

COUNCIL INFORMATION PACKAGE

October 7, 2026

1. **C-2026-233**
Correspondence dated September 29, 2026 from the City of St. Catharines to Alectra Utilities respecting a request for electricity bill relief for flood affected residents.
2. **C-2026-234**
Correspondence dated September 29, 2026 from the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority respecting a notice of public commenting period for the Upper Welland River Tributaries Floodplain Mapping.
3. **C-2026-235**
Correspondence dated October 2, 2026 from the Town of Lincoln to the Ontario Energy Board respecting a resolution of support for the City of St. Catharines correspondence seeking a flood relief program for affected residential customers.
4. **C-2026-236**
Correspondence dated October 6, 2026 from the Hon. Robert J. Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing respecting a request for feedback regarding a weighted voting regulation for Niagara Region.

September 29, 2026

To: Alectra Utilities
sent via email:

Re: Electricity Bill Relief for Flood Affected Residents
Our File: 10.12.1

At its meeting of September 14, 2026, St. Catharines City Council approved the following motion:

WHEREAS the recent flooding in St. Catharines caused significant damage to homes and required many residents to operate sump pumps, dehumidifiers, fans, air conditioners, water pumps and other equipment continuously to remove water, dry their homes and prevent further damage; and

WHEREAS these necessary flood recovery measures resulted in significant increases in electricity consumption for many affected households, with some residents reporting electricity bills that increased by 100% or more compared with their normal usage; and

WHEREAS these increased electricity costs were incurred through no fault of affected residents and add an additional financial burden at a time when many households are already facing substantial costs to repair and restore their homes;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that St. Catharines City Council formally request that the Ontario Energy Board establish a one time flood relief credit, refund or other financial assistance program for St. Catharines residential customers who can demonstrate a significant increase in electricity consumption directly associated with flood cleanup and recovery; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Council request that, where required, the Ontario Energy Board work with local Utilities to identify and authorize an appropriate mechanism to provide this relief; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the requested program prioritize households whose electricity consumption or bill increased by 100% or more during the flood recovery period compared with an appropriate previous billing period or historical household usage; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Ontario Energy Board be requested to make the application process simple and accessible, recognizing that affected residents are already dealing with significant flood related recovery costs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to local Utilities, affected Niagara municipalities, the Ontario Energy Board, the Minister of Energy and Mines, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, and Niagara Area Members of Provincial Parliament for their support.

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



Kristen Sullivan, City Clerk
ksullivan@stcatharines.ca
:av

cc: Niagara Municipalities
Ontario Energy Board
Ministry of Energy and Mines
Federation of Canadian Municipalities
Niagara Area MPP's



NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENTING PERIOD Upper Welland River Tributaries Floodplain Mapping

The NPCA is inviting the community to review the final draft floodplain mapping and provide feedback during a **commenting period from September 29 to October 27, 2026**.

About the Project

The **Upper Welland River Tributaries Floodplain Mapping Study** is being undertaken to better understand flood risks and how flooding may affect communities, properties and infrastructure within the study area – covering 19 tributaries in Haldimand, Hamilton, West Lincoln, and Wainfleet.

The study uses updated technical information and modelling to identify areas that may be vulnerable to flooding and help inform future planning and flood risk management.

The study began in October 2025, with a public open house held in November 2025 to introduce the project and hear from the community. Updates and community engagement opportunities continued through spring 2026 alongside the technical work and development of the floodplain mapping. The study has now reached the final commenting stage, providing an opportunity for stakeholders and community members to review the draft mapping and provide feedback before it moves toward final approval.

Commenting Period

As part of this work, NPCA is inviting the community to review the proposed final mapping and provide feedback during a commenting period **from September 29, 2026, to October 27, 2026**.

The commenting period provides a final opportunity to validate the final mapping with stakeholders and identify any additional concerns or information that may require revisions. If no further revisions are identified, the mapping will be brought forward to the NPCA Board of Directors for final approval on November 27, 2026.

- Review the mapping, provide comments or ask questions through the online Q&A: <https://getinvolved.npca.ca/upper-welland-tributaries>
- Send feedback directly to Brendan Buggeln, Manager of Natural Hazard Management and Resiliency at floodmapping@npca.ca
- Visit the [Interactive Mapping tool](#) on the [Get Involved portal](#) to explore the updates.

Contact

For more information about the **Upper Welland River Tributaries Floodplain Mapping Study**, please contact the NPCA at floodplainmapping@npca.ca.



(1)

Received October 2, 2026
C-2026-235

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

October 2, 2026

SENT VIA EMAIL: OEBmedia@oeb.ca

Ontario Energy Board
2300 Yonge St., 27th fl.
P.O. Box 2319
Toronto, ON M4P 1E4

RE: Town of Lincoln Council Resolution – Request to the Ontario Energy Board for a Flood Relief Program

Please be advised that Council of the Corporation of the Town of Lincoln at its Special Council Meeting held on September 30, 2026, passed the following resolution regarding a request to the Ontario Energy Board for a Flood Relief Program:

Resolution Number: SC-2026-74

Moved by: Councillor Lynn Timmers; Seconded by: Councillor Tony Brunet

WHEREAS the recent flooding in the Town of Lincoln caused significant damage to homes and required many residents to operate sump pumps, dehumidifiers, fans, air conditioners, water pumps and other equipment continuously to remove water, dry their homes and prevent further damage; and

WHEREAS these necessary flood recovery measures resulted in significant increases in electricity consumption for many affected households, with some residents reporting electricity bills that increased substantially compared with their normal usage; and

WHEREAS these increased electricity costs were incurred through no fault of affected residents and add an additional financial burden at a time when many households are already facing substantial costs to repair and restore their homes;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Lincoln Council endorse the resolution passed by the City of St. Catharines requesting that the Ontario Energy Board establish a one-time flood relief credit, refund, or other financial assistance

program for affected residential electricity customers who can demonstrate a significant increase in electricity consumption directly associated with flood cleanup and recovery; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Council request that, where required, the Ontario Energy Board work with local electricity utilities to identify and authorize an appropriate mechanism to provide such relief; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the requested program prioritize households whose electricity consumption or bill increased during the flood recovery period compared with an appropriate previous billing period or historical household usage; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Ontario Energy Board be requested to make any application process simple and accessible, recognizing that affected residents are already dealing with significant flood-related recovery costs, or apply it across the municipality; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to local electricity utilities, all Niagara municipalities, the Ontario Energy Board, the Minister of Energy and Mines, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, Association of Municipalities of Ontario and Niagara Area Members of Provincial Parliament for their 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 Energy and Mines
The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)
Niagara MPPs
Niagara municipalities
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
Niagara Peninsula Energy



Received October 6, 2026
C-2026-236

234-2026-3784

October 6, 2026

Dear Head of Council,

As you know, the *Better Regional Governance Act, 2026* (the Act) changed the composition of Niagara Regional Council from 32 members to 13 members, effective with the 2026-2030 term of council starting November 15, 2026. Under this structure, council will consist of the heads of council of each of Niagara's 12 lower-tier municipalities, plus the appointed Regional Chair.

The Act also provides the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing with regulation making authority to create weighted voting rules for upper-tier municipalities. To support a clear transition and effective local representation under the restructured council, the Ministry has posted a proposal on the [Ontario Regulatory Registry](#) outlining the contents of a potential weighted voting regulation for Niagara Region.

The proposed regulation responds to feedback received from Niagara Region municipalities through my office. In addition, as requested, the posting clarifies how weighted voting interacts with decision-making thresholds under the Strong Mayor framework. These changes, if made, would come into effect on November 15, 2026.

I encourage you and your council to review the proposal and provide feedback directly through the registry. The consultation is open for 30 days, closing on November 5, 2026. Ministry officials will also be reaching out to senior officials at Niagara Region to seek feedback and support local implementation efforts as needed.

The government remains committed to collaborating with municipal partners support effective local governance and deliver on shared priorities for housing and economic growth.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert J. Flack".

Hon. Robert J. Flack
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

c: Robert Dodd, Chief of Staff, Minister's Office, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH)
Martha Greenberg, Deputy Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Laurie Miller, Assistant Deputy Minister, Local Government Division
Sean Fraser, Assistant Deputy Minister, Municipal and Housing Operations Division
Municipal Chief Administrative Officer
Municipal Clerk