

1. **C-2026-090**
Correspondence dated April 8, 2026 from the City of Pickering to The Right Honourable Mark Carney, Prime Minister of Canada and The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario respecting a resolution of support for the Northumberland County correspondence regarding Call for Reform and Publication of the Ontario Sex Offender Registry.
2. **C-2026-091**
Correspondence dated April 9, 2026 from Meals on Wheels Port Colborne Inc. respecting a request for sponsorship of the 4th Annual Golf Tournament.
3. **C-2026-092**
Correspondence dated April 10, 2026 from the Municipal Engineers Association respecting recently provided comments to the province's plan to harmonize Ontario Provincial Standards.
4. **C-2026-093**
Correspondence received April 14, 2026 from the Joedy Burdett, Niagara Falls Resident respecting a Proposal for Consideration of a Unified Niagara Region Visual Identity.
5. **C-2026-094**
Correspondence received April 14, 2026 from the Niagara SPCA respecting Wainfleet monthly statistics.
6. **C-2026-095**
Correspondence dated April 14, 2026 from the Municipality of Shuniah respecting a resolution requesting the Government of Ontario to extend the annual Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund.

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. 02-26
Tonia Bennett, Manager of Legislative Services / Clerk, Northumberland County
Re: Correspondence, 'Call for Reform and Publication of the Ontario Sex Offender Registry'

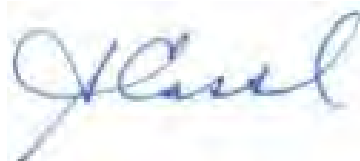
The Council of The Corporation of the City of Pickering considered the above matter at a Meeting held on March 23, 2026 and adopted the following resolution:

1. That Corr. 02-26, from Tonia Bennett, Manager of Legislative Services/Clerk, Northumberland County, dated February 24, 2026, regarding Correspondence, 'Call for Reform and Publication of the Ontario Sex Offender Registry', 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
County of Northumberland**
555 Courthouse Road
Cobourg, ON, K9A 5J6



Northumberland County Council Resolution

SENT VIA EMAIL

February 24, 2026

The Right Hon. Mark Carney (Prime Minister of Canada)
Honourable Sean Fraser (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada)
Honourable Gary Anandasangaree (Minister of Safety)
Honourable Doug Ford (Premier of Ontario)
Honourable Doug Downey (Attorney General of Ontario)
Honourable Michael S. Kerzner (Solicitor General of Ontario)
Honourable David Piccini (Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development
and MPP for Northumberland Peterborough-South)
Member of Parliament for Northumberland Clarke, Philip Lawrence
Association of the Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)
All Ontario Municipalities

Re: Correspondence, 'Call for Reform and Publication of the Ontario Sex Offender Registry'

At a meeting held on February 18th, 2026 Northumberland County Council approved Council Resolution # 2026-02-18-122, adopting the below resolution:

Moved by: Councillor Lucas Cleveland
Seconded by: Councillor John Logel

"**Whereas** item 7.a from the February 3, 2026 Corporate Support Committee was held by Council for separate discussion at this meeting, the item being 'Call for Reform and Publication of the Ontario Sex Offender Registry'; and

Now Therefore Be It Resolved That County Council adopt the following:

- **That** County Council support the correspondence and send a copy of this resolution to key stakeholders."

Council Resolution # 2026-02-18-122

Carried



**The Corporation of the
County of Northumberland**

555 Courthouse Road
Cobourg, ON, K9A 5J6

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned at bennett@northumberland.ca or by telephone at 905-372-3329 ext. 2238.

Sincerely,
Tonia Bennett

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tonia Bennett".

Manager of Legislative Services / Clerk
Northumberland County

Council Resolution

Moved By L. Cleveland

Seconded By d. Logel

Agenda Resolution Number
Item 12.b. 2026-02-18- 122
(1)

Council Date: February 18, 2026

“Whereas item 7.a from the February 3, 2026 Corporate Support Committee was held by Council for separate discussion at this meeting, the item being 'Call for Reform and Publication of the Ontario Sex Offender Registry'; and

Now Therefore Be It Resolved That County Council adopt the following:

- **That** County Council support the correspondence and send a copy of this resolution to key stakeholders.”

Recorded Vote
Requested by _____
Councillor's Name

Deferred _____
Warden's Signature

Carried 
Warden's Signature

Defeated _____
Warden's Signature



December 19, 2025

Honorable Mark Carney

Sent via email: mark.carney@parl.gc.ca

Dear Honorable Mark Carney:

Please be advised that Brantford City Council, at its meeting held December 16, 2025 adopted the following:

12.2.7 Call for Reform and Publication of the Ontario Sex Offender Registry - Councillor Samwell

WHEREAS the community of Welland and the surrounding communities were deeply impacted by a recent heinous crime that highlighted critical gaps in Canada's criminal justice and offender-management systems; and

WHEREAS on September 4, 2025, Mayor Frank Campion of the City of Welland wrote to the Premier of Ontario urging comprehensive reform to strengthen sentencing, parole, and bail provisions for violent sexual offenders, and to enhance public safety protections; and

WHEREAS on September 12, 2025, Mayor Mat Siscoe of the City of St. Catharines wrote to the Prime Minister of Canada expressing strong support for these reforms and calling for immediate federal action to strengthen sentencing, parole, and accountability measures for violent sexual offenders; and

WHEREAS the City of Thorold, at its meeting of September 9, 2025, adopted Resolution 14.2 requesting the Province of Ontario to amend Christopher's Law (Sexual Offenders Registry), 2000 to make Ontario Sex Offender Registry publicly accessible; and

WHEREAS several Niagara municipalities; including Grimsby, Fort Erie, Port Colborne, and St. Catherines have subsequently endorsed this call for greater transparency and reform; and

WHEREAS municipal councils, though not responsible for criminal law or parole, play a vital role in advocating for the safety and well-being of their residents;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- A. THAT the Council of the City of Brantford hereby supports the City of Thorold's Resolution calling for the Publication of the Sexual Offender Registry and the City of Welland's correspondence dated September 4, 2025, calling for reform to sentencing, parole, and registry provisions concerning violent sexual offenders; and
- B. THAT the Province of Ontario be urged to amend Christopher's Law (Sexual Offender Registry), 2000 to make the Ontario Sex Offender

Registry publicly accessible, subject to appropriate privacy and safety safeguards; and

C. THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to:

- i. The Right Hon. Mark Carney, Prime Minister of Canada;
- ii. The Hon. Sean Fraser, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada;
- iii. The Hon. Gary Anandasangaree, Minister of Safety;
- iv. The Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario;
- v. The Hon. Doug Downey, Attorney General of Ontario;
- vi. The Hon. Michael S. Kerzner, Solicitor General of Ontario;
- vii. Member of Parliament for Brantford-Brant, Larry Brock;
- viii. Member of Provincial Parliament for Brantford-Brant, Will Bouma;
- ix. The Association of the Municipalities of Ontario (AMO);
- x. The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM); and
- xi. All Ontario Municipalities for their information and support.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours truly,



Chris Gauthier City Clerk,
cgauthier@brantford.ca

CC - The Honorable Sean Fraser, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada; - Sean.Fraser@parl.gc.ca

The Honorable Gary Anandasangaree, Minister of Safety
Gary.Anand@parl.gc.ca

The Honorable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario; - premier@ontario.ca

The Honorable Doug Downey, Attorney General of Ontario; -
Doug.Downey@ontario.ca

The Honorable Michael S. Kerzner, Solicitor General of Ontario
michael.kerzner@pc.ola.org

Member of Parliament for Brantford-Brant, Larry Brock; -
larry.brock@parl.gc.ca

Member of Provincial Parliament for Brantford-Brant, Will Bouma; -
will.bouma@pc.ola.org

The Association of the Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) amo@amo.on.ca

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) FCMInfo@fcm.ca

All Ontario Municipalities for their information and support

Subject: RE: Meals on Wheels Port Colborne

From: Katie Sneek <sneekk@live.ca>
Sent: April 9, 2026 7:28 PM
To: Amber Chrastina <AChrastina@wainfleet.ca>
Subject: Meals on Wheels Port Colborne

 [2026GolfTournamentSponsorLetter.pdf](#)

Hello!

My name is Katie Sneek and I am the Program Manager at Meal in Wheels Port Colborne.

We would love to have Mayor Grant join us once again to golf with us.

If that is not possible this year, hopefully one of the sponsorship opportunities will be a good fit.

Please review the attached letter and let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you for your time,

Katie Sneek
Program Manager
Meals on Wheela Port Colborne Inc.
905-935-1581

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)



2026 ~TIM KENNEDY MEMORIAL FOR MEALS ON WHEELS PORT COLBORNE

You are invited to be a part of the 4th Annual Golf Tournament for Meals on Wheels Port Colborne being held Monday, June 15 @ 4:00pm start. The tournament will once again be held at Whisky Run on the Fox Course. All the money raised from this tournament will directly benefit seniors in *your* community who require our services.

There are several ways to be a part of this event:

Competition Sponsors

1 group of 4some winners \$500 cash (\$125 each) & company swag

1- Men's longest drive \$100 cash or \$100 gift cards

1- Women's longest drive \$100 cash or \$100 gift cards

Golfer gifts for each swag bag – can include something w/company logo

Ex. DQ token, golf balls, glass or mug, etc

Golfers Pre-snack \$100-\$250 estimate TBD once menu set

Hole Sponsorship

Sign on tee block, business name & logo \$150

Prize Donations

Door prizes Larger raffle prize table worth \$100+

Raffle table – prize worth \$25+

Secret Bottle Raffle – sealed bottle of alcohol for raffle

Golf put together a 4some and participate in the day for **\$125 per golfer**

EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION, REGISTER & PAY BEFORE MAY 1ST AND PAY \$120/PP

Dinner – Not into golfing? Join us for dinner TBD once menu is set

We're excited to make this tournament our best one yet.

Last year we raised around \$7,500 for Meals on Wheels.

Let's work together to surpass this!!!!

If any of these opportunities interest you, please reach out to our tournament organizers.

Jackie Gagnon-Willoughby 905-341-8084

Meals on Wheels Port Colborne, 953 Elm Street 905-835-1581

Golf fees and Sponsorship Payments can be e-transferred to info@mealsonwheelspc.ca

Subject: RE: Municipal Engineers Association Comments/Concerns Re: OPS Harmonization

From: Dan Cozzi <dan.cozzi@municipalengineers.on.ca>

Sent: April 10, 2026 11:08 AM

To: judys@chatham-kent.ca; mkonefal@stthomas.ca; cao@elgin.ca; melliott@bayham.on.ca; alanjbushell@gmail.com; tkretschmer@duttondunwich.on.ca; ttowstiuc@westelgin.net; aadams@malahide.ca; cao@southwold.ca; svlachodimos@citywindsor.ca; kristen.newman@greatersudbury.ca; bpercy@leamington.ca; kfox@amherstburg.ca; jmalandrucolo@essex.ca; pparker@kingsville.ca; jastrologo@lasalle.ca; rauger@tecumseh.ca; kristine.horst@pelee.ca; clerks@sarnia.ca; olivia.leger@county-lambton.on.ca; jdenkers@brookealvinston.com; stroyer-boyd@lambtonshores.ca; mpearson@petrolia.ca; ekwarciak@plympton-wyoming.ca; clerk@dawneuphemia.on.ca; cpoland@enniskillen.ca; jbaranek@stclairtownship.ca; hwillemse@warwicktownship.ca; clerk@oilsprings.ca; jburns@villageofpointedward.com; mschulth@london.ca; mivanic@middlesex.ca; hammer@middlesexcentre.ca; ashleyc@northmiddlesex.on.ca; kkettler@southwestmiddlesex.ca; jpereira@strathroy-caradoc.ca; jnethercott@thamescentre.on.ca; mbarnier@adelaidemetcalfe.on.ca; rreymer@lucanbidulph.on.ca; case@newbury.ca; clerk@brucecounty.on.ca; cfraser@arran-elderslie.ca; fhamilton@brockton.ca; jlawrie@kincardine.ca; vkennedy@southbruce.ca; angie.cathrae@southbrucepeninsula.com; jwhite@huronkinloss.ca; mdunne@dufferincounty.ca; mtownsend@townofgrandvalley.ca; fred.simpson@townofmono.com; clerk@orangeville.ca; jwilloughby@shelburne.ca; nmartin@amaranth.ca; jkennedy@eastgarafraxa.ca; dholmes@melancthontownship.ca; tatkinson@mulmur.ca; mpalmer@owensound.ca; tara.warder@grey.ca; vanalstinea@greyhighlands.ca; clerk@westgrey.com; vmcdonald@hanover.ca; townclerk@thebluemountains.ca; rachel.anstett@chatsworth.ca; ccraig@georgianbluffs.ca; lgreen@southgate.ca; scronin@huroncounty.ca; clerk@municipalityofbluewater.ca; clerk@huroneast.com; thallam@morristurnberry.ca; clerk@southhuron.ca; afisher@goderich.ca; clerk@acwtownship.ca; clerk@howick.ca; clamb@northhuron.ca; tdafoe@stratford.ca; scarter@northperth.ca; jhutson@westperth.com; jmccartney@town.stmarys.on.ca; acarter@pertheast.ca; lscott@perthsouth.ca; wendy.cooke@barrie.ca; dkirby@orillia.ca; jonathan.magill@simcoe.ca; treynolds@townofbwg.com; salmas@collingwood.ca; jmarshall@innisfil.ca; sedgar@midland.ca; pfettes@newtecumseth.ca; nicole.rubli@wasagabeach.com; rreid@adjtos.ca; shelmkay@clearview.ca; kpascoe@clearview.ca; yaubichon@oro-medonte.ca; jconnor@ramara.ca; agray@severn.ca; wade.victoria@hotmail.com; kjohns@tay.ca; dylan.mcmahon@guelph.ca; jennifera@wellington.ca; nina.lecic@erin.ca; annilene@town.minto.on.ca; kokane@centrewellington.ca; aknight@get.on.ca; lwheeler@mapleton.ca; jbrotherston@puslinch.ca; kwallace@wellington-north.com; sunayana.katikapalli@brant.ca; ccurtis@haldimandcounty.on.ca; mike.derond@burlington.ca; graham.milne@halton.ca; valeriep@haltonhills.ca; meaghen.reid@milton.ca; william.short@oakville.ca; matthew.trennum@hamilton.ca; billmatson@niagarafalls.ca; charlotte.madden@portcolborne.ca; ksullivan@stcatharines.ca; Nicholas.Debono@thorold.ca; clerk@welland.ca; ann-marie.norio@niagararegion.ca; ptodd@forterie.ca; vsteele@grimsby.ca; jkirkelos@lincoln.ca; grant.bivol@notl.com; sleach@pelham.ca; Amber Chrastina <AChrastina@wainfleet.ca>; jpaylove@westlincoln.ca; ahumphries@cityofwoodstock.ca; lmansbridge@oxfordcounty.ca; danielle.richard@ingersoll.ca; mvader@ezt.ca; karmstrong@norwich.ca; dgiles@swox.org; kmartin@zorra.ca; Amanda.fusco@kitchener.ca; Julie.Finley-Swaren@waterloo.ca; agood@northdumfries.ca; aharron@wellesley.ca; amelia.jaggard@wilmot.ca; jsmith@woolwich.ca; mmedeiros@oshawa.ca; scassel@pickering.ca; jgallagher@clarington.net; alexander.harras@durham.ca; jaclyn.grossi@ajax.ca; Harris, Chris <harrisc@whitby.ca>; Fernando.Lamanna@Brock.ca; blabelle@scugog.ca; dleroux@uxbridge.ca; Genevieve.scharback@brampton.ca; Charlotte.Gravlev@brampton.ca; diana.rusnov@mississauga.ca; aretha.adams@peelregion.ca; kevin.klingenberg@caledon.ca; john.elvidge@toronto.ca; kkitteringham@markham.ca; stephen.huycke@richmondhill.ca; todd.coles@vaughan.ca; christopher.raynor@york.ca; tlajevardi@eastwillimbury.ca; rdillabough@georgina.ca; llyons@newmarket.ca; DTimm@king.ca; mbishop@dysartetal.ca; rrogers@highlandseast.ca; dnewhook@algonquinhighlands.ca; vbull@mindenhills.ca; dirwin@belleville.ca; josh.machesney@quintwest.ca; bradleyc@hastingscounty.com; tchoinard@centrehastings.com; shuschilt@hastingshighlands.ca; kmccconnell@gmail.com; clerk@tweed.ca; clerk@bancroft.ca; gmaracle@deseronto.ca;

clerk@carlowmayo.ca; clerk@faraday.ca; clerk@township.limerick.on.ca; clerk@madoc.ca; clerk@stirling-rawdon.com; clerk@tyendinagatowship.com; clerk@wollaston.ca; critchie@kawarthalakes.ca; tmckenzie@lennox-addington.on.ca; anne_k@hotmail.ca; jwalters@greaternapanee.com; clerk@addingtonhighlands.ca; bteepie@stonemills.com; amy.back@muskoka.on.ca; lmcDonald@bracebridge.ca; Kayla.Thibeault@gravenhurst.ca; tanya.calleja@huntsville.ca; kway@gbtowship.ca; csykes@lakeofbays.on.ca; crystal.best-sararas@muskokalakes.ca; cdoiron@brighton.ca; sdave@porthope.ca; dawn.welch@trent hills.ca; blarmer@cobourg.ca; csweet@ahtwp.ca; clerks@ahtwp.ca; holly@cramahe.ca; dlivingstone@hamiltontowship.ca; jkennedy@peterborough.ca; cambrosio@peterborough.ca; clerksoffice@ptbocounty.ca; jclark@trentlakes.ca; clerk@antowship.ca; mchaitartwig@dourodummer.ca; bangione@hbmtpw.ca; c.parent@northkawartha.ca; cao@osmtowship.ca; achittick@selwyntowship.ca; cblumenberg@pecounty.on.ca; jjaynes@cityofkingston.ca; jamini@frontenacounty.ca; cmacmunnn@centralfrontenac.com; vlatimer@frontenacislands.ca; clerkplanning@northfrontenac.ca; jthompson@southfrontenac.net; jralph@lanarkcounty.ca; jharfield@mississippimills.ca; cao@tayvalleytwp.ca; sblair@carletonplace.ca; anoel@perth.ca; kcostello@smithsfalls.ca; cmcgregor@twp.beckwith.on.ca; cryder@dnetowship.ca; lhclerk@lanarkhighlands.ca; municipalmanager@township.montague.on.ca; searl@brockville.com; mremmig@northgrenville.on.ca; clerk@gananoque.ca; cpreston@prescott.ca; athens@myhighspeed.ca; lveltkamp@augusta.ca; rcrich@twpec.ca; clerk@twpec.ca; rnolan@ektwp.ca; jault@frontofyonge.com; clerk@leedstownship.on.ca; mtruelove@rideaulakes.ca; Christina.Conklin@uclg.on.ca; clerk@merrickville-wolford.ca; cao@villageofwestport.ca; caitlin.salter-macdonald@ottawa.ca

Cc: MEA President <President@municipalengineers.on.ca>

Subject: Municipal Engineers Association Comments/Concerns Re: OPS Harmonization

Dear Municipal Clerk:

The Municipal Engineers Association (MEA) recently provided comments to the Province's plan to Harmonize Ontario Provincial Standards (OPS). The MEA's comments included:

1. Response dated March 29, 2026 to Ontario Regulatory Registry 26-MTO003 - *Harmonization of Municipal Road Construction Standards*. Attached.
2. Letter to the Ministry of Transportation dated March 29, 2026 re: *Harmonization of Municipal Road Construction Standards and Associated Governance Model*. Attached.
3. Delegation to MTO senior staff during the Good Roads Conference on March 31, 2026 (attached briefing note summarizes MEA's concerns).

The MEA Board of Directors recently passed a motion that all Ontario Municipalities be made aware of the MEA's comments and significant concerns regarding *Harmonization of Municipal Road Construction Standards*.

We respectfully request that you please provide this email and the three attachments to your Municipal Council.

Sincerely,



D.M. (Dan) Cozzi P.Eng,

Executive Director



www.municipalengineers.on.ca

The content of this email is provided for general information purposes only and does not constitute legal or other professional advice or an opinion of any kind. Use of the Municipal Engineers Association's (MEA) website and any communications between individuals requesting information and the MEA does not create or constitute, in any way, a professional or business relationship between the MEA, or any individual members, and the individual requesting information. Individuals requesting information from the MEA are advised to seek specific legal or other professional advice from their own legal counsel or other professionals, regarding any specific legal or other issues. While every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of information in this email, the MEA does not warrant or guarantee the quality, accuracy or completeness of any information provided in this email, and the information contained in this email should not be relied upon as accurate, timely or fit for any particular purpose. The MEA also does not guarantee the security or confidentiality of any communications made by e-mail or otherwise through its web site. The MEA does not assume any responsibility for any misinterpretation or misapplication of any information contained in this email or on its website.

March 29, 2026

Municipal Standards Harmonization Office (MSHO)

Subject: MEA Comments to Ontario Regulatory Registry 26-MTO003

We are writing to respond to Ontario Regulatory Registry 26-MTO003 - Harmonization of Municipal Road Construction Standards.

Municipal engineers play a vital role in planning, maintaining, renewing, and constructing municipal infrastructure. Their expertise spans all aspects of municipal infrastructure services - from design and construction to project management and leadership – ensuring the successful delivery of both small and large-scale capital infrastructure projects.

Through its membership, MEA provides specialized knowledge in all areas of municipal engineering in Ontario. In partnership with the Ministry of Transportation Ontario (MTO), MEA co-manages the Ontario Provincial Standards & Specifications (Municipal) and delivers training on Ontario Provincial Standards.

While we support the intent of the regulation to promote consistency, quality, and efficiency across municipal road construction projects, we recommend that additional consideration be given to the time and administrative burden associated with preparing, reviewing, and obtaining exemptions, as well as the cumulative impacts on project delivery arising from project-by-project assessments.

Exemption requests that require detailed technical justification across multiple evaluation criteria can take a considerable amount of time to prepare, particularly for complex or large-scale projects. This work frequently requires the involvement of senior engineering, technical, legal, and procurement resources, diverting limited capacity away from active project delivery. The time required to assemble a complete exemption request should therefore be recognized as a potential schedule, cost, and resourcing risk in its own right.

Equally important is the duration and predictability of the Minister's review and response timelines. When exemptions are assessed on a project-by-project basis without defined service standards or response timelines, projects may experience material delays while awaiting decisions. These delays can produce cascading impacts, including missed construction windows, contractor demobilization and remobilization costs, loss of price certainty, and increased exposure to supply-chain volatility. For time-sensitive or critical

infrastructure projects, even relatively short delays in regulatory decision-making can result in disproportionate impacts to project schedules and budgets.

To better reflect these realities, we recommend that the exemption framework explicitly consider additional criteria, including:

- Administrative and decision-cycle timelines, including the anticipated time required for review and approval and the impact of uncertainty on project planning and procurement;
- Cumulative impacts across multiple projects, particularly where similar exemption requests are repeatedly submitted for comparable project types or conditions;
- Schedule dependency and critical path impacts, including whether delays in exemption approval would directly affect construction sequencing, seasonal work constraints, or contractual obligations; and
- Consistency and precedent considerations, whereby prior approvals for similar circumstances could support streamlined or standardized decision-making, rather than requiring repetitive project-level analysis.

Incorporating these considerations would help ensure that the exemption process supports timely and efficient project delivery while still meeting regulatory objectives. Clear expectations regarding submission requirements and response timelines, as well as opportunities for programmatic or category-based exemptions where appropriate, would significantly reduce risk to project schedules and budgets without compromising safety, performance, or sustainability outcomes.

Looking ahead, and assuming the Ministry is able to successfully deliver the current list of harmonized standards within the proposed timeframe, we agree that the remaining OPSS.MUNI standards should be prioritized for future harmonization based on where the greatest time, cost, and administrative efficiencies can be achieved. In our view, this would include:

- Standards with the highest frequency of use across municipalities, where harmonization would reduce repetitive project-specific reviews, municipal deviations, and contract amendments;
- Standards that routinely generate exemptions, interpretations, or disputes, indicating inconsistency or misalignment that drives additional design effort, approval cycles, or delays;
- Standards that significantly affect project schedules or cost certainty, including those related to materials, construction methods, or inspection requirements that influence procurement and delivery timelines;



Office of the President

1525 Cornwall Road

Oakville ON

L6J 0B2

president@municipalengineers.on.ca

- Standards that overlap or interact closely with those already harmonized, where alignment would enhance system coherence and reduce unintended conflicts or inefficiencies; and
- Standards that affect regional or multi-jurisdictional projects, where inconsistent requirements currently increase coordination challenges and administrative complexity.

A transparent, phased approach, supported by demonstrated progress on the initially harmonized standards, would help ensure that future harmonization efforts are achievable and deliver tangible benefits. Clearly articulating how the Ministry will complete the current scope, and how lessons learned will inform the prioritization of remaining standards, will be essential to achieving intended efficiency gains without overextending implementation capacity.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important initiative. We would welcome continued engagement as the regulation is refined and implemented.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Penelope Palmer', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Penelope Palmer, P. Eng.,

MEA President 2025 – 2026

(Manager, Strategic Initiatives

Strategic Capital Coordination Office

City of Toronto)

March 29, 2026

Municipal Standards Harmonization Office (MSHO)

Subject: Harmonization of Municipal Road Construction Standards and Associated Governance Model

On behalf of the Municipal Engineers Association (MEA) and our municipal members, we acknowledge the Ministry of Transportation of Ontario's (MTO) ongoing efforts to maintain and modernize the Ontario Provincial Standard Specifications (OPSS). As partners and co-stewards of the OPSS, the MEA recognizes the importance of ensuring these standards remain current, effective, and responsive to the evolving needs of infrastructure delivery across Ontario.

The Municipal Engineers Association (MEA) is a non-profit organization representing more than 1,300 professional engineers working across 110+ Ontario municipalities, along with engineers from provincial agencies, conservation authorities, and consulting firms serving smaller municipalities. With a history spanning over 60 years, MEA was formed through the amalgamation of the City Engineers Association and the County Engineers Association. The association supports excellence in municipal engineering, recognizing the critical role municipal engineers play in planning, delivering, maintaining, and renewing infrastructure. The MEA provides specialized expertise across all areas of municipal engineering and, in partnership with the Ontario Ministry of Transportation (MTO), co-manages the Ontario Provincial Standards & Specifications (Municipal) and delivers related training across the province.

The long-standing success and credibility of the OPSS has been built on a collaborative partnership between the MTO and the MEA, grounded in co-stewardship, shared accountability, and balanced provincial and municipal technical expertise. The recent unilateral actions by the Ministry are inconsistent with the principles of partnership, and collaboration that have historically underpinned the success of the OPSS. Successful change and adoption cannot be achieved without first defining the problem, evaluating solutions and their consequences, and engaging partners through meaningful consultation.

The MEA has significant concerns regarding both the process and substance of the proposed harmonization of standards, including the lack of meaningful engagement with MEA and other municipal stakeholders, and the absence of a clear, shared understanding of the issues driving these proposed changes. These concerns are material and must be addressed if the changes are to be successfully implemented, broadly adopted, and supported over the long term.

Problem Definition, Need for Evidence and Supporting Data

At present, it is unclear what problems or deficiencies the MTO perceives to exist within the current OPSS framework. The MEA and its members are not aware of systemic failures or performance issues that would warrant the breadth, scale, or urgency of the changes being proposed. It is also unclear how these changes are expected to lead to reduced costs, improved efficiency, or better outcomes.

The MEA respectfully requests that the MTO clearly identify the concerns with the current framework, and share any analysis, metrics, benchmarking, or other evidence used to justify the anticipated benefits of the proposed modernization. Municipalities are concerned that the proposed changes will likely increase administrative burden, project complexity, and overall costs rather than achieve the intended efficiencies.

There are legitimate questions being raised about how a one-size-fits-all approach can successfully address the diversity of municipal conditions and requirements across Ontario. There is also apprehension that additional approval steps, reporting requirements, and governance layers will likely introduce project delays, uncertainty, and higher delivery costs without demonstrated public or operational benefit.

Clarification on the Modernized Governance Framework

The MEA respectfully requests clarification on how the proposed governance framework differs in a meaningful way from the current model. Municipal and industry engagement, along with technical input into standards development and review, already occurs through established existing technical committees, working groups, and consultation processes.

To build understanding and confidence, MTO must clearly articulate the added value of the proposed approach, including:

- What new roles, authorities, or decision-making structures would be introduced;
- What changes are anticipated in how standards are prioritized, approved, or updated; and
- How the proposed model will measurably improve efficiency, cost-efficiency, transparency, or consistency compared to the existing framework.

Annual Reporting, Exemptions and Compliance

The MEA understands the proposed framework would require mandatory annual reporting to the MTO including the introduction of a new approval process for exemptions. There are significant concerns related to the administrative burden these processes will put on municipalities, which will in turn affect their ability to deliver

projects and programs successfully in any given budget cycle. The administrative effort this approval process creates, without understanding the process, review requirements or timelines, is not demonstrative of an overall benefit. Clarity on these matters is essential. An opaque or slow exemption process introduces material risk to project delivery, schedules, costs, and contractual certainty.

Further clarification on annual reporting collection is essential to understanding the purpose and anticipated outcomes. Specifically, the MEA is requesting more information on the following:

- The specific purpose of the reporting;
- How the data will be used to inform decisions or policy;
- How reporting will account for local context and project complexity; and
- Will the reporting be the basis to track compliance.

Further clarification on the exemption process is perhaps even more essential, as it presents an even greater risk to successful project delivery if the process is overly burdensome, lengthy and lacks defined service standards. Expectations and timelines will need to be factored when municipalities are building programs for infrastructure renewal and rehabilitation. Even at these early stages, municipalities are flagging risks with their ability to deliver Council approved commitments if the exemption process is not clearly defined, and is not well supported. It is imperative that the MTO clarify the following:

- How exemptions will be reviewed and approved;
- Who will sit on the review panel and how municipal representation will be ensured;
- What service standards or timelines will apply to exemption decisions;
- Would an Ontario municipality continue to be recognized as a sponsor for new or revised standards when requests originate from a non-member; and
- What penalties or consequences are contemplated for non-compliance.

A one-size-fits-all approach does not reflect the realities of infrastructure delivery across Ontario. Municipalities operate under widely differing conditions, including climate, geography, asset profiles, operational constraints, material and labour market availability. Effective standards must allow flexibility to account for these differences if they are to be practical, efficient, and consistently applied province-wide.

In this context, the MEA and several municipalities have raised the need for blanket or standing exemptions in certain circumstances where efficiency can be demonstrably improved without compromising safety or performance. Requiring repeated case-by-case exemption requests for well-understood, low-risk municipal practices is viewed as inefficient and counterproductive. A model that combines clear standards

with appropriate flexibility and blanket approvals would better reflect local conditions and established municipal engineering practices while maintaining safety and performance.

Broader Impacts Across the Infrastructure Delivery Sector

While municipalities are directly affected, it is important to underscore that these proposed changes have far reaching implications beyond municipal owners alone. Designers, consulting engineers, contractors, suppliers, and other industry partners will also be impacted through changes to standards, approvals, contract administration, project schedules, and risk allocation. Successful modernization must therefore consider the full infrastructure delivery ecosystem, not solely municipal compliance obligations.

Partnership, Co-Stewardship, and Governance

The absence of the MEA from MTO's proposed development, roll-out and implementation of a standardized OPSS has raised concerns that the framework will shift toward a centralized, MTO-led model and will no longer function as a true partnership or co-stewardship.

The MEA requires clarity on how our role as co-steward will be explicitly protected and embedded within the proposed governance structure. Without a clearly defined, formalized role in decision-making and oversight, municipal confidence in the governance framework will be significantly undermined.

Further, the MEA seeks immediate clarification on the future role of the existing MTO/MEA specialty committees. These committees provide critical technical review, municipal insight, and issue resolution. It is uncertain whether they will be replaced, duplicated, or marginalized under the new framework, and how authority and accountability will be allocated going forward.

Path Forward and MEA's Ongoing Role

In the spirit of collaboration, the MEA offers the following constructive proposal to support a more effective and broadly supported outcome:

- Pause implementation to allow time for a shared understanding of the issues MTO is seeking to address and to explore whether alternative, more effective solutions exist;
- Pursue targeted harmonization, recognizing that some alignment is beneficial while preserving local flexibility. This should include the use of standardized

requirements where appropriate, complemented by blanket or standing approvals to reduce repetitive exemption requests;

- Map proposed review, approval, and reporting processes in detail and work collaboratively to identify and address pressure points before implementation;
- Establish a provincial working group, with representation from MEA members, MTO staff, and subject matter experts across Ontario, to identify priorities, risks, and opportunities from multiple perspectives;
- Engage consultants and contractors to understand how proposed changes will affect design, construction, procurement, and risk allocation and
- Ensure the process is not rushed, recognizing that thoughtful, inclusive development is essential to achieving sustainable and credible outcomes.

The MEA remains committed to the success of OPSS and to working collaboratively with MTO. However, meaningful partnership requires transparency and evidence-based decision-making, appropriate inclusion in governance, and genuine shared stewardship aligned with municipal realities.

Should the MEA continue to be excluded from the governance model or from substantive decision-making related to OPSS, the MEA will need to re-evaluate its role, partnership, and level of support for the framework moving forward. Our strong preference is to address these issues proactively through dialogue, collaboration, and shared clarity around roles and objectives. Providing the requested data, clarifying governance roles, addressing exemption and compliance concerns, and slowing implementation to allow proper consultation are necessary first steps.

The MEA welcomes the opportunity for prompt discussion and looks forward to working collaboratively to ensure any changes to OPSS strengthen—rather than undermine—the confidence, effectiveness, and partnership that have long defined its success.

Sincerely,



Penelope Palmer, P. Eng.,
MEA President 2025 – 2026
(Manager, Strategic Initiatives
Strategic Capital Coordination Office
City of Toronto)

BRIEFING NOTE
**OPSS Modernization &
Harmonization Concerns**



TO: Ministry of Transportation of Ontario (MTO)

FROM: Municipal Engineers Association (MEA)

DATE: Tuesday, March 31, 2026

PURPOSE

To convey the MEA's significant concerns regarding the process and substance of MTO's proposed harmonization of the Ontario Provincial Standard Specifications (OPSS), and to request meaningful engagement before implementation proceeds.

BACKGROUND

The OPSS has long been grounded in a collaborative co-stewardship model between MTO and the MEA. Recent unilateral actions by MTO, without prior consultation with municipal stakeholders, are inconsistent with that partnership and risk undermining confidence in the framework. Successful change cannot be achieved without first defining the problem, evaluating solutions, and engaging partners through meaningful consultation.

KEY CONCERNS

1 LACK OF PROBLEM DEFINITION & EVIDENCE

The MEA is unaware of systemic failures in the current OPSS framework justifying the scale or urgency of proposed changes. MTO has not shared analysis, metrics, or benchmarking to support anticipated benefits. Municipalities expect the changes will increase, not reduce, administrative burden and project costs.

2 GOVERNANCE CLARITY & CO-STEWARDSHIP

It is unclear how the proposed model meaningfully differs from the current one, or how the MEA's co-stewardship role will be formally protected. The future of existing MTO/MEA technical committees, which provide critical municipal insight and issue resolution, remains uncertain.

3 EXEMPTIONS & ANNUAL REPORTING

Mandatory reporting and a new exemption approval process introduce material risk to project delivery. Without defined timelines and service standards, municipalities cannot reliably plan Council-approved programs. Blanket exemptions should be available for well-understood, low-risk practices.

4 ONE-SIZE-FITS-ALL LIMITATIONS

Ontario municipalities operate under widely varying conditions including climate, geography, asset profiles, and labour markets. Effective standards must allow appropriate local flexibility to be practical and consistently applied province-wide. A uniform approach risks being neither efficient nor effective.

REQUESTED ACTIONS

- ▶ **Pause implementation** to allow shared problem definition and evaluation of alternatives before proceeding.
- ▶ **Share supporting evidence** including analysis, metrics, and benchmarking used to justify the proposed changes.
- ▶ **Clarify the governance model** and formally embed the MEA's co-stewardship role within the new structure.
- ▶ **Define the exemption process** including review timelines, panel composition, and measurable service standards.
- ▶ **Establish a joint provincial working group** with municipal, MTO, consultant, and contractor representation.

CONCLUSION

The MEA remains committed to the OPSS and to working collaboratively with MTO. Should the MEA continue to be excluded from substantive governance decisions, it will need to re-evaluate its role and level of support for the framework. Transparent, evidence-based, and inclusive engagement is essential to any modernization that strengthens, rather than undermines, the credibility and effectiveness of the OPSS.

Proposal for Consideration of a Unified Niagara Region Visual Identity



To:	Mayor and Members of Council, and Clerks of the City of Niagara Falls; City of St. Catharines; City of Welland; City of Thorold; Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake; Town of Fort Erie; City of Port Colborne; Township of Wainfleet; Town of Pelham; Township of West Lincoln; Town of Grimsby; Town of Lincoln; and Niagara Region
From:	Joedy Burdett, Niagara Falls Resident
Date:	[Insert Date]
Re:	Request for Agenda Consideration - Regional Logo / Visual Identity Review

Please place this correspondence on the next available Council agenda for consideration.

This submission is being provided to each of Niagara's local municipalities, as well as to Niagara Regional Council, for the purpose of asking whether the concept of a refreshed regional logo or visual identity has merit. In the case of the local municipalities, I am asking Council to consider whether it supports the idea in principle and, if so, whether it wishes to communicate that support to Niagara Regional Council for further consideration. In the case of Niagara Regional Council itself, I am asking whether it would be willing to consider exploring such an initiative at the regional level.

Recent changes to regional governance create an appropriate opportunity to consider not only how Niagara Region functions institutionally, but also how it presents itself visually as a unified entity made up of distinct municipalities.

At present, the Niagara Region logo operates primarily as a corporate identifier and does not visibly reflect the twelve municipalities that collectively form the Region. As a result, the Region's public-facing identity does not fully communicate the communities that make it up.

Attached to this submission is a conceptual logo design intended to demonstrate one possible approach to a more inclusive regional identity. The concept is built around a compass motif, reflecting Niagara's connection to waterways such as the Welland Canal and the surrounding Great Lakes, while also symbolizing direction, coordination, and regional unity.

The twelve municipalities are positioned around the compass in a circular arrangement and are organized in generally corresponding geographic order. This allows the design to function not only as branding, but also as a simple visual representation of the Region itself.

The central imagery incorporates both water and agricultural elements, reflecting Niagara's identity as both a waterfront and farming region. The existing Niagara Region branding is retained at the center to maintain continuity while expanding representation.

This submission is not intended to propose adoption of a specific design, but rather to encourage discussion as to whether Niagara Region should explore the development of a new or updated logo that better reflects all municipalities. Potential approaches could include a public design competition, collaboration with local designers, or a formal request for proposals.

A unified visual identity of this nature may improve public understanding of the Region's composition, strengthen a shared identity among municipalities, and enhance Niagara's external image.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Joedy Burdett

Niagara Falls Resident

905-353-8468

info@joedyburdett.com



COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Received April 15, 2026
C-2026-095

MUNICIPALITY OF
SHUNIAH

Date: Apr 14, 2026

Resolution No.: 167-26

Moved By: _____
[Signature]

Seconded By: _____
[Signature]

WHEREAS the Municipality of Shuniah acknowledges that municipal infrastructure - including roads, bridges, and water and wastewater systems - underpins public safety, economic vitality, and quality of life in Ontario's rural and small urban communities; and

WHEREAS the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (OCIF) was created in 2015 to assist small and rural municipalities facing infrastructure deficits that exceed their local revenue capacities; and

WHEREAS in 2022, the Government of Ontario committed to increase the annual OCIF envelope from \$100 million to \$400 million over a five-year term, with that commitment scheduled to expire at the end of fiscal 2026; and

WHEREAS fixed funding levels amid rising labour, materials, and climate resilience costs have eroded the purchasing power of the \$400 million envelope, jeopardizing municipalities' ability to deliver and sustain essential services without incurring unsustainable debt; and

WHEREAS predictable, multi-year funding indexed to real-world cost drivers is critical for municipalities to develop, finance, and execute long-term asset management plans, reduce emergency repairs, and leverage complementary federal and private infrastructure financing; and

WHEREAS the Municipality of Shuniah requires a steadfast provincial partner to extend and enhance OCIF beyond 2026, ensuring infrastructure resilience, fiscal sustainability, and equitable access for all small and rural municipalities;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Municipality of Shuniah calls upon the Government of Ontario to extend the annual OCIF envelope at not less than \$400 million beyond its current five-year term ending in 2026, with no reductions in subsequent provincial budgets.

2. The Province be requested to index the total annual OCIF envelope—and each individual municipal allocation—to the Ontario Consumer Price Index (CPI), calculated on

a calendar-year basis and disbursed in the first quarter of each fiscal year.

3. The Ministry of Infrastructure establish a new five-year OCIF funding framework that guarantees annual envelopes and allocation percentages by municipality, enabling long-term capital planning and stable cash-flow management.

4. The Province undertake a formal review of the OCIF allocation formula at least once every four years, incorporating current municipal asset management data, demographic projections, climate resilience metrics, and rural equity considerations

5. A dedicated contingency reserve equal to 5 percent of the annual OCIF envelope be created within the fund to address extraordinary cost escalations, emergency repairs, or project overruns without reallocating core funding.

6. The Ministry of Infrastructure publish an annual OCIF performance report—including program disbursements, allocation adjustments, and reserve expenditures—in a transparent, publicly accessible online dashboard.

FURTHER THAT the Council of the Municipality of Shuniah supports the February 23rd, 2026 resolution of the Township of North Glengarry regarding the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (OCIF); and

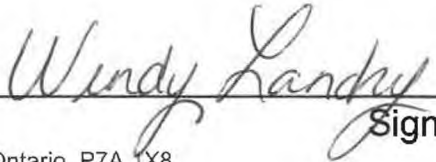
FURTHER THAT this supporting resolution and the originating correspondence be circulated to the Premier of Ontario, the Leader of the Official Opposition, the Minister of Infrastructure, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Local MPP's, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), and all Ontario municipalities. *NOMA*

Carried

Defeated

Amended

Deferred


Signature

Municipality of Shuniah, 420 Leslie Avenue, Thunder Bay, Ontario, P7A 1X8