



COUNCIL INFORMATION PACKAGE

SUMMARY

DECEMBER 22, 2023

1. **C-2023-431**
Correspondence dated December 15, 2023 from the City of Port Colborne to the Municipality of Tweed respecting a resolution of support for their correspondence regarding 1/3 Funding Grant Programs.
2. **C-2023-432**
Correspondence dated December 14, 2023 from the Town of Lincoln to The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario respecting a request for a Comprehensive Review and Overhaul of the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act, 1990*.
3. **C-2023-433**
Correspondence dated December 14, 2023 from the Town of Lincoln to The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario respecting a resolution regarding Provincial commitment to provide municipalities necessary infrastructure funding to support housing as a result of the impacts of Bill 23 and other legislation.
4. **C-2023-434**
Correspondence dated December 15, 2023 from the Office of the Regional Clerk respecting a Motion to Better Support Survivors of Intimate Partner and Gender-Based Violence.
5. **C-2023-435**
Correspondence dated December 15, 2023 from the City of Thunder Bay to The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario respecting advocacy for the Province to establish a regulatory framework for Short Term Rentals.
6. **C-2023-436**
Correspondence dated December 15, 2023 from the City of Stratford to the Honourable Chrystia Freeland, Minister of Finance of Canada respecting a resolution of support for the Downtown Stratford Business Improvement Area Urging the Federal Government to Provide More Business Support for CEBA loan Businesses.
7. **C-2023-437**
Correspondence dated December 18, 2023 from the City of Niagara Falls to the Town of Fort Erie respecting a resolution of support for their correspondence regarding Bill C-310 Amendments - Firefighting and Search and Rescue.
8. **C-2023-438**
Correspondence received December 20, 2023 from the Wainfleet Township Public Library respecting the January 2024 Newsletter.

9. **C-2023-439**
Correspondence dated December 21, 2023 from the County of Brant respecting a resolution regarding Gender-based Violence and Intimate-partner Violence being declared an epidemic and requesting support of the same.
10. **C-2023-440**
Correspondence dated December 19, 2023 from the Town of Aurora to The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada and The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario respecting a resolution regarding Community Safety and Inciteful Speech.
11. **C-2023-441**
Correspondence dated December 19, 2023 from the Town of Aurora to The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario respecting a resolution regarding Homelessness Crisis.
12. **C-2023-442**
Correspondence dated December 21, 2023 from Tay Township to The Honourable Todd McCarthy, Minister of Public and Business Service Delivery respecting Provincial Cemetery Management Support Request.



PORT COLBORNE

Legislative Services

Municipal Offices: 66 Charlotte Street
Port Colborne, Ontario L3K 3C8 • www.portcolborne.ca

T 905.835.2900 ext 106 F 905.834.5746

E saima.tufail@portcolborne.ca

Received December 15, 2023
C-2023-431

December 15, 2023

Via email: lucasw@tweed.ca

Municipality of Tweed
c/o Lucas Wales, Deputy Clerk
255 Metcalf Street
Tweed, ON K0K 3J0

Dear Mr. Wales:

Re: Municipality of Tweed regarding 1/3 Funding Grant Programs

Please be advised that, at its meeting of December 12, 2023 the Council of The Corporation of the City of Port Colborne resolved as follows:

That the correspondence from the Municipality of Tweed regarding 1/3 Funding Grant Programs be supported.

A copy of the above noted resolution is enclosed for your reference.

Sincerely,

S. Tufail

Saima Tufail
Acting City Clerk

cc. MP Kramp-Neuman
MPP Bresee
Niagara MPs (Dean Allison, Chris Bittle, Tony Baldinelli, and Vance Badawey),
Niagara MPPs (Sam Oosterhoff, Jennifer Stevens, Wayne Gates, and Jeff Burch),
Hastings County Warden,
Association of Ontario Municipalities
All Ontario Municipalities

Municipality of Tweed Council Meeting
Council Meeting



Resolution No.

665.

Title:

Councillor J. Flieler

Date:

Tuesday, November 14, 2023

Moved by

J. Flieler

Seconded by

P. Valiquette

WHEREAS Municipalities are facing ever increasing demands for services along with demands for repairs, maintenance, and replacement of existing infrastructure to the detriment of the tax paying public they serve as the cost of living continues to rise throughout the country;
AND WHEREAS the Federal and Provincial governments in the past contributed through partnerships to fund projects that have been out of the financial reach of small municipalities;
AND WHEREAS these 1/3 funding agreements have been instrumental in allowing municipalities to adequately plan and execute projects to protect the aging infrastructure already in place;
AND WHEREAS the Municipality of Tweed has successfully completed more than 19 capital projects using these funding scenarios over the years;
AND WHEREAS it is incumbent upon our Federal and Provincial governments to assist municipalities with limited access to funding except through municipal taxes to re-establish this very important funding stream;
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council lobby the relevant Federal and Provincial representatives to bring these concerns to the forefront;
AND FURTHER, that Council consider making a Delegation at the 2024 ROMA Conference;
AND FURTHER, that copies be sent to MP Kramp-Neuman, MPP Bresee, the Hastings County Warden, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, and all Ontario municipalities.

Carried

4800 SOUTH SERVICE RD
BEAMSVILLE, ON LOR 1B1
905-563-8205

December 14, 2023

SENT VIA EMAIL: premier@ontario.ca

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

RE: Town of Lincoln Council Resolution – Comprehensive Review and Overhaul of the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act, 1990

Please be advised that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Lincoln at its Council Meeting held on December 13, 2023, passed the following motion regarding Comprehensive Review and Overhaul of the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act, 1990:

Resolution No.: RC-2023-161

Moved by Deputy Mayor/Councillor JD Pachereva; Seconded by Mayor Easton

WHEREAS the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act, 1990*, and its regulations were established to provide a framework for managing emergencies and civil protection in Ontario and has remained largely unchanged for nearly 20 years; and

WHEREAS municipalities across the Province of Ontario are encountering a range of emerging situations that are diverse and increasingly complex that were not adequately envisioned when the *Act* was drafted; and

WHEREAS the evolving nature of emergencies, including but not limited to pandemics, cyber threats, climate-related events, mental health crises, and homelessness, requires a modernized and comprehensive legislative framework to empower municipalities to effectively respond and protect their communities;

WHEREAS the ability for municipalities to share emergency management resources and services (e.g., two or more municipalities sharing a Community Emergency Management Coordinator) is effectively impeded by restrictive language in the *Act* and regulations, which leads to inefficiencies, duplication of

efforts, and impediments to the ability of municipalities to maintain robust emergency management programs in their respective communities; and

WHEREAS the evolving nature of emergencies and crises requires an updated and comprehensive approach to ensure the *Act* effectively addresses modern challenges and address gaps in the current legislation; and

WHEREAS a thorough review and overhaul of the *Act* and its regulations will enhance the capacity of municipalities to prevent, mitigate, prepare, respond and recover from various unforeseen and emergent circumstances; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT Town of Lincoln Council urges the Province of Ontario to engage in a consultative process with municipalities, emergency management professionals, and relevant stakeholders to gather input and insights for the development of updated legislation that reflects the current needs and realities of local communities; and

FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Town of Lincoln Council and its staff will actively collaborate with the Province of Ontario during the review process, providing necessary information, feedback, and expertise to contribute to the development of a robust and effective emergency management framework; and

FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Town of Lincoln Council request the Provincial Government to undertake a comprehensive review and overhaul of the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act, 1990*, and its regulations to better align with the current and future needs of municipalities in addressing emergent and evolving situations; and

FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this resolution be communicated to the Provincial Government, emphasizing the urgency and importance of this undertaking in safeguarding the well-being and safety of our communities and Town of Lincoln Council encourages other municipalities to adopt similar resolutions in support of this critical initiative;

AND FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this resolution be circulated to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing and Treasury Board Secretariat, and Minister of Small Business and Red Tape Reduction, Niagara four MPs; Niagara's four MPPs; the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO); the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), the Regional Municipality of Niagara and the 12 Local Area Municipalities in Niagara.

CARRIED

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

Regards,

Julie Kirkelos
Town Clerk
jkirkelos@lincoln.ca

JK/dk

C.c. Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Treasury Board Secretariat
Minister of Small Business and Red Tape Reduction
Niagara Area MPs and MPPs
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)
Region of Niagara
Local Area Municipalities

4800 SOUTH SERVICE RD
BEAMSVILLE, ON L0R 1B1
905-563-8205

December 14, 2023

SENT VIA EMAIL: premier@ontario.ca

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

RE: Town of Lincoln Council Resolution – Provincial commitment to provide municipalities necessary infrastructure funding to support housing as a result of the impacts of Bill 23 and other legislation

Please be advised that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Lincoln at its Council Meeting held on December 13, 2023, passed the following motion regarding Provincial commitment to provide municipalities necessary infrastructure funding to support housing as a result of the impacts of Bill 23 and other legislation:

Resolution No.: RC-2023-159

Moved by Councillor Greg Reimer; Seconded by Councillor Adam Russell

WHEREAS Town of Lincoln Council is committed to doing their part to reduce barriers and find solutions to meet the development demand imposed by the Province under Bill 23, More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022; and

WHEREAS Bill 23, More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022, aims to build 1.5 million new homes by 2031 and to accomplish this goal, the Bill seeks to eliminate or reduce a range of processes, fees, and regulations that have the potential to slow or inhibit development; and

WHEREAS municipalities play a vital role in fostering community development, providing essential services, and maintaining local infrastructure; and

WHEREAS in 2019, the National Housing Strategy recognized housing as a human right and under Bill 23, implemented two strategies focused on affordability and attainability respectively; and

WHEREAS the Town of Lincoln recognizes the importance of financial tools to raise funds and support programs and services; and

WHEREAS on October 23, 2023, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, released a statement introducing legislation that would reverse the official plan decisions and wind back provincial changes to official plans and official plan amendments, except in circumstances where construction has begun or where doing so would contravene existing provincial legislation and regulation, including changes to urban boundaries; and

WHEREAS the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing will be asking impacted municipalities to submit changes and updates to those plans to ministry staff within 45 days of today, including information on projects that are already underway and in recognition of the costs incurred by municipalities arising out of this decision, the province will work with impacted municipalities to assist with related planning and staffing costs; and

WHEREAS the Province released their 2023 Fall Economic Statement to the Ontario's Big City Mayors (OBCM), whereby it was noted that that the statement did not provide an update on the government's efforts to address the financial impacts of Bill 23; and

WHEREAS Bill 23 includes changes to the Development Charges Act which is estimated to have an impact on municipalities, in terms of foregone collection of development charge fees, totalling \$1 billion annually across the province, even though the Province has committed to ensuring that municipalities are kept whole for any impact on their ability to fund housing enabled infrastructure because of the Bill; and

WHEREAS smaller municipalities will need to work with the Province to potentially create and approve new revenue tools to fund the various municipal operations and capital investments needed to meet the targets as set out in Bill 23; and

WHEREAS without revenue tools and provincial programs and supports, the ability to build the infrastructure required to support the creation of new homes, roads, sewer, water systems, supports and delivery of services such as fire and police, are exacerbated; and

WHEREAS under the current climate of inflation and rising construction cost, municipalities will have to undertake less infrastructure, especially without significant provincial program intakes and funding streams; and

WHEREAS municipalities already have limited cost recovery avenues within asset management plans and existing legislation, resulting in a growing provincial and Canada wide infrastructure funding gap.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Town of Lincoln Council:

1. Request support for all municipalities that are challenged to fulfill their growth targets by the financial burden imposed by the Province of Ontario with Bill 23; and
2. Urge the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing to work with all municipalities and establish long-term sustainable critical funding programs to fill the infrastructure gaps, including opening up more intakes for infrastructure funding; and
3. Emphasize the importance of the provincial governments commitment to looking forward as municipalities deal with the outcomes of Bill 23, and that should municipalities require funding to be made whole, that the government address these funding shortfalls; and
4. Forward a copy of this motion to each of the 12 Local Area Municipalities in Niagara; and
5. That a copy of this motion be circulated to Premier of Ontario, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Provincial opposition parties, Niagara's four MPs; Niagara's four MPPs; the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO); the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM); Mayors and Regional Chairs of Ontario (MARCO); and Ontario's Big City Mayors (OBCM) and local area municipalities.

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

C.c. Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Provincial Opposition Parties
Niagara Area MPs and MPPs
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)

Mayors and Regional Chairs of Ontario (MARCO)
Ontario's Big City Mayors (OBCM)
Local Area Municipalities

December 18, 2023

CL 16-2023, December 14, 2023
PHSSC 12-2023, December 5, 2023
COM-C 41-2023, December 5, 2023

DISTRIBUTION LIST

SENT ELECTRONICALLY

Motion to Better Support Survivors of Intimate Partner and Gender-Based Violence
COM-C 41-2023

Regional Council, at its meeting held on December 14, 2023, passed the following recommendation, of its Public Health and Social Services Committee:

WHEREAS, on September 21, 2023, Niagara Regional Council declared intimate partner violence and gender-based violence as epidemic; and

WHEREAS, intimate partner and gender-based violence resulted in the femicide of 184 women and girls across Canada in 2022, a 20% increase over 2019; and

WHEREAS, between November 26, 2022 and November 25, 2023, there were nearly 62 femicides in Ontario, exceeding last year's number of 52 femicides in Ontario; and

WHEREAS, Niagara Regional Council recognizes, with the September 21, 2023, declaration, that issues of intimate partner violence and gender-based violence are matters of local importance, including public health, EMS, community services, and community safety, in all of our communities; and

WHEREAS, investments in and the availability of affordable housing is one of the most effective ways to increase the safety of survivors of intimate partner violence; and

WHEREAS, one of the 86 recommendations from the inquiry into the femicides of Carol Culleton, Anastasia Kuzyk, and Nathalie Warmerdam (the Renfrew County Inquest) is enhanced second-stage housing for survivors of intimate partner violence; and

WHEREAS, for the 2022-2023 fiscal year, Gillian's Place and Birchway Niagara had to turn away a combined total of 709 people due to lack of space;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That Niagara Regional Council **ENCOURAGE** the provincial government to increase the number of shelters for survivors of intimate partner violence in Ontario, especially in rural communities;

2. That Niagara Regional Council **REQUEST** that the provincial government increase funding to existing shelters for survivors of intimate partner violence in Ontario, so those shelters can increase their capacity to more appropriately serve their communities;
3. That Niagara Regional Council **REQUEST** that the provincial and federal governments increase funding to shelters for survivors of intimate partner violence, so those shelters can increase their supply of transitional housing programs;
4. That Niagara Regional Council **CALL UPON** the provincial and federal governments to ensure shelters for survivors of intimate partner violence receive ongoing and stable funding to ensure the sustainability of their services;
5. That Niagara Regional Council **CALL UPON** the provincial and federal governments to more effectively address the affordable housing crisis; and
6. That this motion **BE SENT** to The Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister; The Honourable Arif Virani, Minister of Justice; The Honourable Marc Len, Minister for Women and Gender Equality and Youth; The Honourable Sean Fraser, Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities; The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario; The Honourable Michael Parsa, Minister of Children, Community and Social Services; The Honourable Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing; The Honourable Charmaine A. Williams, Associate Minister of Women's Social and Economic Opportunity; Niagara's four MPs; Niagara's four MPPs; all 12 of Niagara's local area municipalities; the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO); the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM); Mayors and Regional Chairs of Ontario (MARCO); and Ontario's Big City Mayors (OBCM).

Yours truly,



Ann-Marie Norio
Regional Clerk

:ab

CLK-C 2023-142

Distribution List:

The Honourable, Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister
The Honourable, Marci Ien, Minister for Women and Gender Equality and Youth
The Honourable, Sean Fraser, Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and
Communities
The Honourable, Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
The Honourable, Michael Parsa, Minister of Children, Community and Social
Services
The Honourable, Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
The Honourable, Charmaine A. Williams, Associate Minister of Women's Social
and Economic Opportunity
Chris Bittle, Member of Parliament, St. Catharines
Vance Badawey, Member of Parliament, Niagara Centre
Tony Baldinelli, Member of Parliament, Niagara Falls
Dean Allison, Member of Parliament, Niagara West
Jennie Stevens, Member of Provincial Parliament, St. Catharines
Jeff Burch, Member of Provincial Parliament, Niagara Centre
Wayne Gates, Member of Provincial Parliament, Niagara Falls
Sam Oosterhoff, Member of Provincial Parliament, Niagara West
Local Area Municipalities
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)
Mayors and Regional Chairs of Ontario (MARCO)
Ontario's Big City Mayors (OBCM)



OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
500 Donald Street East
Thunder Bay, ON P7E 5V3

Tel: (807) 625-2230
Fax: (807) 623-5468

Tuesday, December 19, 2023

Received December 19, 2023
C-2023-435

The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
premier@ontario.ca

Re: Advocacy– Short Term Rentals

Please be advised that the following resolution was adopted by Committee of the Whole at its meeting held on November 27, 2023 and subsequently ratified by City Council on December 11, 2023:

WITH RESPECT to the memorandum dated November 6, 2023 from Councillor Shelby Ch'ng, Vice Chair of Intergovernmental Affairs Committee, we recommend in support of the request to the Government of Ontario to establish a regulatory framework requiring digital platforms such as Airbnb and VRBO to:

- Require owners using the digital platforms to comply with municipal planning and licensing regulations; and
- Prevent advertising of properties that are not registered with the relevant municipality; and
- Provide a contact with the platform to ensure ongoing and effective communications for provincial and municipal officials;

AND THAT the City of Thunder Bay call upon the Province of Ontario to work with municipalities to address situations in which long term housing stock has been lost to corporate ownership of short-term rental properties;

AND THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Premier Doug Ford, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing Paul Calandra, MPP Lise Vaugeois and MPP Kevin Holland, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the Northern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA) and all municipalities in Ontario;

AND THAT any necessary by-laws be presented to Council for ratification.

CARRIED

Should you have any further questions relative to the above, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Yours very truly,



Dana Earle
Deputy City Clerk

Cc:

Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing Paul Calandra
MPP Lise Vaugeois
MPP Kevin Holland
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
Northern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA)
All municipalities in Ontario



City of Stratford, Corporate Services Department

Clerk's Office

City Hall, P. O. Box 818, Stratford, Ontario N5A 6W1

Tel: 519-271-0250, extension 5237

Email: clerks@stratford.ca

Website: www.stratford.ca

December 19, 2023

Sent via e-mail: chrystia.freeland@parl.gc.ca

Honourable Chrystia Freeland, Minister of Finance of Canada

344 Bloor Street West

Suite 510

Toronto, Ontario

M5S 3A7

Dear Honourable Chrystia Freeland, Minister of Finance of Canada:

Re: Resolution – CEBA Loan Businesses

At the November 27, 2023, Stratford City Council meeting, correspondence from the Downtown Stratford Business Improvement Area regarding more business support for CEBA loan businesses was provided for endorsement as part of the Consent Agenda (CA-2023-141). Enclosed with this letter is a copy of the correspondence received.

At the meeting, Council adopted the following resolution:

R2023-520

THAT CA-2023-141, being correspondence from the Downtown Stratford Business Improvement Area regarding more business support for CEBA loan businesses, be endorsed;

AND THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Chrystia Freeland, Minister of Finance of Canada, John Nater, Perth-Wellington MP, and all municipalities in Ontario for endorsement.

Sincerely,

T. Dafoe

Tatiana Dafoe, Clerk

Enclosed – as referenced above

/vt

cc: John Nater, MP Perth-Wellington
Jamie Pritchard, General Manager of the Downtown Stratford BIA
Ontario Municipalities

DOWNTOWN STRATFORD

November 17, 2023

Hon. Chrystia Freeland, Finance Minister
510-344 Bloor Street W
Toronto, Ontario M5S 3A7

Subject: The Downtown Stratford Business Improvement Area (DTSBIA) is Urging the Federal Government to Provide More Business Support for CEBA loan Businesses.

Dear Hon. Chrystia Freeland, Finance Minister,

The Downtown Stratford BIA was grateful to see some movement regarding the CEBA loans. However, after reviewing the new forgivable portion of the loans, in the announcement, the feedback from our partners, stakeholders, and members, all echoed the message that more needs to be done to lessen bankruptcies, vacancies and the subsequent increase in social issues in our community.

Tourist areas, such as Stratford, were the hardest hit by the pandemic as the stoppage of the revenue streams hit our entertainment industry and the ripple effect spilled over into restaurants, retail, and service providers. The Stratford economy was halted.

According to a 2023 report, taken from Statistics Canada's website, small businesses are major contributors to the Canadian economy. In 2022, businesses with 1 to 99 employees comprised 98.0% of all employer businesses in Canada and employed 10.7 million individuals which is almost two-thirds (63.0%) of all employees. By comparison, businesses with 100 to 500 employees, employed 3.6 million individuals (21.0% of employees) and businesses with more than 500 employees employed 2.7 million individuals (16.0% of employees) in Canada. As such, smaller businesses play an important role in employing Canadians and are a significant driver in shaping the economy.

Downtown Stratford is not made up of large corporate chains that can balance out their revenue shortfalls in a tourist area with other larger metropolitan locations that have recovered much quicker. For the most part our restaurants and shops are sole proprietorships and entrepreneurs who are fighting to keep their doors open. As the pandemic fades, elsewhere, the aftermath in tourist cities, like Stratford, hangs on. In addition Stratford businesses are facing a raft of new challenges: the cost-of-living crisis, rising prices, increased labour costs, supply disruptions, and climate events – the list goes on and on.

These new challenges and increased costs all end up raising the prices that businesses have to charge for their goods and services. This increase means both the Provincial and Federal Governments are benefiting from more tax revenue on these increased prices. The only ones not winning are the business owners as margins are shrinking with efforts to remain competitive in this difficult marketplace

For the businesses that are being crushed with heavy debt and operating in an economic sector that has been hit hard, we see closures. In Stratford Downtown alone we have 15 business closures (11 of which

DOWNTOWN STRATFORD

were hospitality businesses) to date in 2023, when looking from the start of the pandemic we have had 35 closures. Currently there are 9 of our downtown businesses that have been for sale for a number of months as owners try to escape debt. As well as there have been dozens of other small business closures in the City of Stratford in 2023. These closures represent hundreds of jobs lost with well over a hundred in the last week alone.

These lost jobs cost all levels of government revenue in taxes and an increased cost in social services to help them transition into a new career. These funds would be better served to reduce unemployment in Stratford with the businesses that grow our economic infrastructure

To limit or minimize the number of vacancies and bankruptcies affecting our downtown businesses, the Downtown Stratford BIA respectfully requests businesses pursuing the announced five percent (5%) loan also qualify for forgiveness on the forgivable portions of the loan. Of importance to note many businesses do not qualify for a loan due to the current debt load that they are dealing with. Banks and even private loan companies are not lending funds to businesses in the hospitality business (restaurants, cafes, and accommodators) even with buildings and properties as collateral. These sectors are being deemed as high risk. Businesses face remortgaging or taking out high interest rate second mortgages on their homes putting their entire existence in jeopardy.

Therefore, we are calling upon the Federal Government to Extend the full CEBA program deadline by extending the forgiveness (up to \$20,000 of the maximum \$60,000) deadline for businesses to coincide with the new repayment deadline of December 31, 2026. Let our entrepreneurs have a fighting chance.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

8513F3A4EFB74C8...

Shawn Malvern

Chair of the Board of Directors DTSBIA

on behalf of the Downtown Stratford Business Improvement Area (DTSBIA)



Received December 19, 2023
C-2023-437

December 18, 2023

Town of Fort Erie
c/o Peter Todd
Manager, Legislative Services/Town Clerk
1 Municipal Centre Drive
Fort Erie, ON L2A 2S6

Email: ptodd@forterie.ca

Dear Peter:

Sent via E-mail

**Re: Letter of Support from City of Niagara Falls – Support Bill C-310
Amendments**

Please be advised that the Niagara Falls' City Council at its meeting of December 12, 2023 passed the following motion:

Ordered on the motion of Councillor Victor Pietrangelo, seconded by Councillor Mona Patel, that Council support the resolution adopted by the Town of Fort Erie regarding supporting Bill C-310 Amendments – Firefighting and Search and Rescue.

Carried Unanimously

I trust that this information will be of assistance.

Sincerely,

Bill Matson
City Clerk

Working Together to Serve Our Community

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



Legislative Services

November 28, 2023

The Honourable Harjit Sajjan
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6
harjit.sajjan@parl.gc.ca

Honourable and Dear Sir:

Re: Support Bill C-310 Amendments

Please be advised the Municipal Council of the Town of Fort Erie at its meeting of July 24, 2023 passed the following resolution:

Whereas Volunteer firefighters account for 71% of Canada's total firefighting essential first responders, and

Whereas approximately 8,000 essential search and rescue volunteers respond to thousands of incidents every year, and

Whereas the tax code of Canada currently allows volunteer firefighters and search and rescue volunteers to claim a \$3,000 tax credit if 200 hours of volunteer services were completed in a calendar year, and

Whereas this works out to a mere \$450 per year, which we allow these essential volunteers to keep of their own income from their regular jobs, \$2.25 an hour, and

Whereas if volunteer firefighters volunteer more than 200 hours, this tax credit becomes even less, and

Whereas these essential volunteers not only put their lives on the line and give their time, training and efforts to Canadians, but they also allow cities and municipalities to keep property taxes lower than if paid services were required, and

.../2

Mailing Address:

The Corporation of the Town of Fort Erie
1 Municipal Centre Drive, Fort Erie ON L2A 2S6

Office Hours 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Phone: (905) 871-1600 FAX: (905) 871-4022

Web-site: www.forterrie.ca

Whereas increasing this tax credit would allow these essential volunteers to keep more of their hard-earned money, likely to be spent in the communities in which they live, and

Whereas it would also help retain these volunteers in a time when volunteerism is decreasing;

Therefore be it resolved,

That: The Municipal Council of the Corporation of the Town of Fort Erie call upon the Government of Canada to support Bill C-310 and enact amendments to subsections 118.06(2) and 118.07(2) of the *Income Tax Act* in order to increase the amount of the tax credits for volunteer firefighting and search and rescue volunteer services from \$3,000 to \$10,000, and further

That: A copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), MPP Wayne Gates, MP Tony Baldinelli, and Local Area Municipalities.

Trusting this information will be of assistance to you.

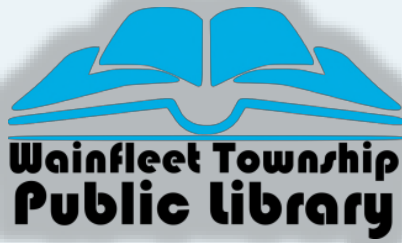
Sincerely,



Peter Todd,
Manager, Legislative Services / Town Clerk
ptodd@forterie.ca

PT:dlk

c.c. M. Schmitt, Fire Chief



CHECK IT OUT @ YOUR LIBRARY

JANUARY 2024 NEWSLETTER

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



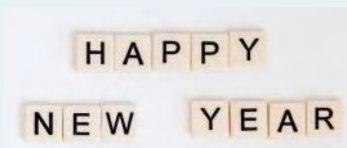
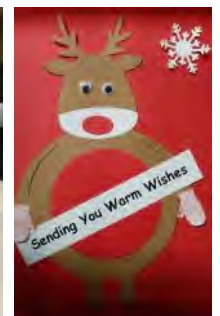
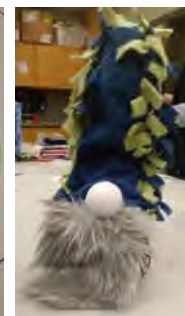
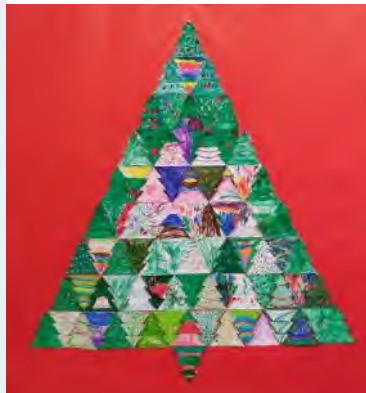
Hours:

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

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

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

Sunday:
Closed



Winter fun @ your library!



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New and exciting things are happening at the Wainfleet Township Public Library!



** Wearing of CSA-approved helmets is strongly recommended.
* No hockey pucks allowed on ice during these skating times.*

Free Skate for Tots and Seniors

Wednesdays and Fridays
from 9:00 - 10:00 a.m.

Public Skating \$4/person (under 6 free)

Saturdays from 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.
(No public skating on January 27 and February 10)

Free Holiday Skating

December 28 from 12:00 - 2:00 p.m.,
January 2 & 4 from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.



One-on-One Computer Training



**First hour FREE!
\$10.00 per hour thereafter.**

1 hour training sessions
can be tailored to a program
or topic of your choice.
Contact library staff for more information!

VISITING LIBRARY SERVICE

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



What are you reading
this winter?




Read on Libby.

Download the Libby app on your device. Log in with your Library card number and use the last 4 or 7 digits of your phone number for the password.



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

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

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

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

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

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

 Sign In

 CARD NUMBER

Library Card Number

 PASSWORD

Last 4 or 7 digits of phone #

Stay signed in

Sign in

PROGRAMS

To sign up for programs that require registration, please visit <https://wainfleetlibrary.ca/programs/current-programs>. In the event of high registration, preference will be given to Wainfleet residents first. If you have registered and are no longer able to attend, please contact the library so we can offer the space to someone else.

Drop-in Programming - January 2, 3, & 5 from 10:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. and January 4 from 10:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Come to the library with your friends and family and play with our collections of Lego, Magformers, BrainFlakes and build a friendship bracelet to take home. This program will run all day on a drop-in basis (children must be supervised by their parents / caregivers).



Drop-in Lego - Saturday, January 6, 13, 20 & 27 from 10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Come to the library with your friends and family and discover our amazing collection of Lego. This program will run all day on a drop-in basis (children must be supervised by their parents / caregivers).



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

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



Homeschool Craft - Friday, January 12 at 2:15 p.m. and Monday, January 22 at 1:00 p.m.

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



Winter Painting - Monday, January 15 at 6:00 p.m.

Join us for this evening program for ages 6+ as we guide you to create a beautiful work of art with step-by-step painting instructions. Registration required by Thursday, January 11.



DIY Memo / Photo Ribbon Board - Tuesday, January 16 at 1:00 p.m.

Join us for this afternoon crafting program for adults ONLY as we show you step-by-step how to turn an ordinary photo frame into a memo / photo ribbon board where you can display special notes, photos and more. Registration required by Thursday, January 11.



P. A. Day Drop-in Programming - Friday, January 19 from 10:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Come to the library with your friends and family and play with our collections of Lego, Magformers, BrainFlakes and build a friendship bracelet to take home. This program will run all day on a drop-in basis (children must be supervised by their parents / caregivers).



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

This month's book is *The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe* by C. S. Lewis. Each participant will be loaned a copy of the current book. Registration is required.



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

This month's book is *Wish You Were Here* by Jodi Picoult. Each participant will be loaned a copy of the current book. Registration is required.



Gnome Love Painting - Tuesday, January 30 at 1:00 p.m.

Join us as we guide you step-by-step in creating a lovely gnome painting. This program is for adults ONLY. Registration required by Friday, January 26.



Gnome Love Paint Night - Thursday, February 1 at 6:00 p.m.

Join us as we guide you step-by-step in creating a lovely gnome painting. Ages 6+. Registration required by Friday, January 26.

Wainfleet Township Public Library book bags only \$7 each!



They make great gifts! These bags are made of cotton canvas and are washable. Bags measure 16 x 15"

TEEN VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Get your community service hours by volunteering at the Library during March Break.

Call 905-899-1277 ext. 281 or email cmayr@wainfleetlibrary.ca for more information.



E-RESOURCES

Find the e-resources on the front page of www.wainfleetlibrary.ca



PRINTING, COPYING, LAMINATING AND FAXING

New pricing effective January 2024

PRINTING & COPYING

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



LAMINATING

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



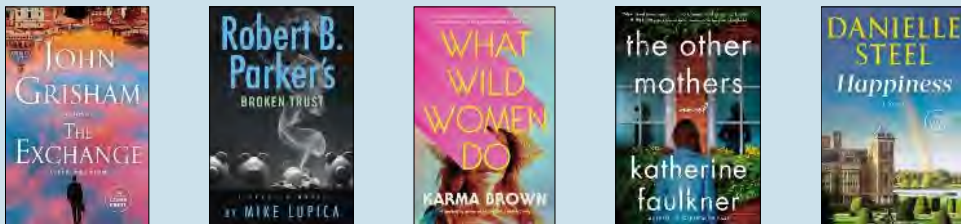
FAXING

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



NEW LIBRARY MATERIALS

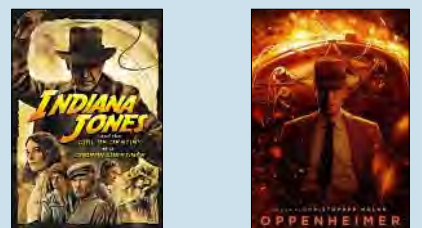
Adult Fiction Books



DVDs



Adult Non-Fiction Books



Juvenile & YP Fiction Books



Juvenile Picture Books





MISSION STATEMENT

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

LIBRARY STAFF

Lorrie Atkinson, CEO/Chief Librarian
latkinson@wainfleetlibrary.ca

Carrie Mayr, Library Programmer
cmayr@wainfleetlibrary.ca

Cheryl Davis-Catchpaw, Secretary/Library Clerk
cdavis-catchpaw@wainfleetlibrary.ca

Dianne Boru, Library Clerk
dboru@wainfleetlibrary.ca

Rosalie Kasm, Library Clerk
rkasm@wainfleetlibrary.ca

Kayla Spark, Student Page

Dariusz Zelichowski, IT Specialist
darius@wainfleet.ca



LIBRARY BOARD

Lynn J. Hunt
Chairperson

Lynn Gibson
Vice-Chairperson

Joan Anderson
Council Representative

Lois Johnson
Trustee

Chris Summerhayes
Trustee

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

January 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 NEW YEAR'S DAY CLOSED	2 10 a.m. Free Skate 10:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Drop-in Programming	3 10:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Drop-in Programming	4 10 a.m. Free Skate 10:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m. Drop-in Programming	5 10:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Drop-in Programming	6 10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Drop-in Lego
7	8	9 Class Visit	10 Class Visit	11 10:30 a.m. Time for Tots & Craft	12 2:15 p.m. Homeschool Craft	13 10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Drop-in Lego
14	15 6 p.m. Winter Painting	16 1 p.m. DIY Memo /Photo Ribbon Board	17	18 10:30 a.m. Time for Tots & Craft	19 P.A. Day 10:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Drop-in Programming	20 10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Drop-in Lego
21	22 1 p.m. Homeschool Craft	23 Class Visit	24 Class Visit	25 10:30 a.m. Time for Tots & Craft 2 p.m. Afternoon Book Club	26 Class Visit	27 10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Drop-in Lego
28	29 6:30 p.m. Evening Book Club	30 1 p.m. Gnome Love Painting	31			



Received December 21, 2023
C-2023-439

The County of Brant

David Bailey
MAYOR

December 21, 2023

Re: County of Brant Resolution – Gender-based Violence and Intimate-partner Violence

I am writing on behalf of the County of Brant council to request that your municipality declare a gender-based violence and intimate partner violence epidemic across Canada, as seen in the attached County of Brant resolution which was passed at the County of Brant Council meeting of November 28, 2023.

Sincerely,

David Bailey
Mayor
County of Brant

Encl. County of Brant Resolution – Gender-based Violence and Intimate-partner Violence

November 28, 2023

Re: County of Brant Resolution – November 28, 2023

At the meeting of November 28, 2023, the Council of the County of Brant adopted the following:

WHEREAS more than 72 municipalities and regions including the Cities of Toronto, Ottawa, Burlington, Windsor, London, Woodstock and most recently, Brantford, along with Peel, Durham and Halton Regions, Norfolk County, Haldimand County, and, of course, Renfrew County, across Ontario have declared a gender-based violence and/or intimate partner violence epidemic; and

WHEREAS by declaring gender-based violence and intimate partner violence an epidemic, The County of Brant can join the growing number of municipalities and regions in Canada in demanding action from all levels of government to address this growing epidemic; and

WHEREAS the incidences of gender-based violence and intimate partner violence increased exponentially throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and have not decreased, while funding to provide the growing demand of services and support for victims and survivors of intimate partner and gender-based violence has not kept pace; and

WHEREAS In 2022, the Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics (a division of Statistics Canada) issued a report to the House of Commons Standing Committee on the Status of Women that highlighted the rural rate of reported intimate partner violence against women to be 598 per 100,000 population in Ontario, which compares to 378 per 100,000 population in urban locations; and

WHEREAS those experiencing gender-based and intimate partner violence in rural and farming communities, like those in the County of Brant, face unique risk factors such as isolation, lack of and/or barriers to service and support, strong traditions and community values around firearms, and a sense of responsibility for livestock and pets, which prevent women from seeking support and increase the risk of domestic violence and domestic homicide; and

WHEREAS The Brant OPP reported that, as of September 2023, year-to-date domestic disturbance calls have increased by 4.3%; and

WHEREAS Nova Vita answered over 4,500 crisis and support calls in 2022, and in the same year, 648 women who were seeking safe shelter from family violence were turned away because the shelters were full and had no bed space to offer them. This number doesn't include their children; and

WHEREAS In Ontario last year, a woman was killed every week (52 femicides in 52 weeks) and, In Canada, a woman was killed every 2 days; and

WHEREAS 30% of women report having experienced a sexual assault since the age of 15, and 44% of women report having experienced some form of intimate partner violence (IPV) in their lifetime; and

WHEREAS Gender-Based Violence impacts individuals, families, and communities, and it also places a costly burden on the health, social, and justice systems. In 2009, it was estimated that IPV had an economic cost of \$7.4 billion annually and sexual violence a cost of \$4.8 billion annually; and

WHEREAS the Province of Ontario states that it will not declare gender-based and intimate partner violence an epidemic as the term epidemic refers to the spread of diseases; and

WHEREAS Merriam Webster defines disease as a condition of the living animal or of one of its parts that impairs normal functioning and is typically manifested by distinguishing signs and symptoms; and

WHEREAS the numerous physical, psychological, and behavioral symptoms that are a consequence of gender-based and intimate partner violence reveal that it meets the definition of disease.

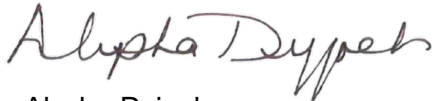
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- A. THAT The County of Brant Council DECLARE Gender-based violence and Intimate Partner Violence an epidemic in the County of Brant; and*
- B. THAT The County of Brant Council RECOMMEND that gender-based violence and intimate-partner violence be declared an epidemic in the Province of Ontario; and*
- C. That The County of Brant Council REQUEST that Femicide be added as a term to the Criminal Code of Canada and state its position to the Honourable Arif Virani, Minister of Justice and Attorney General Canada, and the Prime Minister of Canada; and*
- D. THAT The County of Brant Council REQUEST that the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and all municipalities and regions in Ontario declare a gender-based and intimate partner violence epidemic across the country; and*
- E. THAT The County of Brant REQUEST the provincial and federal governments rightfully declare intimate partner and gender-based violence an epidemic and enact the additional 95 recommendations from the inquest into the 2015 murders of Carol Culleton, Anastasia Kuzyk and Nathalie Warmerdam in Renfrew County, Ontario, which provide a roadmap to preventing intimate partner violence from escalating to femicide; and*
- F. THAT The County of Brant REQUEST that the provincial and federal governments provide the necessary support to municipalities, regions and their emergency and social*

services to meaningfully address the gender-based violence and intimate-partner violence epidemic; and

- G. THAT staff BE DIRECTED to assess what would be required to complete a Community IPV Action Plan that includes items such as resources to address the local IPV epidemic, an awareness campaign, funding a dedicated rural outreach worker through Nova Vita, approaches to engaging with at-risk youth, and other opportunities for County of Brant Council to support, and bring a report back to council before the end of the year for possible inclusions to be considered for the 2024 budget; and*
- H. THAT staff BE DIRECTED to include within the plan the ways the County of Brant can ensure that all victims of intimate partner violence are included, regardless of gender, sex, identity, family status, social economic status, and other barriers to accessing traditional intimate partner violence support services.*
- I. THAT a copy of this resolution BE FORWARDED to the Brant County Health Unit, as well as the three MPs and three MPPs representing the County of Brant residents.*

Respectfully,



Alysha Dyjach
Director of Council Services, Clerk
County of Brant



Legislative Services
Jaclyn Grossi
905-726-4768
clerks@aurora.ca

Town of Aurora
100 John West Way, Box 1000
Aurora, ON L4G 6J1

December 19, 2023

Received December 21, 2023
C-2023-440

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau
Prime Minister of Canada
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

Delivered by email
justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca

The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
Premier's Office, Room 281
Legislative Building, Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

Delivered by email
premier@ontario.ca

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau and Premier Ford:

**Re: Town of Aurora Council Resolution of December 12, 2023
Motion 10.3 – Councillor Gilliland; Re: Community Safety and Inciteful Speech**

Please be advised that this matter was considered by Council at its meeting held on December 12, 2023, and in this regard, Council adopted the following resolution:

Whereas there has been an escalation in terrorist activity and unrest around the world that has triggered homeland rallies and advocacy that supports inciteful actions, which are causing uncertainty and unsafe feelings in our own country; and

Whereas inciteful speech is knowingly being utilized to create division, manipulation and spread misinformation, which could be defined as violent extremist propaganda and encouraging violent crimes; and

Whereas any loss of innocent civilian life is unacceptable and tragic; and

Whereas other local municipal councils and residents in Aurora have expressed concerns of uncertainty and safety who are asking for peace, protection and security; and

Whereas law exists to help maintain public safety, security, peace and order in society, and in Canada, where the responsibility for criminal justice is shared between the Federal, Provincial and territorial governments; and

Whereas it is important to protect our general freedoms of speech, while respecting the principles to protect and respect human rights, whether in

person or in a free, open and secure internet, and to ensure transparency and accountability;

- 1. Now Therefore Be It Hereby Resolved That the Town of Aurora acknowledges that residents in the community have expressed feelings of uncertainty and safety concerns, due to the recent global unrest, and condemns all acts of terror and violence resulting in loss of life or injury; and**
- 2. Be It Further Resolved That the Town of Aurora call on all levels of government to acknowledge this uncertainty and safety concerns in Canada and look to strengthening their available tools to deny inciteful speech that encourages violent extremists the ability to publicly manipulate, advocate, and incite violence or physical harm to another human being, whether it be online or in person; and**
- 3. Be It Further Resolved That Council encourages our community and diverse local leaders of faith to bring the community together to promote peace, healing and understanding during this difficult time; and**
- 4. Be It Further Resolved That a copy of this resolution be provided to both the Federal and Provincial government and all municipalities in Ontario.**

The above is for your consideration and any attention deemed necessary.

Sincerely,



Jaclyn Grossi
Deputy Town Clerk
The Corporation of the Town of Aurora

JG/lb

Attachment (Council meeting extract)

Copy: All Ontario Municipalities



10. Motions

10.3 Councillor Gilliland; Re: Community Safety and Inciteful Speech

Moved by Councillor Gilliland

Seconded by Councillor Gaertner

Whereas there has been an escalation in terrorist activity and unrest around the world that has triggered homeland rallies and advocacy that supports inciteful actions, which are causing uncertainty and unsafe feelings in our own country; and

Whereas inciteful speech is knowingly being utilized to create division, manipulation and spread misinformation, which could be defined as violent extremist propaganda and encouraging violent crimes; and

Whereas any loss of innocent civilian life is unacceptable and tragic; and

Whereas other local municipal councils and residents in Aurora have expressed concerns of uncertainty and safety who are asking for peace, protection and security; and

Whereas law exists to help maintain public safety, security, peace and order in society, and in Canada, where the responsibility for criminal justice is shared between the Federal, Provincial and territorial governments; and

Whereas it is important to protect our general freedoms of speech, while respecting the principles to protect and respect human rights, whether in person or in a free, open and secure internet, and to ensure transparency and accountability;

1. Now Therefore Be It Hereby Resolved That the Town of Aurora acknowledges that residents in the community have expressed feelings of uncertainty and safety concerns, due to the recent global unrest, and condemns all acts of terror and violence resulting in loss of life or injury; and
2. Be It Further Resolved That the Town of Aurora call on all levels of government to acknowledge this uncertainty and safety concerns in Canada and look to strengthening their available tools to deny inciteful

speech that encourages violent extremists the ability to publicly manipulate, advocate, and incite violence or physical harm to another human being, whether it be online or in person; and

3. Be It Further Resolved That Council encourages our community and diverse local leaders of faith to bring the community together to promote peace, healing and understanding during this difficult time; and
4. Be It Further Resolved That a copy of this resolution be provided to both the Federal and Provincial government and all municipalities in Ontario.

Yeas (7): Mayor Mrakas, Councillor Weese, Councillor Gilliland, Councillor Gaertner, Councillor Thompson, Councillor Gallo, and Councillor Kim

Carried (7 to 0)



Legislative Services
Jaclyn Grossi
905-726-4768
clerks@aurora.ca

Town of Aurora
100 John West Way, Box 1000
Aurora, ON L4G 6J1

December 19, 2023

Received December 21, 2023
C-2023-441

The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
Premier's Office, Room 281
Legislative Building, Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

Delivered by email
premier@ontario.ca

Dear Premier Ford:

**Re: Town of Aurora Council Resolution of December 12, 2023
Motion 10.1 – Councillor Gilliland; Re: Homelessness Crisis**

Please be advised that this matter was considered by Council at its meeting held on December 12, 2023, and in this regard, Council adopted the following resolution:

Whereas the homelessness crisis is taking a devastating toll on families and communities, undermining a healthy and prosperous Ontario, and that Council accepts that the responsibility to address these challenges rests with community stakeholders, partners, and residents as well as regional, federal, and provincial governments and agencies; and

Whereas the Town of Aurora recognizes the challenges of mental health, addictions, and homelessness, which are complex issues that have a significant and detrimental impact on the residents of the Town of Aurora and surrounding areas within Ontario; and

Whereas addressing and responding to these issues has placed extreme stress on all levels of regional, municipal, and non-municipal programs and services, including various not-for-profit organizations and provincially funded health services within the Town of Aurora and surrounding areas;

- 1. Now Therefore Be It Hereby Resolved That the Town of Aurora acknowledge that homelessness in Ontario is a social, economic and health crisis, including people with substance use disorders; and**
- 2. Be It Further Resolved That the Town of Aurora commits to ending homelessness in the community in collaboration with the Region, and both the Provincial and Federal governments; and**

3. **Be It Further Resolved That the Town of Aurora call on the Region, the Province and Federal governments to increase action and supports on the following:**
 - a. **Commit to ending homelessness in Ontario; and**
 - b. **Work with the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and a broad range of community, health, and economic partners to develop, resource, and implement an action plan to achieve this goal; and**
 - c. **Provide a long-term financial commitment to assist in the creation of more affordable and supportive housing for people in need, in York Region, including people with substance use disorders; and**
 - d. **Increase investments in evidence informed substance use prevention and mental health promotion initiatives that provide foundational support for the health, safety and well-being of individuals, families, and neighbourhoods, beginning from early childhood; and**
4. **Be It Further Resolved That a copy of this motion be sent to the Premier of Ontario; the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing; the Minister of Children, Community and Social Services; the Minister of Health; the Minister of the Solicitor General; the Minister of Finance; the Chief Medical Officer of Health; Town of Aurora local MPs and MPPs; the Association of Municipalities of Ontario; and all Ontario municipalities.**

The above is for your consideration and any attention deemed necessary.

Sincerely,



Jaclyn Grossi
Deputy Town Clerk
The Corporation of the Town of Aurora

JG/lb

Attachment (Council meeting extract)

Copy: Hon. Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Hon. Michael Parsa, Minister of Children, Community and Social Services, MPP
Aurora—Oak Ridges—Richmond Hill

Hon. Sylvia Jones, Minister of Health
Hon. Michael S. Kerzner, Solicitor General
Hon. Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance
Dr. Kieran Moore, Chief Medical Officer of Health
Dawn Gallagher Murphy, MPP Newmarket—Aurora
Tony Van Bynen, MP Newmarket—Aurora
Leah Taylor Roy, MP Aurora—Oak Ridges—Richmond Hill
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
All Ontario Municipalities



10. Motions

10.1 Councillor Gilliland; Re: Homelessness Crisis

Moved by Councillor Gilliland

Seconded by Councillor Gaertner

Whereas the homelessness crisis is taking a devastating toll on families and communities, undermining a healthy and prosperous Ontario, and that Council accepts that the responsibility to address these challenges rests with community stakeholders, partners, and residents as well as regional, federal, and provincial governments and agencies; and

Whereas the Town of Aurora recognizes the challenges of mental health, addictions, and homelessness, which are complex issues that have a significant and detrimental impact on the residents of the Town of Aurora and surrounding areas within Ontario; and

Whereas addressing and responding to these issues has placed extreme stress on all levels of regional, municipal, and non-municipal programs and services, including various not-for-profit organizations and provincially funded health services within the Town of Aurora and surrounding areas;

1. Now Therefore Be It Hereby Resolved That the Town of Aurora acknowledge that homelessness in Ontario is a social, economic and health crisis, including people with substance use disorders; and
2. Be It Further Resolved That the Town of Aurora commits to ending homelessness in the community in collaboration with the Region, and both the Provincial and Federal governments; and
3. Be It Further Resolved That the Town of Aurora call on the Region, the Province and Federal governments to increase action and supports on the following:
 - a. Commit to ending homelessness in Ontario; and
 - b. Work with the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and a broad range of community, health, and economic partners to

develop, resource, and implement an action plan to achieve this goal; and

- c. Provide a long-term financial commitment to assist in the creation of more affordable and supportive housing for people in need, in York Region, including people with substance use disorders; and
- d. Increase investments in evidence informed substance use prevention and mental health promotion initiatives that provide foundational support for the health, safety and well-being of individuals, families, and neighbourhoods, beginning from early childhood; and

- 4. Be It Further Resolved That a copy of this motion be sent to the Premier of Ontario; the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing; the Minister of Children, Community and Social Services; the Minister of Health; the Minister of the Solicitor General; the Minister of Finance; the Chief Medical Officer of Health; Town of Aurora local MPs and MPPs; the Association of Municipalities of Ontario; and all Ontario municipalities.

Yeas (7): Mayor Mrakas, Councillor Weese, Councillor Gilliland, Councillor Gaertner, Councillor Thompson, Councillor Gallo, and Councillor Kim

Carried (7 to 0)

TAY TOWNSHIP

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



Received December 21, 2023
C-2023-442

December 21, 2023

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

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

Dear Hon. Todd McCarthy,

Re: Provincial Cemetery Management Support Request – Tay Township

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

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

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

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

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

TAY TOWNSHIP

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



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

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

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

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

Sent on behalf of Tay Township Council.

Yours truly,

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

Katelyn Johns, MPPA
Municipal Clerk

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