibility, stormwater management, compatibility and consideration of impacts to adjacent properties, and the safe integration of schools within existing and planned communities;
5. Recommend that the Province prioritize development approval reforms that improve process efficiencies while maintaining municipal oversight and accountability for matters related to public safety, emergency response access, transportation safety, environmental protection, infrastructure capacity, urban design, and neighbourhood compatibility, and undertake a comprehensive review of all factors contributing to development approval timelines, including provincial agency review requirements and applicant resubmission delays, to ensure that future reforms address the root causes of delays;

6. That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Minister of Education, Member of Provincial Parliament (Niagara West), Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), Ontario Professional Planners Institute (OPPI), Niagara Region, and local area municipalities for their consideration and support.

CARRIED

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

Regards,



Julie Kirkelos
Town Clerk

jkirkelos@lincoln.ca

cc: The Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
The Minister of Education
Niagara West MPP
Region of Niagara
Local area municipalities
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
Ontario Professional Planners Institute (OPPI)

Council Meeting

Motion # 06/24/26 - 15
Title: Extend Deadline for Notice of Intention to Designate Listed Heritage Properties
Date: Wednesday, June 24, 2026

Moved by: Beth Blackwell
Seconded by: Jennifer Prenger

Whereas amendments to the Ontario Heritage Act under the More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022 introduced timelines requiring municipalities to issue Notices of Intention to Designate for properties listed on municipal heritage registers as of December 31, 2022, originally requiring action by January 1, 2025; and

Whereas the Province subsequently amended the legislation through the Homeowner Protection Act, 2024 to extend the deadline to January 1, 2027 in response to concerns raised by municipalities and heritage stakeholders; and

Whereas the Municipality of Kincardine currently has 155 properties listed on the Municipal Heritage Register; and

Whereas municipalities require sufficient time and resources to undertake research, documentation, consultation, and evaluation to determine whether listed properties warrant designation under the Ontario Heritage Act; and

Whereas the removal of listed properties from municipal heritage registers if the prescribed timelines are not met may place cultural heritage resources at increased risk of demolition or irreversible alteration before municipalities have the opportunity to properly evaluate their cultural heritage value or interest; and

Whereas many municipalities do not have dedicated heritage planning staff and must rely on volunteer Heritage Advisory Committee members or external heritage consultants to undertake property evaluations, which can result in additional financial and administrative pressures; and

Whereas municipalities across Ontario are facing significant workloads associated with evaluating listed properties; and

Whereas the Municipality of Kincardine Heritage Kincardine Committee, at its meeting of June 16, 2026 recommended that Council advocate to the Province of Ontario for a further extension to the current deadline; now therefore be it Resolved that:

1. The Council of the Municipality of Kincardine endorse the recommendation of its Heritage Kincardine Committee and respectfully request that the Province of Ontario further amend the Ontario Heritage Act to extend the January 1, 2027 deadline for issuing Notices of Intention to Designate for properties listed on municipal heritage registers; and
2. The Province consider extending the deadline to January 1, 2030, or another reasonable timeframe that would provide municipalities with adequate time to complete heritage evaluations and make informed designation decisions; and
3. This resolution be circulated to the Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the local Member of Provincial Parliament, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Ontario Municipal Heritage Committee Association, and all Ontario municipalities for their information and consideration.

'Carried'

Tracey Guy

Signed with ConsignO Cloud (2026/07/06)
Verify with verifio.com or Adobe Reader.



Clerk

Archived: July 14, 2026 9:52:35 AM

From: Office of the Chief

Received July 14, 2026
C-2026-184

Mail received time: Tue, 14 Jul 2026 13:03:20

Sent: July 14, 2026 9:03:21 AM

To: wredekop@forterie.ca cmcqueen@forterie.ca ptodd@forterie.ca jjordan@grimsby.ca skim@grimsby.ca clerks@grimsby.ca seaston@lincoln.ca mkirkopoulos@lincoln.ca jkirkelos@lincoln.ca jdiodati@niagarafalls.ca jburgess@niagarafalls.ca bmatson@niagarafalls.ca gary.zalepa@notl.com nick.ruller@notl.com grant.bivol@notl.com marvin.junkin@niagararegion.ca dcibbs@pelham.ca hwillford@pelham.ca william.steele@portcolborne.ca bryan.boles@portcolborne.ca charlotte.madden@portcolborne.ca mayor@stcatharines.ca mat@stcatharines.ca doakes@stcatharines.ca ddelvechio@stcatharines.ca terry.ugulini@niagararegion.ca manoj.dilwaria@thorold.ca nicolas.debono@thorold.ca Brian Grant Mallory Luey Amber Chrastina frank.campion@niagararegion.ca jessica.ruddell@welland.ca tara.stephens@welland.ca cganann@westlincoln.ca tmcbride@westlincoln.ca jpayscale@westlincoln.ca

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Subject: Invitation to participate in the 2026 Community Safety Survey

Importance: High

Sensitivity: None

Good Morning Mayors, CAOs, and Councils,

The Niagara Regional Police Service Board and the Niagara Regional Police Service are inviting community members from across Niagara to participate in our Community Safety Survey. This survey provides an opportunity for residents, businesses, community organizations, and stakeholders to share their perspectives on community safety, trust and confidence in policing, local concerns, and opportunities for improvement.

This engagement process is guided by principles of inclusion, accessibility, transparency, cultural responsiveness, respect, and trauma-informed practice to ensure all community members have an opportunity to participate and be heard.

Community feedback will play an important role in informing the implementation of the Niagara Regional Police Service Board 2026–2029 Strategic Plan and helping to shape future community safety priorities and initiatives throughout the region.

We encourage all Niagara residents to take a few minutes to complete the survey and share their experiences and perspectives. The survey takes approximately 5–10 minutes to complete, and all responses will be reviewed collectively to identify key themes, trends, and opportunities to strengthen community safety and engagement.

Survey Links:

English: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CommunitySafetySurveyEN>

French: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CommunitySafetySurveyFR>

Survey Open Until: August 7, 2026

We would greatly appreciate your support in sharing this survey through your municipal channels, community networks, newsletters, social media platforms, and other communication tools to help ensure broad participation from diverse

communities across Niagara.

The more voices we hear, the better positioned we will be to understand community priorities, identify emerging concerns, and work together to build safer and stronger communities for everyone.
Thank you for your continued leadership, partnership, and commitment to the well-being of Niagara's communities.

Sincerely,
Nyarayi Kapisavanhu
Chair

Bill Fordy
Chief of Police



Office of the Chief of Police

Niagara Regional Police Service

chiefofpolice@niagarapolice.ca

5700 Valley Way, Niagara Falls, Ontario L2E 1X8

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