

1. **C-2026-083**
Correspondence dated April 2, 2026 from the Township of East Zorra-Tavistock to numerous recipients respecting a resolution of support for the Township of Oro-Medonte correspondence regarding the Association of Ontario Road Supervisors Request for Provincial Legislation Amendments.
2. **C-2026-084**
Correspondence dated April 3, 2026 from Joedy Burdett to numerous recipients respecting a report on Niagara's New Regional Order: Regional Restructuring, Vote Splitting and the Coming Race for the Mayorships.
3. **C-2026-085**
Correspondence dated April 6, 2026 from Craig Baird regarding a proposal to produce a community history video, Telling Your Story: A Community History Partnership.
4. **C-2026-086**
Correspondence dated April 7, 2026 from the Township of Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan to numerous recipients regarding a resolution of support for Bill 21, Protect Our Food Act.
5. **C-2026-087**
Correspondence dated April 7, 2026 from the Township of Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan to The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario and The Honourable Prabmeet Sarkaria, Minister of Transportation respecting a resolution of support of the Municipality of North Grenville, Merrickville-Wolford Village OPP Detachment Board correspondence regarding Enhanced School Bus Safety and the Implementation of Stop-Arm Camera Systems.
6. **C-2026-088**
Correspondence dated April 7, 2026 from the Township of Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan to The Honourable Micael Karzner, Solicitor General, The Honourable Zee Hamid, Associate Solicitor General and MPP Billy Denault respecting a resolution of support of the OPP Detachment Board – James Bay East correspondence regarding the Provincial Ball Notification Program.
7. **C-2026-089**
Correspondence dated April 8, 2026 from the City of Pickering to The Right Honourable Mark Carney, Prime Minister and The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier respecting a resolution of support of the Township of Prince correspondence regarding the Call to Action for Justice and Protection of Canada's Children.



TOWNSHIP OF EAST ZORRA-TAVISTOCK

89 LOVEYS STREET, PO BOX 100 HICKSON, ONTARIO, N0J 1L0
519-462-2697. WWW.EZT.CA . EZT@EZT.CA

April 2, 2026

Re: Township of Oro-Medonte – Association of Ontario Road Supervisors Request for Provincial Legislation Amendments

Please be advised that at their regular meeting on April 1, 2026, the Council of the Corporation of the Township of East Zorra-Tavistock carried the following resolution:

Moved by Councillor Scott Zehr
Seconded by Councillor Matthew Gillespie

THAT Council supports the resolution from Township of Oro-Medonte regarding the Association of Ontario Road Supervisors request for Provincial Legislation Amendments to strengthen protections for municipal workers and contractors.

AND THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to:

- The Premier of Ontario
- Michael Kerzner, Solicitor General of Ontario
- Jill Dunlop, Minister of Emergency Preparedness and Response
- Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
- Prabmeet Sakaria, Minister of Transportation
- MPP Ernie Hardeman
- Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
- Association of Ontario Roads Supervisors (AORS)
- Ontario municipalities

CARRIED

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Yours truly,

Meaghan Vader

Meaghan Vader
Corporate Initiatives Manager/Clerk
mvader@ezt.ca

March 13, 2026

Hon. David Piccini
Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development
14th Floor, 400 University Ave
Toronto ON M7A 1T7

Re: Request for Provincial Legislation Amendments, Health and Safety Concerns

Dear Minister Piccini,

At its meeting of Council on March 11, 2026, the Council of the Township of Oro-Medonte received correspondence from Association of Ontario Road Supervisors (AORS) regarding the above-mentioned request for support.

The Township of Oro-Medonte fully supports AORS in their request, as our staff have, on numerous occasions, been subjected to abusive and aggressive behaviour from members of the public. We respectfully request your support in advancing measures that will strengthen protections for municipal workers and contractors. With provincial partnership, municipalities can better safeguard the individuals who work tirelessly to maintain critical services and keep our communities functioning safely.

Sincerely,



Mayor Randy Greenlaw

Cc: Premier Doug Ford
Hon. Michael Kerzner, Solicitor General of Ontario
Hon. Jill Dunlop, Minister of Emergency Preparedness and Response
Hon. Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

Hon. Prabmeet Sakaria, Minister of Transportation
Hon. Todd McCarthy, Acting Minister of Infrastructure
Doug Downey, MPP Barrie – Springwater - Oro-Medonte
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
Association of Ontario Roads Supervisors (AORS)
Ontario Municipalities
Members of Oro-Medonte Council



Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development David Piccini
14th Floor, 400 University Avenue
Toronto, ON M7A 1T7

February 5, 2026

Dear Minister Piccini,

On behalf of Ontario's municipal public works professionals, we are writing to raise an urgent health and safety concern that is increasingly placing municipal workers and subcontractors at risk while they maintain the critical infrastructure our communities rely on every day.

While the Occupational Health and Safety Act establishes important protections against workplace hazards, it does not adequately address a growing and very real threat: unsafe working conditions created by interference, harassment, and dangerous actions from members of the public.

Through consultations with AORS members across the province, we are hearing consistent and deeply troubling examples of escalating behaviour directed at municipal workers - particularly winter maintenance operators. These are not isolated incidents, but a pattern that is becoming increasingly normalized during significant weather events. Examples reported to AORS include:

- An individual throwing a large chunk of ice at an active piece of municipal equipment while it was operating.
- A resident threatening to kill a sidewalk plow operator.
- A man climbing onto a snow plow and refusing to get off until the operator agreed to plow his road next.
- Two municipal staff members being confronted, accosted, and aggressively yelled at in public - one at a gas station and another while simply standing in line for coffee - by individuals angry about road conditions that were not even under that municipality's jurisdiction, as well as a mailbox that had been struck.
- A voicemail left by a resident threatening to shoot a municipal plow driver with a shotgun the next time the street was plowed.
- A resident angry about snow at the end of their driveway jumping in front of an active plow and refusing to move. The plow was delayed for over an hour during a major snow event, placing service levels and the municipality's overall emergency response at risk. The situation was only resolved once supervisors and by-law officers arrived on scene.

These incidents represent only a small sample of what municipal plow drivers and winter maintenance crews are experiencing across Ontario. What was once limited to disgruntled complaints has escalated into direct threats, physical interference, and dangerous confrontations that place workers, subcontractors, and the public at risk. This issue is becoming a systematic threat to municipal service delivery and is only amplified during significant weather events.

Municipal workers and their contracted partners are responsible for maintaining roads, bridges, sidewalks, and other essential services - often in extreme weather and high-risk environments. When these workers are threatened or obstructed, it becomes not only a workplace safety issue, but a broader public safety concern. In some cases, conditions have become so unsafe that

municipal staff and subcontractors have walked off job sites, jeopardizing timely service delivery during critical events.

We respectfully ask the Province to consider the following changes:

- Under the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act, when a municipality declares a Significant Weather Event, municipal winter maintenance vehicles and operators - including subcontractors working on behalf of municipalities - should be afforded enhanced protection, with interference or obstruction treated with the same severity as interference with police, fire, or paramedic services.
- Establish clear public-safety interference provisions, similar in intent to Ontario's Slow Down, Move Over legislation, that recognize the essential role of municipal roadside workers.
- Consider adopting provisions similar to Manitoba's recently passed Bill 38, an amendment to their Highway Traffic Act effective January 1, 2026, which requires motorists to maintain a minimum distance of 30 metres behind snowplows where speed limits are 80 km/h or lower, and 100 metres where speed limits exceed 80 km/h.

These changes would provide clarity, deterrence, and enforceability—sending a strong message that interference with municipal workers performing essential services will not be tolerated. Just as Ontario protects first responders from obstruction during emergencies, we must extend similar protections to the public works professionals who keep our communities safe, connected, and functioning.

AORS would welcome the opportunity to meet with you and your staff to discuss these concerns further and to collaborate on legislative solutions that better protect municipal workers and subcontractors while strengthening public safety across the province.

Thank you for your consideration of this critical issue.

Sincerely,



Karla Musso-Garcia, CRS-I
President, Association of Ontario Road Supervisors
Operations Manager, Township of Oro-Medonte



Kelly Elliott
Interim Executive Director
Association of Ontario Road Supervisors

Cc (via e-mail)

Premier Doug Ford

Minister of Emergency Preparedness and Response Jill Dunlop

Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing Rob Flack

Minister of Transportation Prabmeet Sarkaria

Acting Minister of Infrastructure Todd McCarthy

Scott Butler, Good Roads Executive Director

Walid Abou-Hamde, Ontario Road Builders' Association Chief Executive Officer



Solicitor General of Ontario Michael Kerzner
George Drew Building, 25 Grosvenor Street
Toronto, ON M7A 1Y6

February 5, 2026

Dear Solicitor General Kerzner,

On behalf of Ontario's municipal public works professionals, we are writing to raise serious concerns regarding the safety of municipal workers and subcontractors who are increasingly facing harassment, threats, and dangerous interference from members of the public while delivering essential municipal services - particularly during winter maintenance and emergency operations.

Across Ontario, municipal public works teams are responsible for maintaining critical infrastructure that residents depend on every day, including roads, sidewalks, bridges, and drainage systems. During significant weather events, these workers are frontline responders, ensuring emergency vehicles can travel safely and that communities remain connected and accessible. However, the behaviour directed at them has escalated well beyond routine complaints and has become a direct threat to both worker safety and public safety.

Through consultations with AORS members province-wide, we continue to receive troubling reports that illustrate the seriousness of this issue. These include:

- An individual throwing a large chunk of ice at an active piece of municipal equipment while it was operating.
- A resident threatening to kill a sidewalk plow operator.
- A man climbing onto a snowplow and refusing to get off until the driver agreed to plow his road next.
- Two staff members confronted and aggressively accosted in public - one at a gas station and another while simply waiting in line for coffee - by individuals angry about road conditions and a mailbox strike that were not even related to that municipality.
- A voicemail threatening to shoot a plow driver with a shotgun the next time the street was plowed.
- A resident jumping in front of an active plow during a major snow event and refusing to move, delaying operations for over an hour and jeopardizing service levels and overall emergency response.

These examples represent only a small sample of the experiences municipal plow drivers and winter maintenance crews are facing across the province. What was once occasional frustration has escalated into intimidation, threats of violence, and direct interference with equipment and operations.

Equally concerning is that municipalities do not always receive consistent enforcement support when these incidents occur. We have heard directly from members who contacted the Ontario Provincial Police for assistance and were advised that, unless a physical assault had already taken place, the situation was "not a police matter." Waiting until a worker has been physically harmed before intervention is neither preventative nor acceptable.

This gap leaves municipalities and workers vulnerable and sends an unintended message that threatening or obstructive behaviour toward municipal staff carries little consequence. It also places supervisors and by-law officers in situations that may exceed their authority or capacity to manage safely.

We believe a proactive and coordinated response is needed. Municipal workers and their subcontractors should not have to choose between their personal safety and providing critical services during storms and emergencies.

We respectfully ask that the Province of Ontario and the Ontario Provincial Police take a clear and strong stance that interference, threats, and harassment directed at municipal public works staff will not be tolerated. Specifically, we would welcome:

- Clear direction and guidance to police services, including the OPP, that threats, intimidation, and obstruction of municipal workers performing essential duties warrant timely enforcement and support.
- Recognition that interference with winter maintenance and emergency public works operations presents a broader public safety risk, not merely a municipal operational issue.
- Enhanced coordination between municipalities and local police services during significant weather events and emergency responses to ensure worker safety and continuity of service.
- Consideration of legislative or policy tools that provide stronger deterrence and consequences for those who threaten or obstruct municipal staff and contractors.

Municipal public works professionals are essential workers. They keep roads open for ambulances, fire trucks, school buses, and the travelling public. Their safety should be treated with the same seriousness as that of other frontline responders.

AORS would welcome the opportunity to meet with you and your staff to discuss these concerns and explore practical steps to ensure consistent enforcement support and stronger protections for municipal workers across Ontario.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter and for your continued leadership in public safety.

Sincerely,



Karla Musso-Garcia, CRS-I
President, Association of Ontario Road Supervisors
Operations Manager, Township of Oro-Medonte



Kelly Elliott
Interim Executive Director
Association of Ontario Road Supervisors

Cc (via e-mail)
Premier Doug Ford

Subject: RE: Discussion Paper for Circulation – Niagara’s New Regional Order: Regional Restructuring, Vote Splitting, and the Coming Race for the Mayorships

Importance: Normal

Sensitivity: None

From: Joedy Burdett <info@joedyburdett.com>

Sent: April 3, 2026 6:23 PM

To: CouncilMembers <councilmembers@niagarafalls.ca>; Clerk <clerk@niagarafalls.ca>; clerk@niagararegion.ca; citizensfirst@stcatharines.ca; info@welland.ca; clerk@forterie.ca; clerk@thorold.ca; cityclerk@portcolborne.ca; clerks@notl.com; clerks@pelham.ca; clerks@lincoln.ca; info@lincoln.ca; service@niagarafalls.ca; mayor@welland.ca; deputyclerk@portcolborne.ca; Amber Chrastina <AChrastina@wainfleet.ca>; clerk@westlincoln.ca; vsteele@grimsby.ca; JBurch-QP@ndp.on.ca; jburch-co@ndp.on.ca; w gates-qp@ndp.on.ca; w gates-co@ndp.on.ca; sam.oosterhoff@pc.ola.org; JStevens-QP@ndp.on.ca; jstevens-co@ndp.on.ca; tony.baldinelli@parl.gc.ca; fred.davies@parl.gc.ca; dean.allison@parl.gc.ca; chris.bittle@parl.gc.ca; info@thepointer.com; editor@niagaranow.com; tips@chch.com; contact@support.chch.com; news@niagarathisweek.com; raymond.spiteri@niagaradailies.com; letters@niagaradailies.com; angus.scott@niagaradailies.com; premier@ontario.ca; rob.flack@pc.ola.org; mstiles-qp@ndp.on.ca; tyler.allsopp@pc.ola.org

Subject: Discussion Paper for Circulation – Niagara’s New Regional Order: Regional Restructuring, Vote Splitting, and the Coming Race for the Mayorships

This message is being sent openly to municipal councils, elected officials, stakeholders, and media organizations across Niagara Region in the interest of transparency and broad public distribution.

Clerks, please forward this email and the attached report to Members of Council and Mayors. Thank you.

Dear Members of Council, elected officials, stakeholders, and members of the media,

Please find attached a governance report I have prepared entitled **Niagara’s New Regional Order: Regional Restructuring, Vote Splitting, and the Coming Race for the Mayorships**.

The report examines the Province’s proposed restructuring of Niagara Region from the current 32-member Regional Council to a model consisting of the 12 lower-tier mayors and an appointed Regional Chair. Using publicly available election results, news reporting, and comparative electoral analysis, the report considers how this structural change may affect local political dynamics across the region.

In particular, the report explores whether the elimination of dedicated elected regional-councillor positions may create new incentives for current or former regional councillors to seek mayoral office in their respective municipalities. It also examines the related issue of vote splitting, including both the conventional possibility that multiple challengers may divide the anti-incumbent vote, and the further possibility that an incumbent mayor’s previous vote total may overstate true loyalty if some voters would have preferred an alternative candidate had one been available at the time.

As a supplementary matter, the report also considers whether certain current municipal councillors, apart from regional councillors, could become viable mayoral contenders in a more fragmented electoral field. Where publicly reported controversies may be relevant to political viability, those are noted carefully and in a limited, neutral manner.

The purpose of this report is not to accuse any individual of wrongdoing, nor to assert improper motives on the part of any office-holder. Rather, it is intended as a neutral public-interest governance document and as a civic

contribution to the ongoing discussion concerning the future structure of municipal and regional governance in Niagara.

As this issue continues to develop, I believe it is important that elected officials, stakeholders, media, and residents have access to a grounded analysis of the possible electoral and governance consequences that may follow from the proposed changes.

I am sharing this report broadly so that it may be reviewed, discussed, and considered as part of the wider public conversation. Readers may agree with some aspects of the analysis and disagree with others. That is entirely expected. The objective is simply to assist in promoting informed discussion and transparency around a matter of clear regional significance.

Thank you for taking the time to review the attached material.

Sincerely,

Joedy Burdett

Niagara Falls Resident



Niagara's New Regional Order

Regional Restructuring, Vote Splitting, and the Coming Race for the Mayorships

Governance and Electoral Analysis Report

Prepared and distributed by Joedy Burdett

Niagara Falls resident, local business owner, and 2026 candidate for Niagara Falls City Council

April 2026

Independent public-interest report intended to support informed discussion of Niagara's proposed regional restructuring and its potential downstream effects on mayoral competition, local political stability, and representation.



Niagara's New Regional Order

Regional Restructuring, Vote Splitting, and the Coming Race for the Mayorships

Governance and Electoral Analysis Report

Prepared and distributed by Joedy Burdett

Niagara Falls resident, local business owner, and 2026 candidate for Niagara Falls City Council

April 2026

Independent public-interest report intended to support informed discussion of Niagara's proposed regional restructuring and its potential downstream effects on mayoral competition, local political stability, and representation.

Executive Summary

Ontario has introduced legislation to restructure Niagara Region's upper-tier government by reducing Regional Council from 32 members to a 13-member body composed of the 12 lower-tier mayors and an appointed regional chair, alongside a weighted-voting framework. This institutional change does more than alter governance mechanics. It also changes the local electoral marketplace by removing stand-alone elected regional-councillor seats and potentially redirecting experienced, well-known incumbents toward mayoral contests.

This report examines that electoral consequence. It compares 2022 mayoral vote totals to the 2022 vote totals of Niagara's elected regional councillors and, in a supplementary layer, considers whether current municipal councillors could also become viable mayoral entrants under fractured-field conditions. The report applies three analytical lenses: direct challenge strength, challenger fragmentation risk, and incumbent coalition erosion risk.

The findings suggest that the effect of restructuring is not uniform across the Region. In some municipalities, displaced regional councillors appear capable of mounting serious mayoral challenges on the numbers alone. In others, multiple regional challengers would more likely split the anti-incumbent vote and help the incumbent survive. A further important finding is that an incumbent mayor's previous vote total may overstate the depth of true loyalty if some of those voters would have preferred a regional-level figure had that person run for mayor in the prior cycle.

The strongest challenge environments on the 2022 numbers appear in Welland, Pelham, Fort Erie, Thorold, and Niagara-on-the-Lake. Niagara Falls and St. Catharines present more complex cases in which challenger fragmentation may protect the incumbent, even while the entry of recognizable challengers could still erode the incumbent's prior coalition. In the supplementary analysis, Niagara Falls, Niagara-on-the-Lake, and Wainfleet stand out as municipalities where sitting local councillors may also become credible mayoral contenders in the right field conditions.

This report is intended as a neutral governance and electoral analysis. It does not endorse any candidate, discourage any candidacy, or attempt to predict final outcomes. Its purpose is to identify where the Province's governance changes may have meaningful downstream effects on local political competition.

Regional Challenge Snapshot

The table below provides a directional overview of the regional-councillor challenge environment in each municipality. It is intended as a governance stress test, not a predictive election model.

Municipality	Mayor 2022	Regional comparator(s)	Indicative risk	Key observation
Welland	Frank Campion 6,456	Leanna Villella 6,860; Pat Chiochio 6,823	Highest risk	Both regional councillors outpolled the mayor; splitting may not protect the incumbent.
Pelham	Marvin Junkin 2,967	Diana Huson 3,461	High risk	Regional councillor outpolled the mayor in 2022.
Fort Erie	Wayne Redekop 6,195	Tom Insinna 5,931	High risk	Single challenger nearly matched the mayor's prior total.
Thorold	Terry Ugolini 3,150	Tim Whalen 2,852	High risk	Strong one-challenger environment.

Municipality	Mayor 2022	Regional comparator(s)	Indicative risk	Key observation
Niagara-on-the-Lake	Gary Zalepa 3,724	Andrea Kaiser 3,100	Moderate to high risk	Credible regional challenge and several strong at-large councillors.
Niagara Falls	Jim Diodati 12,055	Kim Craitor 9,197; Joyce Morocco 7,974	Mixed / complex	Credible challengers exist, but fragmentation may help the incumbent.
St. Catharines	Mat Siscoe 17,808	Laura Ip 10,986; Haley Bateman 9,964	Mixed / moderate	Multiple recognizable figures, but fragmentation likely protects the incumbent.
West Lincoln	Cheryl Ganann 3,768	Albert Witteveen 2,885	Moderate	Credible challenge, but the mayor retained a meaningful cushion.
Grimsby	Jeff Jordan 7,193	Michelle Seaborn 4,476	Lower to moderate	Respectable challenge potential, but not near parity.
Lincoln	Acclaimed	Acclaimed	Indeterminate	No clean numerical comparison available.
Port Colborne	Bill Steele 3,054	Regional seat acclaimed	Indeterminate	Regional comparator unavailable.
Wainfleet	Very close mayoral race	Regional comparison structurally different	Special case	At-large councillors may matter, but not through the regional-seat model.

About the Author and Distribution

This report was prepared and distributed by Joedy Burdett, a Niagara Falls resident, local business owner, and 2026 candidate for Niagara Falls City Council. It is circulated as an independent public-interest governance document intended to contribute to informed discussion about Niagara's proposed regional restructuring, its electoral consequences, and its potential implications for municipal representation and stability.

For correspondence regarding this report:

Joedy Burdett

4480 Bridge Street

Niagara Falls, Ontario L2E 2R7

Phone: 905-353-8468

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Neutrality and Scope Statement

This document is written in a neutral, analytical style. Its purpose is to examine how structural changes to Niagara's upper-tier governance may influence lower-tier electoral competition. It does not seek to favour or discredit any individual candidate. Where publicly reported controversies are mentioned, they are referenced only because they may be relevant to a candidate's perceived electoral viability. Public controversy is not treated as proof of wrongdoing, and no negative inference should be drawn beyond what is supported by the public record.

Context: Niagara's New Governance Model

Ontario has introduced legislation to significantly restructure Niagara's upper-tier government. Under the announced model, Niagara Regional Council would be reduced from 32 members to 13 members: the 12

lower-tier mayors plus an appointed regional chair. The Province has also indicated that it will work with local leadership on a weighted-voting framework.

The practical consequence is that the long-standing stand-alone elected regional-councillor positions are being removed from Niagara's political structure. That means a class of elected officials who previously occupied distinct, meaningful offices may now have to choose among three broad options in the next cycle: leaving municipal politics, seeking lower-tier council, or running for mayor.

That last possibility is the subject of this report. If even a modest number of current or recent regional councillors choose to pursue mayoral office, the Province's structural reform may have the indirect effect of destabilizing some lower-tier mayoral races. In certain municipalities, the effect may be limited. In others, it could be significant.

Purpose of the Report

This report asks four linked questions.

First, are any of Niagara's current or recent regional councillors electorally close enough to incumbent mayors, based on the 2022 election results, to be treated as credible mayoral challengers?

Second, in municipalities where more than one regional councillor appears credible, would multiple candidacies divide the anti-incumbent vote and thereby strengthen the mayor's path to re-election?

Third, is it possible that an incumbent mayor's prior vote total overstates the mayor's true personal support because some of those voters would have preferred a regional councillor had that person actually run for mayor in the prior election?

Fourth, if a strong regional-level challenge emerges, could that same fractured environment also create openings for sitting municipal councillors to enter the race and become viable secondary contenders?

Taken together, these questions allow the report to move beyond a simple head-to-head comparison and instead consider the wider dynamics that may emerge under Niagara's new governance structure.

Methodology

This report relies primarily on certified or official 2022 municipal election results published by Niagara municipalities and on the Province's public announcement regarding regional governance restructuring. Public reporting was also reviewed, in a limited way, where the report discusses controversies that could affect the electoral viability of otherwise plausible contenders.

Three principal analytical concepts are used.

Direct challenge strength compares a regional councillor's or councillor's prior vote total to the incumbent mayor's prior vote total in the same municipality. This produces a rough indication of whether the challenger has already demonstrated a municipality-wide or potentially transferable electoral base.

Challenger fragmentation risk considers what happens if multiple plausible challengers run at once. If those challengers occupy overlapping political space, the vote may divide among them, allowing the incumbent to remain in office with a reduced plurality.

Incumbent coalition erosion risk recognizes that a mayor's past vote total may not consist entirely of deeply loyal supporters. Some prior voters may simply have selected the mayor because their preferred alternative did not run. If a recognizable alternative appears in the next cycle, the incumbent's coalition may shrink.

A simple stress-test model is used where appropriate. Where two leading challengers appear plausible, their vote totals are averaged as a rough equal-split scenario and compared against the mayor's previous total. The model is not predictive. It is intended only to test whether a municipality appears to protect incumbents through challenger fragmentation or instead remains vulnerable even when the challenger field widens.

Methodological Cautions

This report does not claim that one municipal race format perfectly predicts another. In some municipalities, regional councillors were elected at large in multi-seat contests, while mayors were elected in single-seat contests. In ward systems, local councillors were elected only by part of the municipality, which makes their raw vote totals less directly comparable to a municipality-wide mayoral total.

For that reason, the clearest direct comparisons are found in at-large systems where both the challenger and the mayor can be understood as drawing from the same broad electorate. Ward-system councillors are discussed more cautiously and are generally treated as possible secondary entrants rather than direct front-runners unless there is additional reason to think otherwise.

Likewise, any mention of public controversy must be understood with care. Controversy can affect viability, but it does not substitute for a legal finding or a final electoral judgment.

Regional-Councillor Challenge Analysis by Municipality

Fort Erie

Fort Erie appears to be one of the stronger single-challenger environments in Niagara. In the 2022 election, Mayor Wayne Redekop received 6,195 votes, while regional councillor Tom Insinna received 5,931 votes. On a direct challenge basis, that places Insinna within very close reach of the mayor's prior total.

Fort Erie is not primarily a municipality where the key analytical issue is fragmentation among several strong regional challengers. Rather, the more significant point is that one regional-level figure already demonstrated near-parity support. If such a figure were to pursue the mayoralty, the incumbent would face a serious challenge. The incumbent coalition erosion theory also matters here, because a close prior margin may narrow further if some previous mayoral voters were only loosely attached to the incumbent.

Grimsby

Grimsby appears more stable on the available numbers. Mayor Jeff Jordan received 7,193 votes in 2022, while regional councillor Michelle Seaborn received 4,476. That is a respectable total, but it is not close enough to suggest near-parity.

Grimsby therefore falls into the category of a municipality where a regional-level challenge is possible, but where the mayor retained a meaningful cushion in the last election. Vote splitting is less central in Grimsby because the available comparator does not suggest a group of regional figures clustered near the mayor.

The latent-opposition theory remains possible in the abstract, but the raw numbers do not point to the same immediate level of vulnerability seen elsewhere.

Lincoln

Lincoln cannot be cleanly scored in this model because both the mayoral and regional-councillor positions were acclaimed in 2022. Without contested vote totals, there is no reliable numerical basis for a meaningful comparison. Lincoln should therefore be treated as indeterminate within this report's framework.

Niagara Falls

Niagara Falls is one of the most important municipalities in this analysis because it illustrates both sides of the vote-splitting theory. In 2022, Mayor Jim Diodati received 12,055 votes. Among the regional councillors, Kim Craitor received 9,197 votes, Joyce Morocco 7,974, Bob Gale 6,434, and Barbara Greenwood 6,320.

Those numbers show that Niagara Falls has at least one clearly credible regional-level challenger and another materially relevant contender. But Niagara Falls is also a classic challenger-fragmentation municipality. If more than one recognizable regional figure enters the mayoral race, the anti-incumbent vote may divide in a way that protects the incumbent.

At the same time, Niagara Falls should not be treated as "safe" in a simplistic way. The mayor's prior total may include some default or borrowed support from voters who would have preferred a well-known regional figure had that person run for mayor in 2022. As a result, Niagara Falls presents a dual dynamic: multiple regional challengers may help the incumbent if they fragment, but a single strong or well-consolidated challenge could still produce a materially more competitive race than the raw prior totals alone might suggest.

Niagara-on-the-Lake

Niagara-on-the-Lake presents a serious challenge environment. In 2022, Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa received 3,724 votes, while regional councillor Andrea Kaiser received 3,100. That total places Kaiser close enough to the Lord Mayor to be treated as a credible challenger.

Niagara-on-the-Lake appears less driven by challenger fragmentation than Niagara Falls or

Pelham

Pelham stands out as one of the strongest challenge environments in the Region. In 2022, Mayor Marvin Junkin received 2,967 votes, while regional councillor Diana Huson received 3,461. The regional total exceeded the mayoral total.

That makes Pelham a particularly important case. It suggests that the regional tier was not electorally weaker than the mayoralty; on the contrary, it demonstrated at least comparable strength. Pelham is therefore a municipality where the new governance model may create a real risk of mayoral turnover if a similarly situated regional-level figure seeks the top office.

Port Colborne

Port Colborne cannot be cleanly compared within this framework because the regional-councillor position was acclaimed in 2022, while Mayor Bill Steele's office was contested. Without a contested regional comparator, the municipality must be treated as indeterminate for this particular analysis.

St. Catharines

St. Catharines presents an important distinction between historical and live challenge risk. In 2022, Mayor Mat Siscoe received 17,808 votes. The regional-councillor field included Jim Bradley at 16,960, Laura Ip at 10,986, Haley Bateman at 9,964, Peter Secord at 8,150, Tim Rigby at 7,915, and Sal Sorrento at 7,798.

Historically, those numbers show that a regional councillor could approach the mayor's level of support. Prospectively, however, the analysis must be adjusted because Jim Bradley is no longer a live future candidate. Among current or remaining plausible figures, the strongest comparators sit materially below the mayor's 2022 total.

St. Catharines therefore appears to be a municipality where challenger fragmentation would more likely help the incumbent than threaten the incumbent, at least on the current numbers. Even so, the coalition erosion theory still has some relevance because a mayor's past result may include voters who would have chosen a different recognizable figure if given the option.

Thorold

Thorold is another strong single-challenger municipality. In 2022, Mayor Terry Ugolini received 3,150 votes, while regional councillor Tim Whalen received 2,852. That places Whalen close enough to the mayor's total to be considered a very serious potential contender.

Thorold is less about challenger fragmentation and more about the presence of one already-viable challenger. The governance changes therefore have a direct potential consequence here: a displaced regional-level figure may have a compelling reason to test the mayoralty.

Wainfleet

Wainfleet does not fit neatly into the displaced-regional-councillor model because it does not present the same stand-alone regional-councillor comparison. It is nevertheless relevant to the broader analysis because its mayoral results and at-large councillor results suggest a politically fluid environment, discussed further in the supplementary section below.

Welland

Welland is the clearest municipality in the Region for understanding the electoral consequences of restructuring. In 2022, Mayor Frank Campion received 6,456 votes, while regional councillors Leanna Villella and Pat Chiochio received 6,860 and 6,823 respectively. Both regional councillors individually outpolled the mayor.

This is a striking result. It means that the regional tier in Welland already demonstrated mayor-level electoral strength. It also means that the usual incumbent-protection argument based on vote splitting is weaker here than elsewhere. Even if more than one regional-level contender were to enter the field, the

mayor could still face a very dangerous race because the challenger pool begins from an unusually strong position.

Welland is also where incumbent coalition erosion may matter most. If some prior mayoral voters actually preferred one of the regional figures but did not have that option on the ballot, then the mayor's prior coalition may be softer than it appears. Welland should therefore be treated as the clearest high-risk municipality in this report.

West Lincoln

West Lincoln sits in the middle tier. In 2022, Mayor Cheryl Ganann received 3,768 votes while regional councillor Albert Witteveen received 2,885. That is a credible challenge level, but not near-parity.

The figures suggest that West Lincoln is not among the safest municipalities, but neither is it among the most volatile. A regional challenge cannot be dismissed, especially if the mayor's prior coalition proves softer than expected. Still, the 2022 numbers suggest a more meaningful incumbent cushion than in Welland, Pelham, Fort Erie, or Thorold.

Cross-Municipal Findings on Regional-Councillor Risk

Across the Region, the strongest challenge environments based on the 2022 regional-versus-mayor comparison appear in Welland, Pelham, Fort Erie, Thorold, and Niagara-on-the-Lake. Niagara Falls and St. Catharines are more complex. They show real challenger presence, but also strong evidence that multiple challengers could divide the opposition and protect the incumbent. Grimsby and West Lincoln appear comparatively more stable, while Lincoln and Port Colborne remain indeterminate within this model.

Supplementary Analysis: When Sitting Municipal Councillors Also Enter the Race

A further complication must be added to the report. Regional councillors are not the only political actors who may view a restructured municipal environment as an opportunity. In a fractured field, sitting local councillors may also calculate that the mayoralty has become more attainable.

This creates what may be called a secondary entrant effect. Under that theory, a current councillor does not need to begin with a vote total equal to the mayor's previous total in order to matter. If a regional challenger pulls votes away from the incumbent, and if the councillor has a durable local base or recognizable public profile, the councillor may become viable in a multi-candidate race with a lower effective winning threshold.

Niagara Falls

Niagara Falls is the clearest example because its council is elected at large, allowing direct comparison. In 2022, Mayor Jim Diodati received 12,055 votes. The leading city-council totals included Mike Strange at 9,788, Lori Lococo at 9,667, Ruth-Ann Nieuwesteeg at 8,642, Tony Baldinelli at 7,333, Victor Pietrangelo at 7,239, Wayne Campbell at 6,609, Mona Patel at 6,433, and Wayne Thomson at 6,294.

Those results indicate that Niagara Falls has more than just regional-councillor challenge potential. It also has local councillors with substantial citywide support. In a fractured mayoral field, an at-large councillor could become a serious variable, particularly if a regional challenger draws support away from the incumbent but does not fully consolidate the anti-incumbent lane.

A limited public-record review also suggests that candidate baggage may matter here. The most significant currently documented example located in this review concerns Councillor Mike Strange, who has faced public reporting relating to an assault charge in 2025 and subsequent controversy surrounding his public conduct and related commentary. This does not remove Strange from the political analysis, because his prior vote total was very high, but it is a relevant factor in any neutral assessment of viability.

Niagara-on-the-Lake

Niagara-on-the-Lake may be even more fluid than the regional-only model suggests because its councillors are elected at large. In 2022, Lord Mayor Gary Zalepa received 3,724 votes, while several councillors exceeded or roughly matched that total, including Erwin Wiens, Gary Burroughs, Wendy Cheropita, and Tim Balasiuk.

That means Niagara-on-the-Lake contains not only a credible regional-level challenge through Andrea Kaiser, but also multiple sitting councillors whose raw municipality-wide vote totals compare favourably to the Lord Mayor's. In practical terms, this is a municipality where the field could broaden quickly and unexpectedly. A multi-candidate race here could become unstable not only because of regional entrants, but because sitting councillors may also view the mayoralty as newly attainable.

Wainfleet

Wainfleet is another important municipality for the supplementary analysis. Its mayoral race in 2022 was very close, and several at-large councillors recorded totals that matched or exceeded the mayoral totals. That means sitting councillors in Wainfleet may already possess enough demonstrated support to consider a mayoral run under the right conditions.

Even without a displaced regional-councillor dynamic, Wainfleet illustrates the broader principle that once the prior mayoral margin is narrow and the council field contains strong at-large performers, the next race can become highly fluid.

St. Catharines

St. Catharines must be treated more cautiously because its councillors are elected by ward rather than citywide. The strongest councillor totals in 2022 therefore reflect ward mandates, not full-city ones. Even so, certain councillors may still become politically relevant if the field fragments and if they are able to expand their recognition beyond their wards.

Recent visibility in public governance debate may increase some councillors' profiles, but visibility should not be treated as the same thing as citywide electoral readiness. On the current evidence, St. Catharines appears more likely to produce relevant secondary entrants than immediate councillor-front-runners.

Welland, Grimsby, West Lincoln, Pelham, Port Colborne, Fort Erie, Thorold, and Lincoln

In the remaining municipalities, sitting councillors should generally be treated as possible secondary entrants rather than obvious front-runners, largely because they are elected by ward or because the available public numerical record does not support a direct municipality-wide comparison. That does not mean they are irrelevant. It means only that the public 2022 results provide weaker direct evidence of mayoral-scale viability than in at-large municipalities.

Public-Controversy Considerations

Any neutral governance report should note, carefully and sparingly, that public controversy can affect electoral viability. However, the standard must remain disciplined. Ordinary political disagreement should not be mistaken for disqualifying baggage, and media criticism should not be treated as proof of wrongdoing.

In the limited review conducted for this report, the clearest example of materially relevant public controversy affecting an otherwise electorally plausible sitting councillor was the publicly reported Strange matter in Niagara Falls. Beyond that, this report does not purport to catalogue every criticism, complaint, or dispute involving Niagara municipal officials. A broader controversy appendix could be developed later if desired, but it would require a more extensive and separately sourced public-record review.

Broader Governance Implications

The Province's regional restructuring may therefore do more than reduce council size. It may also reallocate political ambition. A governance model that removes one level of elected office can intensify competition at the remaining levels, especially at the top.

That has several practical implications. Incumbent mayors may face stronger or more numerous challengers than they otherwise would have. Regional councillors who once occupied distinct electoral space may now be drawn toward the mayoralty. Sitting local councillors may also reassess their prospects if they believe the field is fragmenting. In some municipalities, these effects may be stabilizing because challengers divide one another's support. In others, they may be destabilizing because one or more challengers already possess strong enough electoral bases to threaten the incumbent even in a wider field.

This suggests that the public discussion around Niagara's new governance structure should not be confined to institutional design. It should also include the electoral and representational consequences of removing a tier of elected office. Governance reform changes not just who sits at the council table, but who decides to seek the seats that remain.

What the Report Suggests Overall

The evidence reviewed here supports five broad conclusions.

First, Niagara's restructuring is likely to create real electoral consequences at the lower-tier level, not merely administrative changes at the regional level.

Second, several municipalities contain current or recent regional councillors whose 2022 vote totals place them within the range of credible or serious mayoral challengers.

Third, the effect of multiple challengers is not uniform. In some municipalities it may protect incumbents through vote splitting; in others, especially where the challenger base is already strong, that protection may fail.

Fourth, a mayor's prior vote total should not always be treated as a fixed loyal base. Some prior votes may have been contingent, strategic, or default in nature and may not remain with the incumbent if more attractive alternatives emerge.

Fifth, in at-large municipalities especially, the field of plausible mayoral entrants may be wider than first assumed because sitting local councillors may also be capable of mounting credible campaigns in the right environment.

Conclusion

Niagara's proposed new governance model is, on its face, a structural reform: fewer regional representatives, a new council composition, and a more centralized upper-tier decision-making arrangement. But it is also likely to have an electoral afterlife.

By removing stand-alone regional-councillor positions, the Province may unintentionally redirect experienced and recognizable elected officials into lower-tier mayoral politics. In some municipalities, this may have little practical effect. In others, it may produce more competitive races, more fractured fields, and a materially altered balance between incumbency and challenge.

This report does not claim to predict the 2026 election. It does, however, suggest that any serious discussion of Niagara's new regional order should include a clear-eyed view of its downstream political effects. The coming debate is not only about governance. It may also become, in many municipalities, a race for the mayorships.

Selected Source Base

Primary institutional source:

- Ontario government announcement regarding legislation to strengthen regional governance and reduce Niagara Regional Council to the 12 lower-tier mayors plus an appointed chair, with weighted voting to be developed.

Primary election-result sources:

- Official or certified 2022 election result pages and certificates published by Niagara municipalities, including Niagara Falls, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Welland, Pelham, Grimsby, St. Catharines, Fort Erie, Thorold, West Lincoln, Wainfleet, Port Colborne, and Lincoln.

Supplementary public-reporting source used for viability commentary:

- Public reporting concerning Councillor Mike Strange and related controversy in Niagara Falls.

Endnote on Use

This document is intended as a governance analysis for circulation and discussion. It may be quoted or shared in full provided that it remains intact and is not selectively altered in a way that changes its meaning.

Reader Note

This document is best read as a governance stress test. It identifies where Niagara's new regional model may indirectly alter the mayoral field by redirecting experienced office-holders, encouraging broader candidate entry, or lowering the effective threshold needed to become competitive.

Telling Your Story: A Community History Video Partnership

Dear Council Members,

My name is Craig Baird, and I am the creator and host of *Canadian History Ehx*, one of Canada's leading history podcasts and radio programs.

I launched *Canadian History Ehx* in 2019 with the goal of exploring and sharing Canada's rich past. What began as a small podcast has grown into one of the most-listened-to history shows in the country, now reaching over one million downloads per year and airing nationally on the Corus Radio Network. Alongside the show, I manage social media channels with a combined audience of more than 300,000 followers, and I am the author of the best-selling book *Canada's Main Street: The Epic Story of the Trans-Canada Highway*.

This year, I am embarking on an ambitious coast-to-coast-to-coast journey across Canada to document our country's past and present. The stories, interviews, and experiences from this trip will become a series of videos and a future book focused on the people, places, and communities that shape Canada.

With my background in journalism and video production, my goal is to visit communities like yours to tell your story—highlighting your history, heritage, and the ways you preserve it for future generations. These videos are designed not only to celebrate local history, but also to serve as lasting, shareable promotional pieces for your community.

To help fund this journey, I am offering communities the opportunity to partner with me for the creation of a dedicated feature video about their history and heritage.

What I'm offering:

- A 10–20 minute professionally produced video focused on your community's history, heritage, and preservation efforts
- Distribution across my social media platforms, YouTube channel, and TikTok, reaching hundreds of thousands of history-interested viewers. My follower count is as follows:
 - Twitter (65,000): <https://x.com/CraigBaird>
 - Instagram (48,000): @cdnhistoryehx
 - Threads (40,000): <https://www.threads.com/@cdnhistoryehx>
 - Bluesky (25,000): <https://bsky.app/profile/cdnhistoryehx.bsky.social>
 - TikTok (35,000): @cdnhistoryehx
 - YouTube (6,800): <https://www.youtube.com/@CanadianHistoryEhx>
 - Facebook (106,000): <https://www.facebook.com/CanadianHistoryEhx>
- A collaborative process: no video will be published without your approval after review
- A two-week turnaround: all videos will be delivered for review within two weeks of filming

- Filming will take place during my journey between June and September (although some can be done earlier than June due to proximity to my location of Stony Plain, Alberta).

Cost:

- \$500 total
- \$250 upon acceptance
- \$250 once the video has been delivered for your review

My aim is to create something that your community can be proud of—an engaging, accurate, and accessible story that showcases what makes your town unique, while also introducing it to a large, Canada-wide audience interested in history, travel, and heritage.

Thank you very much for considering this proposal. I would be happy to answer any questions or discuss how we can tailor this project to best serve your community.

Sincerely,
Craig Baird
Canadian History Ehx



**TOWNSHIP OF
BRUDENELL, LYNDOCH AND RAGLAN**

42 Burnt Bridge Road, PO Box 40
Palmer Rapids, Ontario K0J 2E0
TEL: (613) 758-2061 · FAX: (613) 758-2235

April 1, 2026

RE: Support for Bill 21, Protect Our Food Act, 2025

Dear Leaders,

Please be advised that at the Regular Council Meeting on April 1st, 2026, Council for the Corporation of the Township of Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan approved the following:

Resolution No: 2026-04-01-06
Moved by: Councillor Keller
Seconded by: Councillor Quade

WHEREAS arable land is a critical finite resource; and
WHEREAS Ontario loses as much as 319 acres of farmland a day; and
WHEREAS Ontario's farmland provides food, fiber and fuel to all of Ontario and beyond;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Township of Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan support Bill 21, Protect Our Food Act, 2025 and strongly urges the provincial government to support this and every measure to protect our farmland, to aggressively prevent further losses and to ensure the future of agriculture in Ontario for future generations; and

That a copy of this resolution be sent to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness, the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade, MPP Billy Denault, Senator Rob Black, the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, and all Municipalities in Ontario.

CARRIED

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Tammy Thompson'.

Tammy Thompson

Deputy Clerk

Township of Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan



**TOWNSHIP OF
BRUDENELL, LYNDOCH AND RAGLAN**

42 Burnt Bridge Road, PO Box 40
Palmer Rapids, Ontario K0J 2E0
TEL: (613) 758-2061 · FAX: (613) 758-2235

April 1, 2026

The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario

The Honourable Prabmeet Sarkaria
Minister of Transportation
Province of Ontario

RE: Support for Enhanced School Bus Safety and the Implementation of Stop-Arm Camera Systems

Dear Leaders,

Please be advised that at the Regular Council Meeting on April 1st, 2026, Council for the Corporation of the Township of Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan passed the following resolution, supporting the correspondence from the Municipality of North Grenville, Merrickville-Wolford Village OPP Detachment Board.

Resolution No: 2026-04-01-05
Moved by: Councillor Banks
Seconded by: Councillor Kauffeldt

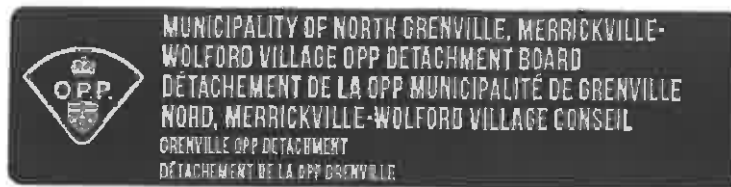
"Be It resolved that the Council for the Corporation of the Township of Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan support the Municipality of North Grenville, Merrickville-Wolford Village OPP Detachment Board regarding Support for Enhanced School Bus Safety and the Implementation of Stop-Arm Camera Systems, as attached.

And further that this resolution be forwarded to the Honourable Steve Clark, Government House Leader, AMO, and all municipalities in Ontario."

Carried.

Sincerely,

Tammy Thompson
Deputy Clerk
Township of Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan



285 County Road 44, Box 130
Kemptville, ON K0G 1J0
T: 613) 258-9569
clerk@northgrenville.on.ca

January 2, 2025

The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario

The Honourable Prabmeet Sarkaria
Minister of Transportation
Province of Ontario

RE: Support for Enhanced School Bus Safety and the Implementation of Stop-Arm Camera Systems

Dear Premier Ford and Minister Sarkaria,

On behalf of the Grenville 1 O.P.P. Detachment Board, we are writing to express our strong support for enhanced school bus safety measures across Ontario, including the implementation of school bus stop-arm camera systems and other child-safety technologies.

Illegal passing of stopped school buses remains a persistent and dangerous problem in Ontario, occurring an estimated 30,000 times per day. These violations place children at serious risk and continue to result in preventable injuries and fatalities. Municipalities require additional tools to address this issue effectively and consistently.

The Grenville 1 O.P.P. Detachment Board supports provincial investment in and expansion of school bus stop-arm camera systems under Part XIV.3 (School Bus Camera Systems) of the Highway Traffic Act. These systems have proven effective in deterring dangerous driving behaviour, improving compliance, and enhancing accountability. Provincial funding and support would enable municipalities to implement these technologies equitably and at scale.

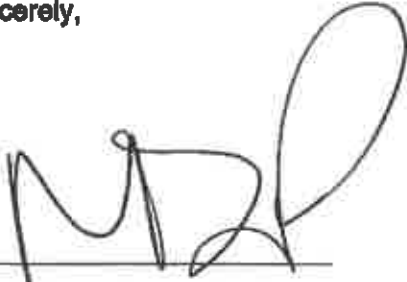
Grenville 1 O.P.P. Detachment Board also proudly supports the Let's Remember Adam – Stop for the School Bus campaign, launched in memory of Adam Ranger, a five-year-old child who tragically lost his life when a driver failed to stop for a school bus displaying its flashing lights and stop arm. Adam's story underscores the urgent need for stronger enforcement, public education, and modern safety solutions to protect children travelling to and from school.

We respectfully call on the Province of Ontario to continue advancing this life-saving work by providing municipalities with the funding mechanisms, legislative support, and implementation guidance necessary to deploy stop-arm cameras and complementary safety technologies province-wide.

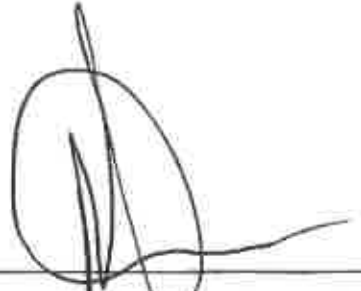
Protecting children is a shared responsibility. With provincial leadership and municipal partnership, we can take meaningful action to prevent further tragedies and ensure Ontario's roads are safer for students and families.

Thank you for your consideration and continued commitment to road safety.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'N. Peckford', written over a horizontal line.

Mayor N. Peckford (Co-chair)
Municipality of North Grenville

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M. Cameron', written over a horizontal line.

Mayor M. Cameron (Co-chair)
Village of Merrickville-Wolford

cc:
The Honourable Steve Clark, Government House Leader
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
Ontario Municipalities

Enclosed: Co-signing Template



**TOWNSHIP OF
BRUDENELL, LYNDOCH AND RAGLAN**

42 Burnt Bridge Road, PO Box 40
Palmer Rapids, Ontario K0J 2E0
TEL: (613) 758-2061 · FAX: (613) 758-2235

April 1, 2026

The Honourable Michael Kerzner
Solicitor General
Ministry of the Solicitor General
25 Grosvenor Street, 18th Floor
Toronto, ON M7A 1Y6

The Honourable Zee Hamid
Associate Solicitor General for Auto Theft and Bail Reform
Ministry of the Solicitor General
25 Grosvenor Street, 18th Floor
Toronto, ON M7A 1Y6

MPP Billy Denault
84 Isabella St. #6,
Pembroke, ON K8A 5S5

RE: Provincial Ball Notification Program

Dear Leaders,

Please be advised that at the Regular Council Meeting on April 1st, 2026, Council for the Corporation of the Township of Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan passed the following resolution, supporting the correspondence from the OPP Detachment Board – James Bay East.

Resolution No: 2026-04-01-04
Moved by: Councillor Quade
Seconded by: Councillor Banks

“Be It resolved that the Council for the Corporation of the Township of Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan support the OPP Detachment Board – James Bay East regarding a Provincial Bail Notification Program as attached.

And further that this resolution be forwarded to the all OPP Detachment Boards, and all municipalities in Ontario.”

Carried.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tammy Thompson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tammy Thompson
Deputy Clerk
Township of Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan

OPP DETACHMENT BOARD-JAMES BAY EAST

Cassandra Child, AOMC, Dip.L.M.A. – Secretary-Treasurer

171 Fourth Avenue

Cochrane, Ontario, Canada, P0L 1C0

T: 705-272-4361 | F: 705-272-6068

E: cassandra.child@cochraneontario.com



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY/TREASURER OPP DETACHMENT BOARD-JAMES BAY EAST

February 20, 2026

VIA EMAIL

The Honourable Michael Kerzner
Solicitor General
Ministry of the Solicitor General
25 Grosvenor Street, 18th Floor
Toronto, ON M7A 1Y6

The Honourable Zee Hamid
Associate Solicitor General for Auto Theft and Bail Reform
Ministry of the Solicitor General
25 Grosvenor Street, 18th Floor
Toronto, ON M7A 1Y6

MPP John Vanthof
Pinewood Centre, Unit 5
247 Whitewood Avenue
New Liskeard, ON P0J 1P0

Dear Leaders,

On behalf of the OPP Detachment Board – James Bay East I am pleased to offer this letter in strong support of Victim Crisis Assistance Ontario (VCAO) agencies across the province and the development of a coordinated Provincial Bail Notification Program.

VCAO organizations are essential partners in community safety and well-being. They provide immediate, trauma-informed support to individuals and families affected by crime and tragic circumstances, often at the most vulnerable moments in their lives. Their staff and volunteers work closely with police services to ensure survivors receive timely safety planning, crisis intervention, and connections to critical supports. This partnership enhances our ability to respond effectively, reduces risk, and strengthens trust with those we serve.

Timely and reliable bail notification is a vital component of victim safety. The current system is inconsistent across jurisdictions and leaves survivors at risk when they are not informed of release conditions or bail decisions that may impact their safety planning. A province-wide bail notification program, led in partnership with VCAO agencies, will ensure victims receive clear, coordinated, and rapid notification, regardless of where the offence occurred or where the accused is released. This is not only a matter of safety but also an essential part of ensuring victims' rights, dignity, and confidence in the justice system.

The OPP Detachment Board- James Bay East fully supports:

1. Strengthened investment in VCAO agencies, recognizing them as critical frontline partners in community safety and in supporting survivors of crime.

2. A standardized, province-wide bail notification system, designed in partnership with police services, VCAOs, and Justice partners to promote timely communication, reduce risk, and improve outcomes for victims.
3. Ongoing collaboration between police and VCAO, including shared training, coordinated response models, and information pathways that improve both public safety and victim care.

VCAO agencies deliver high-quality services that directly complement police response. A provincial bail notification program will further enhance our collective ability to keep communities safe and uphold the rights of survivors. We urge the Government of Ontario to move forward with the development, implementation, and sustainable funding of this program.

Thank you for your consideration. The OPP Detachment Board-James Bay East is committed to working collaboratively and constructively with our VCAO partners and with provincial ministries to support this important and urgently needed initiative.

Yours truly,

OPP DETACHMENT BOARD-JAMES BAY EAST



Cassandra Child, AOMC, Dipl.M.A.
Secretary/Treasurer

/crc

c.c.

All Ontario municipalities
All Ontario OPP Detachment Boards

Sent by Email

April 8, 2026

The Right Honourable Mark Carney
Prime Minister of Canada
80 Wellington Street,
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2
pm@pm.gc.ca

The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building, Queen's Park Room 281
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1
premier@ontario.ca

Subject: Corr. 01-26
Megha Trivedi, Clerk-Treasurer, Township of Prince
Re: Call to Action for Justice and Protection of Canada's Children

The Council of The Corporation of the City of Pickering considered the above matter at a Meeting held on March 23, 2026 and adopted the following resolution:

1. That Corr. 01-26, from Megha Trivedi, Clerk-Treasurer, Township of Prince, dated February 10, 2026, regarding a Call to Action for Justice and Protection of Canada's Children, be received and endorsed; and,
2. That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Right Honourable Mark Carney, Prime Minister of Canada, The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, The Honourable Doug Downey, Attorney General, The Honourable Michael Kerzner, Solicitor General, The Honourable Sean Fraser, Minister of Justice and Attorney General, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), and all municipalities in Ontario.

Should you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned at 905.420.4660, extension 2019.

A copy of the original correspondence is attached for your information.

Yours truly



Susan Cassel

City Clerk

SC:am

Encl.

Copy: The Honourable Sean Fraser, Minister of Justice and Attorney General
The Honourable Michael Kerzner, Solicitor General
The Honourable Doug Downey, Solicitor General
All Ontario Municipalities
Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)

Chief Administrative Officer



The Corporation of the Township Of Prince
3042 Second Line West, Prince Township, Ontario P6A 6K4
Office 705-779-2992 Fax:705-779-2725

February 10th ,2026

The Right Honourable Mark Carney, P.C., M.P. Prime Minister of Canada
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2
Mark.carney@parl.gc.ca

RE: Call to Action for Justice and Protection of Canada's Children

Dear Prime Minister,

Please be advised that at the Regular Council Meeting on February 10th , 2026, Council for the Corporation of the Township of Prince passed the following resolution, supporting the resolution from the Township of Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan.

Resolution Number: 2026 - 33

Moved by: Councillor M. Christenson

Seconded by: Councillor J. Weir

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council for the Township of Prince support the Township of Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan's resolution regarding a call to action for Justice and Protection of Canada's Children;

AND FURTHER THAT this resolution be forwarded to Prime Minister of Canada, Premier of Ontario, the Attorney General of Ontario, Solicitor General of Ontario, the Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and all municipalities in Ontario.

Carried.

Sincerely,

Megha Trivedi
Clerk-Treasurer
Township of Prince



**TOWNSHIP OF
BRUDENELL, LYNDOCH AND RAGLAN**

42 Burnt Bridge Road, PO Box 40
Palmer Rapids, Ontario K0J 2E0
TEL: (613) 758-2061 · FAX: (613) 758-2235

February 4, 2026

The Right Honourable Mark Carney, P.C., M.P. Prime Minister of Canada
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2
Mark.carney@parl.gc.ca

RE: Call to Action for Justice and Protection of Canada's Children

Dear Prime Minister,

Please be advised that at the Regular Council Meeting on February 4th, 2026, Council for the Corporation of the Township of Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan passed the following resolution, supporting the resolution from the Town of Aylmer.

Resolution No: 2026-02-04-05
Moved by: Councillor Quade
Seconded by: Councillor Banks

“Be it resolved that the Council for the Corporation of the Township of Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan support the Town of Aylmer’s resolution regarding a Call to Action for Justice and Protection of Canada’s Children.

And further that this resolution be forwarded to the Prime Minister of Canada, Premier of Ontario, the Attorney General of Ontario, Solicitor General of Ontario, the Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada, Renfrew Nipissing Pembroke MPP and MP, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and all municipalities in Ontario.”

Carried.

Sincerely,

Tammy Thompson
Deputy Clerk
Township of Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan

January 15, 2026

The Right Honourable Mark Carney, P.C., M.P. Prime Minister of Canada
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0A2
Mark.carney@parl.gc.ca

Dear Prime Minister

Re: Support for the City of Welland's Call to Action for Justice and Protection of Canada's Children

At their Regular Meeting of Council on January 15, 2026, the Council of the Town of Aylmer endorsed the following resolution:

Whereas the Town of Aylmer supports the City of Welland's call to action for justice and protection of Canada's children; and,

Whereas the safety and well-being of children is a fundamental responsibility shared by all levels of government; and,

Whereas recent incidents involving sexual offences against children have deeply affected communities across Ontario and Canada, raising serious concerns about public safety and the adequacy of existing legislative protections; and,

Whereas violent sexual crimes against children represent some of the most serious offences under the Criminal Code of Canada and have lifelong impacts on victims, families, and communities; and,

Whereas municipalities play a critical role in advocating for policies that protect residents and promote safe communities; and,

Whereas there is a growing concern that gaps in bail, sentencing, parole eligibility, and offender monitoring allow high-risk individuals to re-enter communities pre-maturely, placing children at continued risk;

Now therefore be it resolved that the Council of the Town of Aylmer formally urges all levels of government to review and strengthen legislation and policies related to violent and sexual offences against children, including but not limited to:

- 1. Bail and Sentencing Provisions - ensuring that individuals charged with or convicted of violent sexual offences against children are subject to the strictest possible bail conditions and sentencing outcomes that reflect the severity of these crimes;**
- 2. Parole and Early Release - limiting parole eligibility, statutory release, or other forms of early release for offenders convicted of sexual offences against children who pose ongoing risks to public safety;**
- 3. Sex Offender Monitoring - strengthening the National Sex Offender Registry and related provincial tools to improve accuracy, enforcement, and timely access to information for law enforcement; and**
- 4. Victim and Community Safety - prioritizing the protection of children and community safety within the justice system above administrative or procedural efficiencies;**

And be it further resolved that copies of this resolution be forwarded to:

The Premier of Ontario
The Attorney General of Ontario
The Solicitor General of Ontario
The Prime Minister of Canada
The Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada
Member of Provincial Parliament, Rob Flack
Member of Parliament, Andrew Lawton
The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and;
All 444 Ontario Municipalities

And be it further resolved that Council encourages municipalities to adopt similar resolutions to work collaboratively to present a unified municipal voice advocating for stronger protections for children across Canada.

Yours sincerely,

Owen Jaggard
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CC:

Hon. Doug Ford doug.fordco@pc.ola.org
Hon. Doug Downey doug.downey@pc.ola.org
Hon. Michael S. Kerzner michael.kerzner@pc.ola.org
Hon. Sean Fraser sean.fraser@parl.gc.ca



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Mr. Andrew Lawton andrew.lawton@parl.gc.ca

Mayor Frank Campion c/o Theresa Ettore Theresa.ettore@welland.ca

Federation of Canadian Municipalities resolutions@fcm.ca

All municipalities



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December 2, 2025

Subject: A Call to Action: Standing Together for Justice and the Protection of Canada's Children

Dear Fellow Mayors,

I write to you today not only as the Mayor of Welland, but as a member of a community that has been deeply shaken by an unthinkable act in August 2025: the brutal sexual assault of a three-year-old child. This tragedy has horrified our residents, leaving families in grief and disbelief, and compelling us as leaders to confront the uncomfortable truth that our justice system is failing to adequately protect our most vulnerable.

While no policy can erase the trauma this child and their family will endure, we have a moral obligation to act. This moment demands leadership from all of us, to raise our collective voices and ensure that meaningful reform takes place.

I urge you to join me in calling on provincial and federal governments to take immediate and decisive action by advancing the following measures:

- The full and expedited implementation of recent federal bail and sentencing reforms, so that new provisions designed to protect the public—particularly victims of violent sexual crimes—are applied swiftly and consistently across all jurisdictions.
- Strengthening bail and sentencing provisions so that individuals charged with, or convicted of, violent sexual crimes face the strictest possible conditions, including limits on early release in cases of extreme brutality.
- That parole eligibility for sexual offences against children reflects the full gravity of these crimes, limiting conditional or early release for offenders who pose ongoing risks to community safety.
- Strengthening the National Sex Offender Registry, providing communities and police with timely, accurate information and effective tools to safeguard residents.

Canadians must be able to trust that our justice system prioritizes public safety—especially the safety of children—above all else. Communities like ours cannot bear the weight of knowing that legislative gaps may allow dangerous offenders to harm again.

I am calling on you, my colleagues in municipalities across Canada, to:

1. Pass council resolutions urging your respective provincial governments to review and strengthen laws protecting children from violent offenders.
2. Collaborate through FCM and provincial municipal associations to bring a united municipal voice to Ottawa and all legislatures across the country, advocating for the timely implementation and continued enhancement of justice reforms.
3. Engage your local MPs, MPPs/MLAs, and their governments to advocate for continued legislative and judicial reform.

4. Support awareness and prevention efforts within your communities to reinforce the safety and well-being of every child.

Together, we can create a wave of leadership that demands justice and refuses complacency. The protection of children transcends politics and geography; it is a shared duty that defines who we are as a nation.

Thank you for standing with us in this urgent cause. I would welcome the opportunity to coordinate efforts with you and your councils to move this national call forward.

With respect and solidarity,



Frank Campion
Mayor of Welland