



**Council Information Package
(Non-Agenda Items)**

Monday, April 29, 2024

Accessibility Accommodations

If you require access to information in an alternate format, please contact the Clerk's department by phone at 519-941-0440 x 2242 or via email at clerksdept@orangeville.ca

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TOWNSHIP OF BRUDENELL, LYNDOCH AND RAGLAN

42 Burnt Bridge Road, PO Box 40
Palmer Rapids, Ontario K0J 2E0
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April 11, 2024

RE: 9-8-8 National Suicide and Crisis Hotline

Please be advised that at the Regular Council Meeting on April 10th 2024, Council for the Corporation of the Township of Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan passed the following resolution, supporting the resolution from the City of Clarence Rockland regarding adopting the 9-8-8 as National three-digit suicide and crisis hotline.

Resolution No: 2024-04-10-04

Moved by: Councillor Quade

Seconded by: Councillor Kauffeldt

“WHEREAS Canada has adopted 9-8-8, as National three-digit suicide and crisis hotline; and

WHEREAS the Township of Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan recognizes that it is a significant and important initiative to ensure critical barriers are removed to those in a crisis and seeking help;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Township of Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan continues to endorse the 9-8-8 Crisis Line initiative and will display the 9-8-8 information poster in all its municipal buildings; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to John Yakabuski, MPP Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke and all Ontario Municipalities.”

Sincerely,

Tammy Thompson
Deputy Clerk
Township of Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan

Cc: John Yakabuski, MPP Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke
All Ontario Municipalities



March 28, 2024

Larry Brock, MP Brant
108 St. George Street, Suite #3
Brantford, ON N3R 1V6

Sent via email: larry.brock@parl.gc.ca

Will Bouma, MPP
96 Nelson Street
Suite 101
Brantford, ON N3T 2X1

Sent via email: will.bouma@pc.ola.org

To whom it may concern:

Please be advised that Brantford City Council at its meeting held March 26, 2024 adopted the following:

12.6.13 Home Heating Sustainability

WHEREAS home heating energy costs is a major and onerous burden for Seniors and those with limited or fixed incomes; and

WHEREAS the cost of natural gas to heat homes continues to climb due to many factors such as inaccurate meter readings, inflation, delivery and customer charges, carbon tax, among others, causing financial strain for many citizens; and

WHEREAS 3.8 million households in Ontario currently use natural gas for home heating, representing about 70 per cent of Ontario households; and

WHEREAS the carbon tax charged on heating bills is highly dependent on the amount of natural gas used and accounts for 20-25% of the utility bill; and

WHEREAS Canadians have no choice but to heat their homes throughout the winter; and

WHEREAS no citizen should have to choose between putting food on the table or heating their homes; and

WHEREAS the carbon tax is increasing as of April 1, 2024 to \$0.15 per cubic meter for natural gas, and the carbon tax rebate for homeowners is also increasing; and

WHEREAS Ontario homeowners can now expect to receive \$1,120 annually for the rebate on average and the rebate will be renamed to the Canada Carbon Rebate; and

WHEREAS starting on January 1, 2024, both SaskEnergy and SaskPower removed the federal carbon tax from home heating, resulting in savings for approximately 98 per cent of Saskatchewan families by exempting them from carbon tax on home heating oil; and

WHEREAS the Canadian government has implemented new measures to help Atlantic Canadians lower their energy bills by making the average heat pump free to help low- to median-income Canadians switch to cleaner fuel and incentivizing the switch to heat pumps with \$250 upfront payments; and

WHEREAS the Canadian and Ontario governments have discontinued grant and rebate programs for Ontarians to retrofit their homes to be energy efficient such as Ontario's green home-retrofit rebate program, the ecoENERGY home retrofit program, and the Canada Greener Homes Grant, making it difficult for homeowners to reduce their reliance on natural gas.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- A. THAT the Federal Government exclude home heating from the federal carbon tax to reduce the burden on citizens, as has been done in Saskatchewan; and
- B. THAT the Federal and Provincial Governments reinstate home energy retrofit rebate and grant programs to help Brantford residents retrofit their homes to be more energy efficient and provide barrier-free options for switching to less carbon-intensive fuel sources to lower their utility bills and avoid the carbon tax; and
- C. THAT the Clerk BE DIRECTED to forward a copy of this resolution to The Federal Minister of the Environment and Climate Change, The Honourable Steven Guilbeault, The Provincial Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks, The Honourable Andrea Khanjin, The City of Brantford Member of Parliament, The Honourable Larry Brock, The City of Brantford Member of Provincial Parliament, The Honourable Will Bouma, and to each municipality in Ontario; and
- D. THAT the Mayor of the City of Brantford request that this resolution be added as an agenda item for consideration by the Ontario Big City's Mayor Caucus.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours truly,



Chris Gauthier
City Clerk, cgauthier@brantford.ca

cc Federal Minister of the Environment and Climate Change, Honourable Steven Guilbeault
Provincial Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks, Honourable Andrea Khanjin
All Ontario Municipalities

Thursday, April 4, 2024

Sent via email to: premier@ontario.ca; MinisterEnergy@ontario.ca;

The Honourable Doug Ford

Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

The Honourable Todd Smith

Minister of Energy
10th Floor, 77 Grenville Street
Toronto, ON M7A 2C1

RE: Guelph City Council Resolution to Support the Decision of the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) to End the Subsidization of Fossil Gas

Dear Premier Ford and Minister Smith,

Guelph City Council at its meeting held on March 26, 2024 passed the following resolution in support of the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) decision to revise the revenue horizon for calculating the upfront cost for new natural gas connections, and to end the Gas Pipeline Subsidy:

WHEREAS, residents are struggling with energy bill increases and need relief;

WHEREAS, natural gas is no longer the cheapest way to heat homes because electric heat pumps are now much more efficient, can provide all heating needs even in the cold climates, and result in far lower energy bills over the long term compared to gas heating;

WHEREAS, natural gas is methane gas, which is a fossil fuel that causes approximately one-third of Ontario's GHG emissions, and must be phased out because it is inconsistent with all climate targets, while heat pumps result in the lowest GHG emissions and are consistent with a zero-carbon future;

WHEREAS, the Ontario Energy Board ("OEB") decided to end a subsidy for methane gas pipelines to be built in new construction developments, effective 2025, finding that this would lower energy bills for existing gas customers and improve affordability for new homebuyers, but this decision is at risk of being overturned by the provincial government;

WHEREAS, the OEB decision will help lower energy bills and encourage heating systems that are consistent with climate targets and plans;

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1 Carden St
Guelph, ON
Canada
N1H 3A1

T 519-822-1260
TTY 519-826-9771

WHEREAS, the construction of new methane gas pipelines, which have 60-year lifetimes, should not be subsidized because they are inconsistent with the City's climate targets and will result in higher carbon emissions, higher energy bills, higher future decarbonization retrofit costs to get off fossil fuel heating, and a continued financial drain as dollars leave the province to pay for fossil fuels extracted in other jurisdictions;

WHEREAS, Guelph City Council acknowledged the climate crisis (May 2019), passed a resolution to support the phase-out of gas-fired energy plants by 2030 (December 2020); and passed a resolution of support to the United Nations Race to Zero commitment (December 2021);

WHEREAS, transforming our existing and new buildings by supporting actions that improve the energy efficiency and GHG profile within the City is a stated goal of our Community Energy Initiative (CEI), our Official Plan and our Strategic Plan;

WHEREAS, the City of Guelph is actively working to support the decarbonization of heating and cooling systems in existing and future building stock within the community, as demonstrated by the Guelph Green Homes Energy Retrofit Program, which will provide 0% interest loans to Guelph homeowners to enable them to transition away from fossil-fuel powered heating and cooling equipment to low carbon air or ground source heat pump systems.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

(a) That the City of Guelph expresses its support for the decision of the Ontario Energy Board to end the fossil gas infrastructure subsidy and requests that the Ontario Government withdraw Bill 165 and allow the OEB decision to stand; and

(b) That this resolution be circulated to the President of Association of Municipalities of Ontario, Colin Best; Premier of Ontario, Doug Ford; Minister of Energy, Todd Smith; Minister of Finance, Peter Bethlenfalvy, MPP Mike Schreiner, and all Ontario Municipalities requesting support for the proposed changes.

Sincerely,

Intergovernmental Services on behalf of Guelph City Council

Chief Administrative Office

Intergovernmental.relations@guelph.ca

City Hall, 1 Carden Street, Guelph ON N1H 3A1

519-822-1260 x5602



TTY: 519-826-9771

CC: The Honourable Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance;
Mike Schreiner, MPP;
Colin Best, President of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario;
All Ontario Municipalities



AMANDA FUSCO

Director of Legislated Services & City Clerk

Corporate Services Department

Kitchener City Hall, 2nd Floor

200 King Street West, P.O. Box 1118

Kitchener, ON N2G 4G7

Phone: 519.741.2200 x 7809 Fax: 519.741.2705

amanda.fusco@kitchener.ca

TTY: 519-741-2385

April 5, 2024

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

Dear Premier Ford:

This is to advise that City Council, at a meeting held on March 18, 2024, passed the following resolution regarding the Ontario Heritage Act:

"WHEREAS The More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022 (Bill 23) received Royal Assent on November 28, 2022. As part of this omnibus Bill, several changes were implemented to various pieces of legislation, including but not limited to, The Planning Act, The Development Charges Act, The Conservation Authorities Act, and The Ontario Heritage Act; and,

WHEREAS subsection 27(16) of the Ontario Heritage Act stipulates that any non-designated heritage property listed on the municipal heritage register of properties as of December 31, 2022 shall be removed from the municipal register on or before January 1, 2025, if the council of the municipality does not give a notice of intention to designate the property under subsection 29(1) of the Ontario Heritage Act on or before January 1, 2025; and,

WHEREAS since January 1, 2023, municipal heritage planning staff and members of the municipal heritage committee (Heritage Kitchener) in this municipality have been diligently working to: review the municipal heritage register; research the heritage value and interest of listed (non-designated) properties; review and research the heritage value and interest of non-designated properties; contact owners of such properties; determine which properties should potentially be designated in accordance with the provisions of Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act; and take all required steps to designate such properties; and,

WHEREAS the above-noted work involving approximately 228 properties listed properties in this municipality is extremely time-consuming and cannot be completed by December 31, 2024 with the current resources available given other competing interests including reviewing and supporting new housing development proposals; and,

WHEREAS given the volume of work required, on February 7, 2023 the Kitchener Heritage Committee Work Plan 2022-2014 was endorsed with an objective of reviewing and designating only 80 properties by January 1, 2025 given the time constraint imposed; and,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Kitchener call on the Province to amend Subsection 27(16) of the Ontario Heritage Act to extend the above-noted deadline for five years from January 1, 2025 to January 1, 2030, and that a copy of this resolution be circulated to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, the Honourable Michael Ford, Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism, the Honorable Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance; and John Ecker, Chair, Ontario Heritage Trust. That is also be circulated to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, Provincial MPPs, Municipal councils across the province, the Architectural Conservatory of Ontario (ACO), as well as the Waterloo Region branch of the ACO.”

Yours truly,



A. Fusco
Director of Legislated Services & City Clerk

Cc: Honourable Michael Ford, Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism
Honourable Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance
John Ecker, Chair, Ontario Heritage Trust
Colin Best, President, Association of Municipalities Ontario
F. Leslie Thompson, President, Architectural Conservatory of Ontario (ACO)
Marg Rowell, President, Waterloo Branch of the Architectural Conservatory of Ontario
Ontario Members of Provincial Parliament
Ontario Municipalities



March 28, 2024

Via Email

Re: Support for the Province to Expand the Life Span of Fire Apparatus

The City of Owen Sound's Corporate Services Committee, at its meeting held on February 8, 2024, considered correspondence from the County of Prince Edward respecting support for the Province to expand the life span of fire apparatus, specifically pertaining to the replacement of fire trucks due to insurance requirements. As a result, Resolution No. 2024-46 CR-240208-008 was carried:

"THAT in consideration of correspondence provided for information purposes listed on the February 8th Corporate Services Committee agenda, the Corporate Services Committee recommends that City Council request that the Mayor send a letter in support of the Prince Edward County resolution to the 444 municipalities in Ontario, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), the Association of Municipalities Ontario (AMO), the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus (EOWC), Premier Doug Ford, Rick Byers, Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound MPP, the Honourable David Piccini, Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development, and Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing."

Owen Sound City Council at its meeting held on February 26, 2024, considered the [minutes](#) of the Corporate Services Committee meeting held on February 8, 2024, and passed Resolution No. R-240226-014:

"THAT the minutes of the Corporate Services Committee meeting held on February 8, 2024 be received and the recommendations contained therein be approved."

A safe, reliable, and diverse fleet of fire apparatus is required to serve the operational needs of all our communities.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Ian C. Boddy
Mayor

cc: 444 Municipalities in Ontario
Owen Sound City Council
Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus (EOWC)
Premier Doug Ford
Rick Byers, Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound MPP
The Honourable David Piccini, Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training &
Skills Development
Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Bonnie Crombie, Leader of the Ontario Liberal Party
Marit Stiles, Leader of the Ontario New Democratic Party
Mike Schreiner, Leader of the Ontario Green Party



April 11, 2024

Hon. Paul Calandra
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
via Email:
minister.mah@ontario.ca

Re: Jurisdiction of Ontario's Ombudsman

The following resolution, adopted by City Council at their meeting on April 8, 2024, is forwarded for your information and necessary action.

That Council approve the recommendations outlined in [Report LSOCS24-005](#), dated April 2, 2024 of the Commissioner, Legislative Services, as follows:

- a) That the Honourable Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, be requested to introduce a Bill to amend the Ombudsman Act to require the Ontario Ombudsman to provide to each municipality, if requested by the municipality, sufficient particulars of each investigation, matter or case respecting the municipality that is referred to in each of the Ombudsman's Annual Reports to permit the municipality to fully understand and address the subject matter of each such investigation, matter or case including:
 - i) a copy of each complaint, as applicable, redacted only to the extent of individuals' personal information contained therein;
 - ii) the identities of the municipality's employees, officers and members of Council with whom the Ombudsman was consulting in respect of the investigation, matter or case; and
 - iii) particulars of the outcome of the investigation, matter or case including the Ombudsman's findings, conclusions and recommendations, if any.
- b) That the City Clerk forward Council's resolutions resulting from Council's approval of these recommendations to Minister Calandra, MPP David Smith, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and to the municipal Clerks of Ontario's municipalities.

Sincerely,

J. Kennedy

John Kennedy, City Clerk

cc: David Smith, MPP
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
All Ontario Municipalities



PORT COLBORNE

Legislative Services

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

T 905.228.8031 F 905.834.5746

E saima.tufail@portcolborne.ca

March 20, 2024

Via email: todd.mccarthy@pc.ola.org

Hon. Todd McCarthy
Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery
777 Bay Street, 5th Floor
Toronto, ON M5B 2H7

Dear Honourable Todd McCarthy:

Re: Cemetery Transfer/Abandonment Administration & Management Support

Please be advised that, at its meeting of January 23, 2024 the Council of The Corporation of the City of Port Colborne resolved as follows:

That the correspondence item received from the Township of Clearview regarding Cemetery Transfer/Abandonment Administration & Management Support be supported.

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

Sincerely,

S. Tufail

Saima Tufail
Acting City Clerk

cc. Jim Cassimatis, BAO Interim CEO/Registrar
MPP Brian Saunderson
MPP Jeff Burch
MPP Sam Oosterhoff
MPP Jennifer Stevens
MPP Wayne Gates
All Ontario Municipalities



Clerk's Department
Township of Clearview
Box 200, 217 Gideon Street
Stayner, Ontario L0M 1S0
clerks@clearview.ca | www.clearview.ca
Phone: 705-428-6230

December 12, 2023

File: C00.2023

Hon. Todd McCarthy
Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery
777 Bay Street, 5th Floor
Toronto ON M5B 2H7

Sent by Email

RE: Cemetery Transfer/Abandonment Administration & Management Support

Please be advised that Council of the Township of Clearview, at its meeting held on December 11, 2023, passed a resolution regarding Cemetery Transfer/Abandonment Administration & Management Support as follows:

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

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

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

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

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

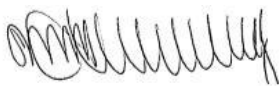
Now Therefore Be It Resolved that Council of the Township of Clearview requests that the Province through the Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery and the Bereavement Authority of Ontario (BAO) consider the following to assist municipalities in this growing concern of cemetery transfers:

- Amend the Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act, 2002 (FBCSA), to have the Province, through the BAO, identified as the default owner and operator of a cemetery when it is abandoned;
- Provide annual funding (based on the number of cemeteries a municipality owns and operates) to municipalities to assist with the maintenance of inactive and active cemeteries; Page 6 of 7
- Provide free training opportunities for municipalities regarding cemetery administration; and,
- Investigate and support the design of universal cemetery software for use by municipal cemetery operators that can be offered at an affordable cost.

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

For reference, please find attached the Staff Report LS-032-2023 that provides background for the above resolution. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Regards,



Sasha HelmKay-Playter, B.A., Dipl. M.A., AOMC
Clerk/Director of Legislative Services

cc: Jim Cassimatis, BAO Interim CEO/Registrar
MPP Simcoe Grey, Brian Saunderson
Ontario Municipalities

To: Mayor and Council

From: Sasha Helmkey, Clerk/Director of Legislative Services

Date: December 11, 2023

Subject: Report # LS-032-2023 – Cemetery Transfer/Abandonment Administration & Management Support

Recommendation

Be It Resolved that Council of the Township of Clearview hereby receives Report LS-032-2023 (Cemetery Transfer/Abandonment Administration & Management Support) dated December 11, 2023; and,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Background

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

Over the last decade there appears to be a trend where cemeteries in Ontario are being transferred, whether through abandonment or a mutually agreed upon transfer, to the care and control of municipalities. This is often seen when there is a breakdown in existing cemetery boards and/or when churches cease operations. For many existing private cemetery boards their board members and volunteers are aging and are unable to assist with the operations and maintenance of the cemetery any longer. Finding new members proves to be difficult for these boards to continue. In addition to aging board members, there are other issues that are contributing to the increase in cemetery transfers:

- high maintenance costs
- inaccuracy of records
- lack of financial and human resources to effectively operate and maintain the cemetery

- increased regulatory processes that require ongoing training for selling of interment rights, and the financial operation of the care and maintenance fund, etc.

Township Owned Cemeteries

The Township of Clearview currently owns and operates nine (9) cemeteries within its geographic boundaries. Out of these nine cemeteries, four (4) are considered active meaning that there are still interment rights to be sold, or burials to take place. Below is a chart outlining these cemeteries and their status:

Cemetery Name	Address	Status
Batteau Hill Cemetery	2670 County Road 124, Duntroon	Inactive
Bethel Union Cemetery	2249 Creemore Avenue, New Lowell	Inactive
Dunedin Union Cemetery	9 Turkeyroost Lane, Dunedin	Active
Duntroon Pioneer Cemetery	2870 County Road 124, Duntroon	Inactive
Lavender Cemetery	827103 Mulmur/Nottawasaga Townline, Creemore	Active
Old Zion Presbyterian Church Cemetery	6130 Highway 26, Sunnidale Corners	Inactive
Second Line Nottawasaga Cemetery	2279 County Road 42, Stayner	Active
Stayner Union Cemetery	7661 Highway 26, Stayner	Active
Zion Presbyterian Church Cemetery	12358 County Road 10, Sunnidale Corners	Inactive

For the Dunedin and Stayner Union Cemetery, the Township looks after the maintenance and burials through a third-party contractor. The maintenance and burials for the Lavender Cemetery are conducted through the Board. For the Second Line Nottawasaga Cemetery all the interment rights have been sold, but there remains one burial to be completed. The cost to maintain an active cemetery is expensive. Although burial costs and the installation of markers, etc. are cost recovery through the purchaser, grounds maintenance is not.

Inactive cemeteries still require consistent grounds maintenance, which includes any monument restoration for health and safety, and record searches for the public register.

Comments and Analysis

When analyzing the number of cemeteries that Clearview Township currently owns and operates, maintenance and administration is a large undertaking. To add any additional cemeteries by way of transfer or abandonment will only compound the issues the Township is already facing. In the past year, the Township has been approached by two separate entities regarding possible cemetery transfers. When a board or cemetery transfers ownership to the municipality, the issues are transferred with it. Municipalities are not immune to the same concerns. It becomes a strain on municipal resources, financially, administratively, and operationally.

Administrative Impact

From an administrative perspective the management of four active cemeteries is both time consuming and complex. No interment is the same, and providing good customer service takes time especially for those making arrangements while also dealing with grief. Administrative tasks include but are not limited to: interment right sales and mapping, burial contracts and scheduling, monument placement, historical record searches, plot and monument staking, fees and charges review, family transfers of interment rights and annual reporting to the Bereavement Authority of Ontario (BAO).

- **Incomplete records**

Often the records accepted by the Township from a dissolved cemetery board or church are incomplete and disorganized. This is no fault of the previous board members, as they are also often operating with limited resources. However, it does make it difficult to manage the cemetery post-transfer when records are sparse. Understanding which plots are occupied and by who is critical to the sound management of a cemetery. Unfortunately, this is not made possible in all cases because of incomplete records. In addition, records received during a transfer usually are maintained under different records management standards and are often organized and named inconsistently. Adaptation to Township records keeping practices takes time.

- **Lack of human resources**

Cemetery management is a highly regulated professional field, with the responsibility of which is often placed on public sector employees who may have limited knowledge of cemeteries in general. With reduced resources within municipalities especially rural ones, the management of cemeteries often becomes a secondary responsibility to another position. There is also a lack of affordable training available for municipal employees who are required to abide by regulations set out by the FBCSA and the BAO.

- **Increased regulatory processes**

Annual reporting requirements of the BAO can be extensive and complex. This includes monitoring the number of interments, the transfers to the Care and Maintenance Fund (C&M), and how the C&M fund can be used. There are also regulations pertaining to maintaining a public register, how sales are to be conducted and strict guidelines on Cemetery By-law approvals, and expansions including the erection of columbaria structures.

- **Inconsistent cemetery regulations**

Cemeteries can have many different regulations related to plot size, number of burials allowed in a given plot, monument size, what types of flowers/shrubs are allowed to be installed near a headstone etc. The transfer of different cemeteries having inconsistent regulations can make it difficult to adapt management practices in order to maintain original cemetery operational standards.

Operational Impact

Similarly, from an operational perspective the grounds maintenance of cemeteries, whether active or inactive, is both time consuming and complex. A key issue when analyzing the maintenance component of cemetery management is the lack of financial resources to support the operation. Cemetery maintenance includes, but is not limited to: grass cutting (whipper snipping around monuments), tree and shrub maintenance, monument and corner stone maintenance, water pipe and washroom monitoring, and general upkeep of cemetery grounds (removal of debris, etc.).

- **High maintenance costs**

As with many services, there are rising costs to contend with. Municipalities have adopted different models to address the maintenance of such, with third party contractors being commonly used or it becomes the responsibility of an internal department such as Parks & Recreation. Regardless the model, the costs have increased significantly over the last decade with equipment purchases/upgrades, insurance requirements for third-party contractors, and the time it takes to cut the grass and whipper snip around monuments. To put it into perspective, the Stayner Union Cemetery with the expansion is 25 acres with monuments to manoeuvre around during ground care. Other considerations for maintenance includes monument restoration and ensuring that they are not deteriorated to the point where they are unsafe. This is important for older cemeteries where restoration hasn't been provided in the past and there are many deteriorating monuments.

- **Cost of cemetery management software**

Cemetery Management Software can help municipalities manage cemetery records, including plot sale contracts, interment rights certificates, and regulatory reporting.

However, these software solutions are often expensive and require a large amount of staff time to implement especially with incomplete data and records. These software solutions range in price from \$5,000 to \$100,000 with annual maintenance costs. This investment in software can be a large budget request and one that would need to be supported from taxation with the limited funds in cemetery general accounts.

- **Inadequate Care and Maintenance funds**

When the Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act, 2002 (FBCSA) was enacted, it stipulated that a care and maintenance fund for a cemetery shall be established. A cemetery operator is required to make contributions to the fund from the sale of in-ground graves, crypts, tombs, niches, scattering rights and monument installation. The contribution is prescribed under the FBCSA and differs dependant on the interment type. The idea is that the fund (income earned from the fund - interest) pays for maintenance costs after a cemetery has stopped making sales. In reality, this concept does not produce enough funds to maintain a cemetery. Looking at the Stayner Union Cemetery as an example, for the very basics (grass cutting and whipper snipping) the interest from the care and maintenance fund does not provide enough monies to maintain the cemetery for the 7 months it's required. In addition, the care and maintenance fund is also to be utilized for the stabilization, maintenance and security of markers. Cemeteries are not self funding, and maintenance of such is becoming a larger budget concern.

Support Request

Cemetery transfers and abandonments have been an ongoing concern for Clearview Township for many years. When you look at the large geography of the Township there are many cemeteries within the boundaries that have the potential to be transferred. To gauge the concern of other municipalities on this issue, staff addressed it at a Simcoe County Clerks group discussion. Many neighbouring municipalities expressed that they were dealing with the same issues and have also been approached by different external entities on possible transfers.

As result of the discussion, it was agreed that to assist with the real concerns with transfers and abandonments of cemeteries, it's vital that the Province provide assistance to adequately support this infrastructure. Support can be provided in many different forms, with staff making the following recommendations for the Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery and the BAO:

- Amend the Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act, 2002 (FBCSA), to have the Province, through the BAO, identified as the default owner and operator of a cemetery when it is abandoned;

- Provide annual funding (based on the number of cemeteries a municipality owns and operates) to municipalities to assist with the maintenance of inactive and active cemeteries;
- Provide free training opportunities for municipalities regarding cemetery administration; and,
- Investigate and support the design of universal cemetery software for use by municipal cemetery operators that can be offered at an affordable cost.

There is not one solution to solve all the issues, but at the very least it's important to identify the concerns and have open and real discussions at the provincial level on what support can be provided.

Clearview's Strategic Plan

The above initiative supports the following strategic pillars:

- Governance

Financial Implications

It is difficult to identify an exact dollar amount that can be attributed to a cemetery transfer/abandonment to the municipality. Every transfer is different and depends on a multitude of factors beginning with the cemetery status (active/inactive), acreage, care and maintenance fund (if any), maintenance of records, etc. What is being recommended by staff by way of support from the province is not meant to erase the costs entirely, but rather, to alleviate the financial burden in some capacity.

Report Appendices

Not applicable.

Approvals

Submitted by:	Sasha HelmKay, B.A., Dipl. M.A., AOMC, Clerk/Director of Legislative Services
Reviewed by:	Krista Pascoe, Deputy Clerk
Financial Implications Reviewed by:	Kelly McDonald, Treasurer
Approved by:	John Ferguson, CAO

15. Committee and Staff Reports

15.1 Minutes - Committee of the Whole Meeting CW#05-24 held April 3, 2024

15.1.10 Member Motion - Councillor Cilevitz - Extension of the Deadline for Listed Non-Designated Heritage Properties - (CW Item 12.1)

Moved by: Councillor Shiu
Seconded by: Councillor Cilevitz

Whereas, subsection 27(16) of the *Ontario Heritage Act* stipulates that any non-designated heritage property listed on the municipal register of properties as of December 31, 2022 shall be removed from the municipal register on or before January 1, 2025, if the council of the municipality does not give a notice of intention to designate the property under subsection 29(1) of the *Ontario Heritage Act* on or before January 1, 2025; and

Whereas, since January 1, 2023, municipal staff and members of the municipal heritage committee in the City of Richmond Hill have been working to review the municipal heritage register, research the heritage value and interest of listed (non-designated) properties, review and research the heritage value and interest of non-designated properties, determine which properties should potentially be designated in accordance with the provisions of Section 29 of the *Ontario Heritage Act*, and take all required steps to designate such properties; and

Whereas, the above-noted work involving 235 listed properties in the City of Richmond Hill is extremely time-consuming and cannot be completed by December 31, 2024.

Now therefore be it resolved,

That Council for the City of Richmond Hill requests the Government of Ontario to amend Subsection 27(16) of the *Ontario Heritage Act* to extend the above-noted deadline for five years from January 1, 2025 to January 1, 2030; and



That the Clerk be directed to send a copy of this Resolution to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of the Province of Ontario; the Honourable Michael Ford, Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism; Richmond Hill MPP Daisy Wai; Aurora - Oak Ridges - Richmond Hill MPP Michael Parsa; AMO; and all Ontario municipalities.

Carried Unanimously



April 11, 2024

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

Dear Sir:

Re: Intimate Partner Violence and Coercive Control

Please be advised that at its April 8, 2024 City Council meeting, Sault Ste. Marie City Council passed the following resolution:

Whereas the jury that heard the Carol Culleton, Anastasia Kuzyk, and Nathalie Warmerdam inquest (The Renfrew County Inquest) issued 86 recommendations to prevent future deaths and delivered those recommendations to the Province of Ontario; and

Whereas recommendation #85 of the inquest is to include "coercive control", as defined in the *Divorce Act*, as a criminal offence or as a type of assault under section 265 of the *Criminal Code*; and

Whereas according to experts, a perpetrator has privileged access to information about the target by virtue of the closeness of an intimate relationship and, as such, is able to identify unique vulnerabilities that can be exploited for coercive control; and

Whereas Coordinating Community Responses to Domestic Violence cites scholars and advocates in the field have consistently described intimate partner violence as both an expression of, and an attempt to maintain, power and control over intimate partners; and

Whereas in 2019, according to the Government of Canada, of the 107,810 people aged 15 and over who experienced intimate partner violence 79% were women. 55% of women who experienced physical or sexual intimate partner violence feared a partner at some point. Being afraid of a partner can indicate intimate partner violence that is more coercive, more severe, and more likely to reflect a pattern of abusive behaviours; and

Whereas between 2014 and 2019 in Canada, there were 497 victims of intimate partner homicide, and 80% (400 victims) were women; and

Whereas while Indigenous women account for about 5% of all women in Canada, they accounted for 21% of women killed by an intimate partner between 2014 and 2019 (83 victims). In 2021, the rate of gender-related homicide of Indigenous women and girls was more than triple that of gender-related homicides of women and girls overall (1.72 versus 0.54 per 100,000 women and girls); and

Whereas the Government of Canada names coercive control as one of the acts included in intimate partner violence, but does not include coercive control as an offence contained within the *Criminal Code* of Canada* and

Whereas Bill C332, a private member's bill to amend the Criminal Code to create an offence of exercising coercive control of an intimate partner by engaging in a pattern of conduct that consists of any combination, or any repeated instances, of any of the following acts: using, attempting to use or threatening to use violence against certain persons, coercing or attempting to coerce the intimate partner to engage in sexual activity or engaging in other conduct that could reasonably be expected to cause the intimate partner to believe that their safety, or the safety of a person known to them, is threatened**

Now Therefore Be It Resolved that the Sault Ste. Marie City Council express its support for Bill C-332 as well as call on the Government of Canada to support Bill C-332 and enact the necessary amendments to the *Criminal Code* of Canada to include coercive control of an intimate partner; and

Further it be resolved that a copy of this motion be circulated to the Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada, the Honourable Dominic LeBlanc, Minister of Public Safety, the Honourable Patty Hajdu, Minister of Indigenous Services, the Honourable Mark Holland, Minister of Health, the Honourable Marci Ien, Minister for Women and Gender Equality and Youth, the Honourable Jenna Sudds, Minister of Families, Children and Social Development, the Honourable Arif Virani, Minister of Justice, City of Sault Ste Marie MP Terry Sheehan, MP Laurel Collins, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities, Federation of Canadian Municipalities, and all Ontario municipalities.

- * <https://women-gender-equality.canada.ca/en/gender-based-violence/intimate-partner-violence.html>
- ** <https://www.parl.ca/documentviewer/en/44-1/bill/C-332/second-reading>
- <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/85-002-x/2023001/article/00003-eng.htm>

Sincerely



Rachel Tyczinski
City Clerk

April 23, 2024

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

Sent via email: premier@ontario.ca

**Re: Provincial Regulations Needed to Restrict Keeping of Non-native ("exotic") Wild Animals
Our File 35.11.2**

Dear Premier Ford,

At its meeting held on April 8, 2024, St. Catharines City Council approved the following motion:

WHEREAS Ontario has more private non-native ("exotic") wild animal keepers, roadside zoos, mobile zoos, wildlife exhibits and other captive wildlife operations than any other province; and

WHEREAS the Province of Ontario has of yet not developed regulations to prohibit or restrict animal possession, breeding, or use of non-native ("exotic") wild animals in captivity; and

WHEREAS non-native ("exotic") wild animals can pose very serious human health and safety risks, and attacks causing human injury and death have occurred in the province; and

WHEREAS the keeping of non-native ("exotic") wild animals can cause poor animal welfare and suffering, and poses risks to local environments and wildlife; and

WHEREAS owners of non-native ("exotic") wild animals can move from one community to another even after their operations have been shut down due to animal welfare or public health and safety concerns; and

WHEREAS municipalities have struggled, often for months or years, to deal with non-native ("exotic") wild animal issues and have experienced substantive regulatory, administrative, enforcement and financial challenges; and

WHEREAS the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario (AMCTO) and the Municipal Law Enforcement Officers' Association (MLEOA) have indicated their support for World Animal Protection's campaign for provincial regulations of non-native ("exotic") wild animals and roadside zoos in letters to the Ontario Solicitor General and Ontario Minister for Natural Resources and Forestry;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of St. Catharines hereby petitions the provincial government to implement provincial regulations to restrict the possession, breeding, and use of non-native ("exotic") wild animals and license zoos in order to guarantee the fair and consistent application of policy throughout Ontario for the safety of Ontario's citizens and the non-native ("exotic") wild animal population; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution will be forwarded to all municipalities in Ontario for support, the Premier of Ontario, Ontario Solicitor General, Ontario Minister for Natural Resources and Forestry, MPP Jennie Stevens, MPP Sam Oosterhoff, MPP Jeff Burch, AMO, AMCTO, and MLEAO.

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



Kristen Sullivan, City Clerk
Legal and Clerks Services, Office of the City Clerk
:av

cc: The Honourable Michael S. Kerzner, Solicitor General
The Honourable Graydon Smith, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry
Local MPPs
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario (AMCTO)
Municipal Law Enforcement Officers' Association of Ontario (MLEAO)
All Municipalities of Ontario

April 3, 2024

Julie Kirkelos
Town Clerk
Town of Lincoln
4800 South Service Rd.
Beamsville, ON L0R 1B1

Sent via email: jkirkelos@lincoln.ca

**Re: Urgent Need for Increased Funding for Museums and Libraries
Our File 35.11.2**

Dear Ms. Kirkelos,

At its meeting held on March 18, 2024, St. Catharines City Council approved the following motion:

That Council endorse Sub-Item 2, Resolution from the Town of Lincoln regarding Urgent Need for Increased Funding for Libraries and Museums

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



Kristen Sullivan, City Clerk
Legal and Clerks Services, Office of the City Clerk
:sm

Encl. Resolution from the Town of Lincoln regarding Urgent Need for Increased Funding for Libraries and Museums



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

February 28, 2024

SENT VIA EMAIL: Premier@ontario.ca

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

Dear Honourable Doug Ford:

RE: Town of Lincoln Council Resolution – Urgent Need for Increased Funding to Libraries and Museums in Ontario

Please be advised that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Lincoln at its Council Meeting held on February 26, 2024, passed the following motion regarding an Urgent Need for Increased Funding to Libraries and Museums in Ontario:

Resolution No: RC-2024-23
Moved by Mayor Easton; Seconded by Councillor Mike Mikolic

WHEREAS the provincial funding for public libraries is currently based on population levels from 25 years ago, which fails to reflect the substantial growth and changing needs of our communities. The Town of Lincoln Council wishes to draw your attention to the "Overdue" report of 2023 from the Canadian Urban Council, which emphasizes the pivotal role libraries play in various aspects of community life, including knowledge distribution, culture, health, reconciliation, belonging, and our democracy; and

WHEREAS libraries, situated at the heart of our communities, serve as multifaceted institutions catering to diverse needs. They provide essential services such as access to culture and information, refuge for those experiencing domestic violence, election information centers, job search facilities, health clinics, language learning centers for newcomers, and spaces for educational and community events. Despite their vital role, public libraries in Ontario have not seen an increase in provincial funding for over 25 years, leading to a decrease in the value of the province's investment by over 60%; and

WHEREAS the Town of Lincoln Council urges the Provincial Government to

consider increasing provincial funding for Ontario's public libraries to address critical shared priorities and community needs. While over 90% of library funding comes from local municipal governments, provincial operating funding is crucial for providing stability to library budgets, especially in times of inflation, technological changes, and increasing demands on libraries as community hubs; and

WHEREAS the Town of Lincoln Council would like to bring to the Provincial Government's attention the pressing need to increase the funding envelope for the Community Museum Operating Grant (CMOG). The Town of Lincoln currently receives \$25,000 annually, the maximum amount through this grant, but the funding envelope has remained stagnant for over 15 years. This limitation hampers the ability of community museums to offset increasing operational expenses, impacting their role in preserving and promoting local stories, attracting cultural tourists, supplementing school curriculum, and contributing to vibrant and vital communities; and

WHEREAS the Lincoln Museum and Cultural Centre is a community hub critical to the health and vibrancy of our community. An increase in CMOG funding will enable our museum to continue its valuable service to the community, creating a sense of place, attracting cultural tourists, and preserving local stories that define our unique identity; and

WHEREAS Cultural institutions, particularly museums, play a vital role in shaping and preserving our community's identity. They contribute to tourism, social participation, senior well-being, skill-building, and learning. As the largest government funder for most of Ontario's smaller museums, municipalities create value in their communities through the work of these institutions.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Town of Lincoln Council urges the Provincial Government to support increasing funding to both public libraries and community museums. Recognizing these institutions as national assets and strategically investing in their potential will contribute significantly to renewing post-pandemic social cohesion, economic well-being, and community resilience; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this resolution be circulated to the Province, the Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport, Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the Niagara Region, the 12 Local Area Municipalities in Niagara and all municipalities of Ontario for endorsement.

CARRIED

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

Regards,



Julie Kirkelos

Town Clerk

jkirkelos@lincoln.ca

JK/dp

Cc: Premier of Ontario
Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
Ann-Marie Norio, Clerk, Niagara Region
Local Area Municipalities
All Ontario Municipalities

March 28, 2024

Please be advised that during the regular Council meeting of March 26, 2024 the following resolution regarding support for 'a call to action' to meet the deadline of an Accessible Ontario by 2025 was carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-151

DATE: March 26, 2024

MOVED BY: Councillor MacNaughton

SECONDED BY: Councillor Pennell

WHEREAS the Accessibility for Ontarians With Disabilities Act (AODA) is ground-breaking legislation, created to help people with disabilities fully participate in society, bring them to the table in crafting regulations, and build mechanisms to enforce standards;

WHEREAS Rich Donovan, an expert in accessibility issues, was appointed as the Independent Reviewer of the Act in 2022, and in his 2023 legislative review declared a crisis as a necessary catalyst to get Ontario back on track for accessibility;

WHEREAS at least 2.9 million Ontarians currently live with a disability, representing at least 22% of the consumer base and the workforce, but due to barriers, Ontarians with disabilities are too often falling short of their full potential;

WHEREAS the AODA aims to develop, implement and enforce standards related to goods, services, accommodation, employment and buildings before Jan. 1, 2025, and municipalities, as the level of government closest to the people are at the front lines, developing, implementing and enforcing these standards without meaningful guidance on its implementation and/or enforcement by the Province;

WHEREAS people with disabilities and advocates, including Prince Edward County's Accessibility Advisory Committee, note the slow pace of current and previous Ontario governments in implementing the AODA and there are growing concerns there will be no renewed push to keep accessibility issues at the forefront after 2025;

WHEREAS Prince Edward County is dedicated and committed to creating a welcoming environment so that all people may have equitable access to programs, goods, services and facilities, but making investments to achieve the AODA

standards has been challenging given the lack of consistent and stable funding for municipalities to remove accessibility barriers;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of Prince Edward County strongly encourages action on the part of the Provincial Government to urgently:

- a) create a "Municipal Accessibility Fund" for municipalities to develop, implement and enforce AODA standards related to goods, services, accommodation, employment and buildings. Such a fund could be modeled after the Canada Community-Building Fund or the Ontario Cannabis Legalization Implementation Fund on a per household basis;
- b) to commit to working with municipalities to implement the Donovan Review immediate crisis recommendations;

AND FURTHER THAT the Mayor write a letter in support of this resolution to the Minister of Seniors and Accessibility, and that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Seniors and Accessibility, the Minister of Children, Community, and Social Services, the Minister of Health, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, and the Eastern Ontario Wardens Caucus, and all Ontario Municipalities.

CARRIED

Yours truly,



Catalina Blumenberg, **CLERK**

cc: Mayor Steve Ferguson, Councillor MacNaughton, Councillor Pennell, and Marcia Wallace, CAO

April 11, 2024

Please be advised that during the regular Council meeting of April 9, 2024 the following resolution regarding seeking support for the Province to amend Ontario Regulation 39/121: Blue Box for 'ineligible' sources.

RESOLUTION NO. **2024-179**

DATE: **April 9, 2024**

MOVED BY: **Councillor Engelsdorfer**

SECONDED BY: **Councillor Braney**

WHEREAS under Ontario Regulation 391/21: Blue Box producers are fully accountable and financially responsible for their products and packaging once they reach their end of life and are disposed of, for 'eligible' sources only;

WHEREAS 'ineligible' sources which producers are not responsible for include businesses, places of worship, daycares, campgrounds, public-facing and internal areas of municipal-owned buildings, and not-for-profit organizations, such as shelters and food banks

WHEREAS should a municipality continue to provide services to the 'ineligible' sources, the municipality will be required to oversee the collection, transportation, and processing of the recycling, assuming 100% of the costs;

WHEREAS Prince Edward County has approximately 600 or more "non-eligible" sources that will not be provided service from the Producer Responsibility Organization after transition begins.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of Prince Edward County joins the Municipality of Chatham-Kent in their appeal to the Provincial Government to amend Ontario Regulation 391/21: Blue Box so that producers are responsible for the end-of-life management of recycling products from all sources;

AND FURTHER THAT this resolution be forwarded to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, the Honourable Andrea Khanjin, Minister of the Environment, Conservation, and Parks, Todd Smith, Bay of Quinte MPP, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, the

Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Eastern Ontario Wardens Caucus, Quinte Waste Solutions, and all Ontario Municipalities.

CARRIED

Yours truly,



Catalina Blumenberg, **CLERK**

cc: Mayor Steve Ferguson, Councillor Engelsdorfer, and Marcia Wallace, CAO



**TOWN OF BLIND RIVER
Council Meeting**

Agenda Number: 11.1.

Resolution Number 24-074

Title: February 16, 2024. County of Prince Edward, RE:
Review the Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support
Program Financial Assistance Rates

Date: March 4, 2024

MOVED BY: K. Whitlock

SECONDED BY: P. Summers

"WHEREAS poverty is taking a devastating toll on communities, undermining a healthy and prosperous Ontario, with people in receipt of Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Program being disproportionately impacted; AND WHEREAS the cost of food, housing, medicine, and other essential items have outpaced the highest inflation rates seen in a generation; AND WHEREAS people in need of social assistance have been legislated into poverty, housing insecurity, hunger, poorer health, their motives questioned, and their dignity undermined; AND WHEREAS Ontario Works (OW) Financial Assistance rates have been frozen since 2018 (\$733 per month); AND WHEREAS Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) benefit rates have been increased by 6.5 per cent as of July 2023 to keep up with inflation, however even with the increase, ODSP rates still fall below their value in 2018 (\$1,376 when adjusted for inflation) and significantly below the disability-adjusted poverty line (\$3,091 per month); AND WHEREAS OW and ODSP rates do not provide sufficient income for a basic standard of living and, as a result, hundreds of thousands of people across Ontario who rely on these programs live in poverty;

AND WHEREAS designated Service Managers are doing their part, but do not have the

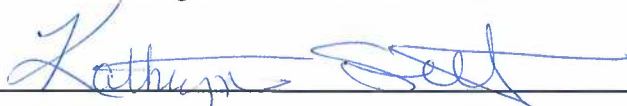
resources, capacity, or tools to provide the necessary income and health related supports to people experiencing poverty;

AND WHEREAS leadership and urgent action is needed from the Provincial Government to immediately develop, resource, and implement a comprehensive plan to address the rising levels of poverty in Ontario, in particular for those on Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Programs;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Town of Blind River joins Prince Edward County and the Town of Orangeville to call on the Provincial Government to urgently:

- a) At least double Ontario Works and ODSP rates and index rates to inflation, answering calls already made by "Raise the Rates" campaign and the "Income Security Advocacy Centre";
- b) Commit to ongoing cost of living increases above and beyond the rate of inflation to make up for the years they were frozen;
- c) Commit to jointly working between the Ministry of Children, Community, and Social Services and the Ministry of Health on the best methods of assessing client needs and then matching those in need to the services they require;

AND FURTHER THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to the Minister of Children, Community, and Social Services, the Minister of Health, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Ontario Municipal Social Services Association, Algoma District Services Administration Board, Prince Edward County and the Town of Orangeville." **CARRIED**



CAO/CLERK



Office of the Warden, C.A.O. & Clerk
Hastings County

235 Pinnacle St. Postal Bag 4400,
Belleville ON K8N 3A9

Tel: (613) 966-1311

Fax: (613) 966-2574

www.hastingscounty.com

April 17, 2024

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

Delivered via email

doug.fordco@pc.ola.org

premier@ontario.ca

RE: Hastings County Motion regarding sustainable infrastructure funding for small rural municipalities

Please be advised that Hastings County Council, at its meeting held on March 28, 2024, passed the following resolution:

WHEREAS Ontario's small rural municipalities face insurmountable challenges to fund both upfront investments and ongoing maintenance of their capital assets including roads and bridges and water wastewater and municipally owned buildings including recreational facilities and libraries;

WHEREAS in 2018, the Ontario government mandated all Ontario municipalities to develop capital asset management plans with the stipulation that they be considered in the development of the annual budget;

WHEREAS small rural municipalities (of 10,000 people or less) are facing monumental infrastructure deficits that cannot be adequately addressed through property tax revenue alone;

WHEREAS the only application approved through the recently awarded Housing Accelerator Fund to a small rural municipality was to Marathon Ontario, who received an allocation of \$1.9 million dollars while over \$1.369 billion going to Ontario's large urban centres, resulting in a 0.2% investment in rural Ontario;

WHEREAS the Ontario Government has committed \$9.1 billion to Toronto alone to assist with operating deficits and the repatriation of the Don Valley and Gardner Expressway;

WHEREAS small rural Ontario cannot keep pace with the capital investments required over the next 20 years unless both the Provincial and Federal Governments come forward with new sustainable infrastructure funding;

WHEREAS it is apparent that both the Federal and Ontario Governments have neglected to recognize the needs of small rural Ontario;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Hastings County call on the Ontario and Federal Government to implement sustainable infrastructure funding for small rural municipalities;

AND THAT small rural municipalities are not overlooked and disregarded on future applications for funding;

AND THAT both the Federal and Ontario Governments begin by acknowledging that there is an insurmountable debt facing small rural municipalities;

AND THAT both the Federal and Ontario Governments immediately commission a Working Group that includes a member of the Eastern Ontario Wardens Caucus, to develop a plan on how to deal with the impending debt dilemma;

AND FINALLY THAT this resolution be forwarded to The Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada, The Honourable Sean Fraser, Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities of Canada; Michel Tremblay Acting President and CEO, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation; The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario; The Honourable Kinga Surma, Ontario Minister of Infrastructure; The Honourable Paul Calandra, Ontario Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing; MP Shelby Kramp-Neuman, Hastings-Lennox Addington; MPP Ric Bresee Hastings-Lennox Addington, AMO, ROMA, FCM, Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus and all Municipalities in Ontario.

If you have any questions regarding the above motion, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Sincerely,



Cathy Bradley
Director of Legislative Services



Township of Horton
2253 Johnston Rd. Renfrew, ON K7V 3Z8
(o) 613-432-6272
(f) 613-432-7298
reception@hortontownship.ca

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY

Moved by: Councillor Campbell

Resolution No.: 2024-40

Seconded by: Councillor Humphries

April 2, 2024

WHEREAS current provincial-municipal fiscal arrangements are undermining Ontario's economic prosperity and quality of life;

AND WHEREAS nearly a third of municipal spending in Ontario is for services in areas of provincial responsibility and expenditures are outpacing provincial contributions by nearly \$4 billion a year;

AND WHEREAS municipal revenues, such as property taxes, do not grow with the economy or inflation;

AND WHEREAS unprecedented population and housing growth will require significant investments in municipal infrastructure;

AND WHEREAS municipalities are being asked to take on complex health and social challenges – like homelessness, supporting asylum seekers and addressing the mental health and addictions crises;

AND WHEREAS inflation, rising interest rates, and provincial policy decisions are sharply constraining municipal fiscal capacity;

AND WHEREAS property taxpayers – including people on fixed incomes and small businesses – can't afford to subsidize income redistribution programs for those most in need;

AND WHEREAS the province can, and should, invest more in the prosperity of communities;

AND WHEREAS municipalities and the provincial government have a strong history of collaboration;



Township of Horton

2253 Johnston Rd. Renfrew, ON K7V 3Z8

(o) 613-432-6272

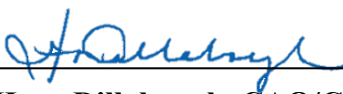
(f) 613-432-7298

reception@hortontownship.ca

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Township of Horton requests the Province of Ontario commit to undertaking with the Association of Municipalities of Ontario a comprehensive social and economic prosperity review to promote the stability and sustainability of municipal finances across Ontario;

AND FURTHER THAT a copy of this motion is sent to the Premier of Ontario, Doug Ford; the MPP, John Yakabuski; and all municipalities in Ontario.

X CARRIED



Hope Dillabough, CAO/Clerk

April 12, 2024

The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building
Queens Park
Toronto ON M7A 1A1

DELIVERED VIA EMAIL

Dear Premier Ford,

Re: Motion regarding Affordability of Water and Wastewater Rates

Please be advised that at its regular meeting of April 9, 2024, Loyalist Township Council passed the following resolution:

Resolution 2024-77

Moved by Councillor Willis
Seconded by Councillor Parks

WHEREAS a resolution passed by the County of Renfrew regarding the unaffordability of rural and small urban water and wastewater systems has been circulated to all municipalities in Ontario; and

WHEREAS due to the typical geography of rural Ontario, it is not unusual for smaller municipalities to be responsible for several treatment facilities; and

WHEREAS the costs associated with the operations, upkeep and upgrade of a number of treatment facilities and other infrastructure to meet provincial regulations in both environmental and financial planning capacities for smaller urban centers, which typically has a much lower population density per total kilometers of water and sewer as compared to larger municipalities, is a significant financial burden on system users for this essential necessity;



NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of Loyalist Township supports the County of Renfrew's request to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the Rural Ontario Municipalities Association (ROMA) and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) to examine if the unaffordability of water and wastewater system operational costs is systemic provincially and nationally;

AND THAT if the unaffordability is determined to be systemic, provincial and federal governments appropriately fund an assistance program for smaller municipalities with financial oversight of drinking water and wastewater systems;

AND THAT a copy of this resolution be circulated to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario; the Honourable Kinga Surma, Minister of Infrastructure; the Honourable Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Honourable Andrea Khanjin, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, Ric Bresee, MPP Hastings - Lennox & Addington; the Association of Municipalities of Ontario; the Rural Ontario Municipal Association; and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.

Motion carried.

Sincerely,

Anne Kantharajah
Township Clerk
akantharajah@loyalist.ca
613-386-7351 Ext. 121

cc: the Honourable Kinga Surma, Minister of Infrastructure
the Honourable Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
the Honourable Andrea Khanjin, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
Ric Bresee, MPP Hastings - Lennox & Addington;
Association of Municipalities of Ontario
Rural Ontario Municipal Association
Federation of Canadian Municipalities
Jim Hegadorn, Mayor, Loyalist Township
Rebecca Murphy, CAO, Loyalist Township
Councillor Willis, Loyalist Township
Councillor Parks, Loyalist Township

March 18, 2024

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

DELIVERED VIA EMAIL

Dear Premier Ford,

RE: Request to the Province to Amend Blue Box Regulation for 'Ineligible' Sources

At our regular meeting on March 12, 2024, the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Loyalist passed the following:

Resolution 2024-48

Moved by Councillor Willis
Seconded by Councillor Parks

WHEREAS under Ontario Regulation 391/21: Blue Box producers are fully accountable and financially responsible for their products and packaging once they reach their end of life and are disposed of, for 'eligible' sources only;

AND WHEREAS 'ineligible' sources which producers are not responsible for include businesses, places of worship, daycares, campgrounds, public-facing and internal areas of municipal-owned buildings, commercial farms and not-for-profit organizations, such as shelters and food banks;

AND WHEREAS should a municipality continue to provide services to the 'ineligible' sources, the municipality will be required to oversee the collection, transportation, and processing of the recycling, assuming 100% of the costs;

AND BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Loyalist hereby request that the province amend Ontario Regulation 391/21: Blue Box so that producers are responsible for the end-of-life management of recycling products from all sources;



AND THAT Council of The Corporation of Loyalist Township hereby request the support of all Ontario Municipalities;

AND FURTHER THAT this resolution be forwarded to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, the Honourable Andrea Khanjin, Minister of the Environment, Conservation, and Parks, the Honourable Ric Bresee, MPP Hastings – Lennox & Addington, and to all Ontario municipalities.

Your attention to this matter is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Anne Kantharajah".

Anne Kantharajah
Township Clerk

AK/ch

cc: Honourable Andrea Khanjin, Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks
Ric Bresee, MPP Hastings – Lennox & Addington
All Ontario Municipalities
Jim Hegadorn, Mayor, Loyalist Township
Rebecca Murphy, CAO, Loyalist Township
Councillor Willis, Loyalist Township
Councillor Parks, Loyalist Township

March 18, 2024

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

DELIVERED VIA EMAIL

Dear Premier Ford:

Re: Motion regarding solutions to resolve significant financial and budgetary pressures relating to infrastructure development, maintenance and repairs

Please be advised that at its regular meeting of March 12, 2024, Loyalist Township Council passed the following resolution:

Resolution 2024-49

Moved by Councillor Budarick
Seconded by Councillor Parks

WHEREAS the Province of Ontario has agreed to assume responsibility for the Gardiner Expressway and the Don Valley Parkway from the City of Toronto, which will be uploaded to the Province of Ontario;

AND WHEREAS like the City of Toronto, The Corporation of Loyalist Township and all municipalities in the Province of Ontario are experiencing significant financial and budgetary pressures including those related to infrastructure development, maintenance and repairs, and are seeking reasonable solutions to address the same while balancing their financial books;

AND WHEREAS the uploading of municipal highway infrastructure to the Province of Ontario or, alternatively, appropriately increasing the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund to Ontario municipalities will assist municipalities in addressing such financial challenges;

AND BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- a. The Province of Ontario:



- upload from local municipalities the responsibility of and costs associated with the continued construction, operation, and maintenance of major municipally-owned highways throughout the Province of Ontario to the Ontario Ministry of Transportation; or
 - alternatively, if uploading is not the preferred option of the Province and/or local municipality, to appropriately increase the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund to municipalities so as to fairly and equitably allocate resources to Ontario municipalities.
- b. A copy of this resolution be circulated the Honourable Prabmeet Singh Sarkaria, the Ontario Minister of Transportation; MPP Ric Bresee, Hastings, Lennox & Addington; the Association of Municipalities of Ontario; all municipalities in Ontario.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Anne Kantharajah".

Anne Kantharajah
Township Clerk

Cc: the Hon. Prabmeet Singh Sarkaria, the Ontario Minister of Transportation
Ric Bresee, M.P.P., Hastings, Lennox & Addington
Association of Municipalities
All municipalities in Ontario
Jim Hegadorn, Mayor, Loyalist Township
Rebecca Murphy, CAO, Loyalist Township
Councillor Budarick, Loyalist Township
Councillor Parks, Loyalist Township

**The Corporation of the Municipality of St. Charles
RESOLUTION PAGE**



Regular Meeting of Council

Agenda Number: 8.8.

Resolution Number 2024-076

Title: Resolution stemming from February 21, 2024 Regular Meeting of Council - Item 10.1 - Correspondence #27

Date: March 20, 2024

Moved by: Councillor Pothier

Seconded by: Councillor Loftus

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council for the Corporation of the Municipality of St.-Charles hereby supports the Resolution passed by the Corporation of the City of Sarnia on January 15, 2024; and the support resolution passed by the Corporation of the Town of Plympton-Wyoming on February 14, 2024, regarding Carbon Tax;

AND BE IF FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this Resolution be sent to Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau; Premier Doug Ford; the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO); our local Member of Parliament (MP); our local Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP); and all Ontario Municipalities.

CARRIED


MAYOR



The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau
Prime Minister of Canada
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2
Justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca
(sent via e-mail)

February 15th, 2024

Re: Carbon Tax

Please be advised that the Council of the Town of Plympton-Wyoming, at its meeting on February 14th, 2024, passed the following motion supporting the resolution from the City of Sarnia regarding Carbon Tax.

Motion #12

Moved by Councillor John van Klaveren

Seconded by Councillor Mike Vasey

That Council support correspondence item 'o' from the City of Sarnia regarding Carbon Tax.

Carried.

If you have any questions regarding the above motion, please do not hesitate to contact me by phone or email at eflynn@plympton-wyoming.ca.

Sincerely,

Ella Flynn
Executive Assistant – Deputy Clerk
Town of Plympton-Wyoming

Cc: All Ontario municipalities



**THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF SARNIA
City Clerk's Department**

255 Christina Street N. PO Box 3018
Sarnia ON Canada N7T 7N2
519-332-0330 (phone) 519-332-3995 (fax)
519-332-2664 (TTY)
www.sarnia.ca clerks@sarnia.ca

January 19, 2024

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau
Prime Minister of Canada
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2
Justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca

Dear Prime Minister:

Re: Carbon Tax

At its meeting held on January 15, 2024, Sarnia City Council adopted the following resolution:

Whereas the federal government recently increased the carbon tax in April 2023 and will almost triple it by 2030; and

Whereas the Parliamentary Budget officer has admitted that when fiscal and economic impacts of the federal fuel charge are considered that the vast majority of households will see a staggering loss; and

Whereas this tax flows through from producers to transporters to the grocery store floor for our citizens; and

Whereas this tax does very little to reduce pollution and emissions; and

Whereas two thirds of Canadians are approximately \$200 away or less from not being able to pay all their bills at the end of the month; and

Therefore, be it resolved that Sarnia City Council write a Letter to the Federal government (and copied to other Municipalities for their consideration) strongly urging them to cancel the carbon tax which is financially hurting our citizens at a time

when affordability concerns are at an all-time high to ease the financial and inflationary pressure on our Citizens.

Your consideration of this request is respectfully requested.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Amy Burkhart'.

Amy Burkhart
City Clerk

cc: All Ontario Municipalities

The Corporation of the Municipality of St. Charles
RESOLUTION PAGE



Regular Meeting of Council

Agenda Number: 8.6.

Resolution Number 2024-074

Title: Resolution stemming from February 21, 2024 Regular Meeting of Council - Item 10.1 - Correspondence #23

Date: March 20, 2024

Moved by: Councillor Laframboise

Seconded by: Councillor Pothier

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council for the Corporation of the Municipality of St.-Charles hereby supports the Resolution passed by the Corporation of the City of Cambridge on February 13, 2024, regarding catch and release justice;

AND BE IF FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this Resolution be sent to Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau; Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada, Arif Virani; Attorney General of Ontario, Doug Downey; Ontario Solicitor General, Michael Kerner; Premier Doug Ford; the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO); our local Member of Parliament (MP); our local Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP); and all Ontario Municipalities.

CARRIED


MAYOR

The Corporation of the City of Cambridge
Corporate Services Department
Clerk's Division
Tel: (519) 740-4680 ext. 4585
mantond@cambridge.ca

February 14, 2024

Re: Catch and Release

At its Council Meeting of February 13, 2024, the Council of the Corporation of the City of Cambridge passed the following Motion:

WHEREAS this council believes that the safety of our community and its protection from crime in all its forms is of utmost importance.

WHEREAS our taxpayer-funded judicial system exists to protect the public, who in return for their tax dollars are entitled to a system that works.

WHEREAS the number of charges laid for failure to comply with court orders – primarily failure to comply with the terms of a promise to appear, undertaking, recognizance, probation order, or peace bond – are steadily on the rise in the province of Ontario.

WHEREAS there has been a notable increase in the number of violent offences committed in the province of Ontario by individuals who are concurrently subject to release orders.

WHEREAS the Ontario justice system is backlogged, court systems under strain, and police and prosecutors overwhelmed by their caseloads.

WHEREAS we have seen a dramatic lowering of the threshold for release, resulting in violent, serious, or repeat offenders who should by rights have been reasonably detained in custody, released on supervision plans that are increasingly deficient.

WHEREAS the general sense among the criminal population is that breaching bail conditions will not result in much by way of consequence for the offender, as evidenced by a clear pattern province-wide of unjustifiable release, a pattern which is bound to continue given insufficient resources to conduct Crown bail reviews, surety bond estreatment hearings, and ensure the subsequent collection of surety bond funds after judgment.

WHEREAS a 'catch and release' system constitutes a failure of government to perform a core function of its existence, that being the protection of public safety and that this failure constitutes a clear and present danger to the public.

WHEREAS the current hard drug crisis has contributed to a desperate criminal element that is exacting a significant financial and emotional toll on communities across Canada including Cambridge.

WHEREAS our police services are being demoralized by expending precious time and resources having to manage the repeated arrests of these habitual criminal offenders within a system that limits their ability to effectively protect the public.


AND WHEREAS this ineffective follow-through by our judicial system unfairly erodes the public's trust in our police services, who consequently become the target of frustrated and angry residents who feel they are no longer being protected from crime.

AND WHEREAS the increasing erosion of public faith and trust in our judicial system ultimately brings the administration of justice in the province of Ontario into disrepute and leads to a growing feeling amongst residents that they are no longer protected by a system perceived to prioritize the rights and freedoms of the criminal over the rights and safety of themselves and their families.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Clerk for the City of Cambridge send a letter to the Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada, the Honourable Arif Virani, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada, Attorney General of Ontario Doug Downey, Ontario Solicitor General Michael Kerzner, the Honourable Doug Ford Premier of Ontario, MP Bryan May, MP Valerie Bradford, MPP Jess Dixon, MPP Bryan Riddell, Police Chief Mark Crowell, Waterloo Regional Police Service, all Ontario Police Associations and Police Departments, Ontario Provincial Police, all Ontario MPPs and MPs, and all municipalities throughout Ontario for their endorsement consideration, requesting additional funding in Ontario's legal system to support a meaningful resistance to the current "catch and release" practice, including hiring sufficient court staff, with a specific focus on additional assistant Crown Attorneys.

Should you have any questions related to the approved resolution, please contact me.

Yours Truly,



Danielle Manton
City Clerk

Cc: (via email)

Hon. Prime Minister Trudeau

Hon. Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada

Attorney General of Ontario

Ontario Solicitor General

Hon. Premier Ford

Ontario Police Associations

Ontario Police Departments

Ontario MPPs and MPs

All Ontario Municipalities

**The Corporation of the Municipality of St. Charles
RESOLUTION PAGE**



Regular Meeting of Council

Agenda Number: 8.7.

Resolution Number 2024-075

Title: Resolution stemming from February 21, 2024 Regular Meeting of Council - Item 10.1 - Correspondence #24

Date: March 20, 2024

Moved by: Councillor Pothier

Seconded by: Councillor Lachance

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council for the Corporation of the Municipality of St.-Charles hereby supports the Resolution passed by the Corporation of the Township of Coleman on November 20, 2023; and the support resolution passed by the Corporation of the Township of Lanark Highlands on January 23, 2024, regarding Conservation Officer reclassification;

AND BE IF FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this Resolution be sent to Premier Doug Ford; Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry, Graydon Smith; the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO); our local Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP); and all Ontario Municipalities.

CARRIED


MAYOR



February 14th, 2024

Premier's Office
Room 281
Legislative Building, Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

ATTENTION: Premier of Ontario

Dear Premier Ford:

RE: Resolution – Conservation Officer Reclassification

Please be advised that the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Lanark Highlands passed the following resolution at their regular meeting held January 23rd, 2024:

Moved by Councillor Roberts

Seconded by Councillor Summers

THAT, Council supports the resolution from Coleman Township regarding Conservation Officer Reclassification;

AND THAT, this resolution of support be circulated to the Premiere of Ontario, the Minister of Natural Resources Graydon Smith, local Members of Parliament and all Ontario Municipalities.

Resolved

Sincerely,

Amanda Noël,
Clerk/Acting CAO

Encls.

c.c. Minister of Natural Resources, Graydon Smith
Local MP's and MPP's
Association of Municipalities
All Ontario Municipalities

**Resolution
Regular Council Meeting**



Agenda Number: 9.4.
Resolution Number 23-371
Title: 23-R-49 Letter of Support - Conservation Officer Reclassification
Date: Monday, November 20, 2023

Seconded by: M. Lubbock

Moved by: S. Cote

WHEREAS Ontario has 196 field Conservation Officers including 6 canine handlers who provide protection to Municipalities Natural Resources and uphold public safety by enforcing hunting and firearm laws and investigate gruesome injuries and even deaths that result from hunting-related accidents; in addition, Conservation Officers are often First Responders and ensure public safety by facilitating evacuations and enforcing Emergency Area orders during forest fires during record breaking wildfires such as we witnessed this past summer; and

WHEREAS Conservation Officers perform comparable work to Police Officers and other Enforcement Officers within the province and are professional, armed Peace Officers trained to police standards and undergo the same training; and

WHEREAS Ontario Municipalities are required that their constituents are informed, and their interests are safeguarded and ensure they have access to outreach and natural resources compliance services; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Coleman does here by support the Ontario Conservation Officer's Association (OCA) in their efforts to have Conservation Officers in the Province of Ontario reclassified as Enforcement Officers and be compensated fairly; and

FURTHER request the support of all Ontario Municipalities; and

FURTHERMORE, THAT this resolution with a letter of support be forwarded to Ontario Premiere Doug Ford, the Minister of Natural Resources Graydon Smith, the Local Provincial Member of Parliament (MPP) John Vanthof, Temiskaming Municipal Association and the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities.

CARRIED

YES: 4

NO: 0

ABSENT: 0

S. Cote

M. Lubbock

P. Rieux

L. Perry

Certified True Copy

Christopher W. Oslund
CAO/Clerk - Treasurer

**The Corporation of the Municipality of St. Charles
RESOLUTION PAGE**



Regular Meeting of Council

Agenda Number: 8.2.

Resolution Number 2024-070

Title: Resolution stemming from February 21, 2024 Regular Meeting of Council - Item 10.1 - Correspondence #7, 28 and 30

Date: March 20, 2024

Moved by: Councillor Loftus

Seconded by: Councillor Lachance

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council for the Corporation of the Municipality of St.-Charles hereby supports the Resolution passed by the Corporation of the County of Prince Edward on January 16, 2024, and the support Resolutions passed by the Town of Plympton-Wyoming on February 14, 2024, and by the Township of McMurrich / Monteith on February 6, 2024, regarding expanding the life span of fire apparatus;

AND BE IF FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this Resolution be sent to Premier Doug Ford; Minister of Labour, Training, Immigration and Skilled Trades, David Piccini; Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Paul Calandra; the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO); our local Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP); and all Ontario Municipalities.

CARRIED


MAYOR

January 22, 2024

Please be advised that during the regular Council meeting of January 16, 2024 the following motion regarding support for the Province to expand the life span of fire apparatus, specifically pertaining to the replacement of fire trucks due to insurance requirements was carried:

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-46

DATE: January 16, 2024

MOVED BY: Councillor Nieman

SECONDED BY: Councillor Branderhorst

WHEREAS By-Law 3256-2013, being a By-Law to Establish, Maintain, and Operate a Fire Department established service level standards for the Corporation of the County of Prince Edward Fire Department;

AND WHEREAS apparatus and equipment are directly tied to the delivery of fire protection services authorized by Council in By-Law 3256-2013, and a safe, reliable and diverse fleet is required to serve operational needs;

AND WHEREAS fire Apparatus is governed by industry best practices, the application of law and recognized industry partners, including the Ontario Fire Service Section 21 Guidance Notes, National Fire Protection Association Standards, The Occupational Health and Safety Act, and Fire Underwriters Survey (FUS);

AND WHEREAS Fire Underwriters Survey (FUS) is a provider of data, underwriting, risk management and legal/regulatory services focusing on community fire-protection and fire prevention systems in Canada, establishing apparatus replacement schedules based on safety and risk mitigation practices;

AND WHEREAS on November 16, 2023, Council, received report FD-06-2023 regarding asset Management - Fire Apparatus Fleet Report and noted the budgetary pressures of meeting FUS replacement schedules;

AND WHEREAS no provincial funding is available for new fire trucks, yet, small and rural municipalities must meet the same standards set by FUS as larger municipalities for fire equipment, including additional pressure to move fire trucks out when they reach a specific age, even though they can still meet the safety regulations;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of Prince Edward County direct the Mayor to draft a letter to MPP Minister Todd Smith requesting a meeting to discuss the life span of fire apparatus, specifically pertaining to the replacement of fire trucks due to insurance requirements; and

THAT the Mayor draft a letter to FUS requesting the creation of a new community fire-protection and fire prevention insurance system that does not put all municipalities under the same umbrella, with distinct categories for rural and urban municipalities;

THAT this resolution be sent to Premier Doug Ford, the Honourable David Piccini, Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development, Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing requesting a response on this matter within 30 days of receipt; and

THAT this resolution be shared with all 444 municipalities in Ontario, The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), The Association of Municipalities Ontario (AMO), and The Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus (EOWC).

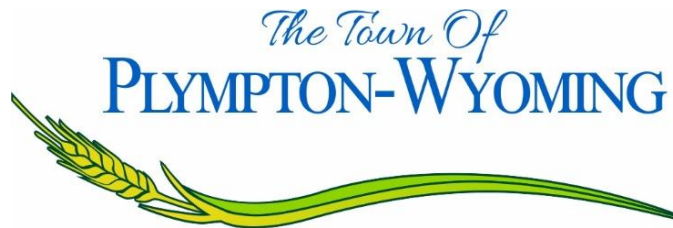
CARRIED

Yours truly,



Catalina Blumenberg, **CLERK**

cc: Mayor Steve Ferguson, Councillor Nieman, Councillor Branderhorst, Marcia Wallace, CAO and Fire Chief Chad Brown



The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
premier@ontario.ca
(sent via e-mail)

February 15th, 2024

Re: Expanding the Life of Fire Apparatus

Please be advised that the Council of the Town of Plympton-Wyoming, at its meeting on February 14th, 2024, passed the following motion supporting the resolution from Prince Edward County regarding Expanding the Life of Fire Apparatus.

Motion #11

Moved by Councillor Bob Woolvett

Seconded by Councillor Kristen Rodrigues

That Council support correspondence item 'r' from Prince Edward County regarding Expanding the Life of Fire Apparatus.

Carried.

If you have any questions regarding the above motion, please do not hesitate to contact me by phone or email at eflynn@plympton-wyoming.ca.

Sincerely,

Ella Flynn
Executive Assistant – Deputy Clerk
Town of Plympton-Wyoming

Cc: Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development – David Piccini
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing – Paul Calandra
Federation of Canadian Municipalities
Association of Municipalities of Ontario
The Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus
All Ontario Municipalities



TOWNSHIP OF McMURRICH / MONTEITH

District of Parry Sound
P.O. Box 70 31 William Street
Sprucedale, Ontario P0A 1Y0
Phone 705-685-7901 Fax 705-685-7393
www.mcmurrichmonteith.com E-Mail: clerk@mcmurrichmonteith.com

February 16, 2024

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

Re: Expanding the Life of Fire Apparatus

Please be advised that the Council of the Township of McMurrich/Monteith, at its meeting on February 6th, 2024, pass the following motion supporting the resolution from Prince Edward County regarding Expanding the Life of Fire Apparatus.

Resolution #2024-53

Moved by: Vicky Roeder-Martin

Seconded by: Terry Currie

Be It Resolved that Council supports resolution 2024-46 from the County of Prince Edward relating to a request to the Province to expand the life span of fire apparatus, specifically pertaining to the replacement of fire trucks due to insurance requirements. Carried

If you have any questions regarding the above resolution, please do not hesitate to contact me by phone or email at clerk@mcmurrichmonteith.com

Yours truly,

Cheryl Marshall
Clerk-Treasurer

cc. Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing – Paul Calandra
Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development – David Piccini
Federation of Canadian Municipalities
Association of Municipalities of Ontario
All Ontario Municipalities

**The Corporation of the Municipality of St. Charles
RESOLUTION PAGE**



Regular Meeting of Council

Agenda Number: 8.3.

Resolution Number 2024-071

Title: Resolution stemming from February 21, 2024 Regular Meeting of Council - Item 10.1 - Correspondence #8

Date: March 20, 2024

Moved by: Councillor Pothier

Seconded by: Councillor Laframboise

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council for the Corporation of the Municipality of St.-Charles hereby supports the Resolution passed by Public Health Sudbury & Districts on January 18, 2024, regarding household food insecurity;

AND BE IF FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this Resolution be sent to Premier Doug Ford; Minister of Children, Community and Social Services, Michael Parsaco; Minister of Finance, Peter Bethlenfalvy; Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Paul Calandra; Deputy Premier and Minister of Health, Sylvia Jones; the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO); our local Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP); and all Ontario Municipalities.

CARRIED


MAYOR

January 24, 2024

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

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

Dear Recipient:

Re: Household Food Insecurity

At its meeting on January 18, 2024, the Board of Health carried the following resolution #06-24:

WHEREAS food security is a chronic and worsening health issue as documented by annual local data on food affordability and as recognized by multiple Association of Local Public Health Agencies (ALPHA) resolutions: [A05-18](#) (Adequate Nutrition for Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Program), [A18-02](#) (Minimum Wage that is a Living Wage), [A15-04](#) (Basic Income Guarantee), and [A23-05](#) (Monitoring Food Affordability in Ontario and the Inadequacy of Social Assistance Rates)

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Health for Public Health Sudbury & Districts call on the provincial government to incorporate local food affordability findings in determining adequacy of social assistance rates to reflect the current costs of living and to index Ontario Works rates to inflation going forward; and

THAT in the context of the Public Health Strengthening roles and responsibilities deliberations, the Board of Health urge all health system partners to remain committed to population health assessment and surveillance as it relates to monitoring food environments and, specifically, to monitoring food affordability; and share this motion broadly with local and provincial stakeholders.

Sudbury

1300 rue Paris Street
Sudbury ON P3E 3A3
t: 705.522.9200
f: 705.522.5182

Elm Place

10 rue Elm Street
Unit / Unité 130
Sudbury ON P3C 5N3
t: 705.522.9200
f: 705.677.9611

Sudbury East / Sudbury-Est

1 rue King Street
Box / Boîte 58
St.-Charles ON P0M 2W0
t: 705.222.9201
f: 705.867.0474

Espanola

800 rue Centre Street
Unit / Unité 100 C
Espanola ON P5E 1J3
t: 705.222.9202
f: 705.869.5583

Île Manitoulin Island

6163 Highway / Route 542
Box / Boîte 87
Mindemoya ON P0P 1S0
t: 705.370.9200
f: 705.377.5580

Chapleau

34 rue Birch Street
Box / Boîte 485
Chapleau ON P0M 1K0
t: 705.860.9200
f: 705.864.0820

toll-free / sans frais

1.866.522.9200

phsd.ca



Letter
Re: Household Food Insecurity
January 24, 2024
Page 2

Household food insecurity is one of the strongest predictors of poor health, making it a serious public health issue (PROOF, 2023). Individuals who are food insecure are at higher risk of diet-related diseases like diabetes and are at higher risk for a wide range of chronic conditions such as depression and anxiety disorders, arthritis, and chronic pain. Household food insecurity leaves an indelible mark on children's health and well-being (PROOF, 2023). The experience of food insecurity in childhood is associated with mental health concerns throughout childhood and into early adulthood (PROOF, 2023). In Ontario, the healthcare costs of individuals who are the most food insecure can be more than double that of individuals who are food secure (PROOF, 2023, Tarasuk et al., 2015).

Thank you for your attention to this important issue – the solutions for which will not only help many Ontarians in need but also protect the sustainability of our critical health and social services resources.

Sincerely,



Penny Sutcliffe, MD, MHSc, FRCPC
Medical Officer of Health and Chief Executive Officer

cc: Honourable Michael Parsa, Minister of Children, Community and Social Services
Honourable Peter Bthlenfalvy, Ministry of Finance
Honourable Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Honourable Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health
France G linas, Member of Provincial Parliament, Nickel Belt
Jamie West, Member of Provincial Parliament, Sudbury
Michael Mantha, Member of Provincial Parliament, Algoma-Manitoulin
Dr. Kieran Moore, Chief Medical Officer of Health
Jacqueline Edwards and Jennifer Babin-Fenske, Co-chairs, Greater Sudbury Food Policy Council
Richard Lathwell, Local Food Manitoulin
Colleen Hill, Executive Director, Manitoulin Family Resources
All Ontario Boards of Health
Association of Local Public Health Agencies

Letter
Re: Household Food Insecurity
January 24, 2024
Page 2

PROOF (2023). What are the implications of food insecurity for health and health care? Identifying Policy Options to Reduce Household Food Insecurity in Canada. Retrieved from:
<https://proof.utoronto.ca/food-insecurity/what-are-the-implications-of-food-insecurity-for-health-andhealth-care/>

Tarasuk, V., Cheng, J., de Oliveira, C., Dachner, N., Gundersen, C., Kurdyak, P. (2015). Association between household food insecurity and annual healthcare costs. Canadian Medical Association Journal. 1 87 (14) E429-E436. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1503/cmaj.150234>

**The Corporation of the Municipality of St. Charles
RESOLUTION PAGE**



Regular Meeting of Council

Agenda Number: 8.5.

Resolution Number 2024-073

Title: Resolution stemming from February 21, 2024 Regular Meeting of Council - Item 10.1 - Correspondence #16

Date: March 20, 2024

Moved by: Councillor Lachance

Seconded by: Councillor Loftus

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council for the Corporation of the Municipality of St.-Charles hereby supports the Resolution passed by the Corporation of the Municipality of Calvin on January 30, 2024, regarding provincial and national fire fighting strategy;

AND BE IF FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this Resolution be sent to Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau; Minister of National Defence, Bill Blair; Premier Doug Ford; Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry, Graydon Smith; Minister of Economic Development, Vic Fidei; the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO); our local Member of Parliament (MP); our local Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP); and all Ontario Municipalities.

CARRIED


MAYOR



Corporation of the Municipality of Calvin

Council Resolution

Date: January 30, 2024

Resolution Number: 2024-31

Moved By: Councillor Moreton

Seconded By: Councillor Manson

Background: Before Calvin township became a township, it was burned by numerous forest fires. This was before the time of fire towers, water bombers, and municipal fire departments. A 1881 report from Lawrence Tallan, Provincial Land surveyor, states: *"The township of Calvin has been traversed by repeated and severe fires – so well have the flames done their work that with the exception of an insignificant portion, scarcely a vestige of the original timber remains."*

History has a way of repeating itself, and now rural municipalities and remote areas need more than ever to be prepared to respond to forest fires. Invasive pests like the emerald ash borer and the spruce bud worm are killing large numbers of trees, leaving copious amounts of dry kindling in our forests just waiting for a careless human or a lightning strike. Our forests are choked with deadfall and forest fires are becoming increasingly difficult to control. Add to this the effects of rising temperatures and drier seasons, or climate change, and we could be facing increasingly disastrous forest fires. This is not the time to be caught short with limited forest fire-fighting resources.

Jordan Omstead of the Canadian Press recently wrote: "But as Canada's water bombers age – and wildfire seasons are expected to intensify – some wildland

firefighters and emergency preparedness experts say the country needs to prop up its fleet of firefighting aircraft, even though several provinces are playing down concerns about capacity.” He quotes Eric Davidson, president of the Ontario Professional Association of Wildland Firefighters, “We’re really starting to see the effect of the aging fleet.”

The article further states the John Gradek, lecturer at McGill University estimates that almost half of the larger water bombers used to fight Canadian forest fires are nearing the end of their service life.

However, a Canadian company making a large skimmer-style water bomber is backed up with orders from European countries until the end of the decade.

Ontario has its own fleet of aircraft. They have 20 fixed-wing aircraft which includes 9 CL215 and CL415 water bombers that are 24 years old on average. The remaining 11 aircraft are an average of 54 years old. Melissa Candelaria, a spokesperson for Minister Graydon Smith says the MNR can handle Ontario fires with these aircraft, but Jennifer Kamau, communications manager for the Canada Interagency Forest Fire Centre, CIFFC, noted that other provinces contract out firebombers and last year there was a strain in Canada to get the resources to areas in need because there were so many fires across the country at the same time and very few aircraft available.

Peter Zimonjic of the CBC quoted the Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs (CAFC) President Ken McMullen, “It's not often that the fire chiefs sound the alarm. We are very concerned about this impending crisis that the summer of 2024 and beyond is going to bring our sector.”

In 2023 we all smelled the smoke and saw the sky turn brown. Buildings can be replaced, but lives cannot. And once an area is burned it takes more than a lifetime for it to return to its original state.

WHEREAS Forest fires are a very real threat to rural municipalities.

AND WHEREAS smoke from forest fires put people's health at risk. This is especially true of children and the elderly. The David Suzuki Foundation reports that wildfires kill many thousands of people per year and most of the deaths are from smoke inhalation.

AND WHEREAS forest fires are a very real danger to the climate and according to The Guardian, in 2023 they emitted three times as much carbon as the entire carbon footprint of Canada.

AND WHEREAS according to the John Crace interview in The Guardian with William Kurz, a retired scientist with Natural Resources Canada, around two billion tonnes of carbon have been released into the atmosphere from forest fires in 2023.

AND WHEREAS carbon emissions from forest fires are not counted against Canada's Paris agreement commitments, according to Kurz, but they far exceeded all of the emissions tied to Canada's economy (670 mega tonnes, or 0.67 billion tonnes, according to Environment and Climate Change Canada).

AND WHEREAS that standing healthy forest serves as a carbon sink, drawing in carbon, but once destroyed by fire, even though second growth takes its place, it is much less effective for many decades.

AND WHEREAS the federal government owns no water bombers and assists the provinces through the CIFFC, Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre, a spokesperson with CIFFC says that last year there were too many requests and not enough inventory to meet the needs of the country.

AND WHEREAS as reported by De Havilland Canada who manufacture the Canadian made water bomber, they have contracts with European countries for the next 22 of its new DHC-515 planes, which will take until 2029 or 2030 to complete and there will be very little production available to replace the aging water bombers in Ontario and the rest of Canada.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the council of the Corporation of Calvin Township urges and encourages the Federal Government to commit additional funds for cost sharing of provincial firefighting and to consider the development of a national strategy of firefighting. Furthermore, we urge the federal government to consider the measures necessary for acquiring a national fleet of Canadian-made waterbombers, with home bases strategically located to best serve and respond to the needs of rural communities, and a national fire administration to better coordinate and manage efforts across the country. We also encourage the introduction of a program similar to the Joint Emergency Preparedness Program (JEPP) which was ended in 2013.

And we encourage Minister Graydon Smith to step up the on-the-ground firefighting capability and water bomber acquisitions in Ontario.

AND THAT this resolution be forwarded to The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada, The Honourable Bill Blair, Minister of National Defence, The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, The Honourable Graydon Smith, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry of Ontario, The Honourable Vic Fideli, Minister of Economic Development Ontario, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FMC) and the Association of Municipalities Ontario (AMO).

AND THAT this resolution be shared with all 444 municipalities in Ontario for their consideration and adoption.

Results: Carried

Recorded Vote:

<u>Member of Council</u>	<u>In Favour</u>	<u>Opposed</u>
Mayor Gould	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Councillor Moreton	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Councillor Latimer	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Councillor Grant	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Councillor Manson	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**The Corporation of the Municipality of St. Charles
RESOLUTION PAGE**



Regular Meeting of Council

Agenda Number: 8.4.

Resolution Number 2024-072

Title: Resolution stemming from February 21, 2024 Regular Meeting of Council - Item 10.1 - Correspondence #10 and 20

Date: March 20, 2024

Moved by: Councillor Loftus

Seconded by: Councillor Pothier

WHEREAS current provincial - municipal fiscal arrangements are undermining Ontario's economic prosperity and quality of life;

AND WHEREAS nearly a third of municipal spending in Ontario is for services in areas of provincial responsibility and expenditures are outpacing provincial contributions by nearly \$4 Billion a year;

AND WHEREAS municipal revenues, such as property taxes, do not grow with the economy or inflation;

AND WHEREAS unprecedented population and housing growth will require significant investments in municipal infrastructure;

AND WHEREAS municipalities are being asked to take on complex health and social challenges – like homelessness, supporting asylum seekers and addressing the mental health and addictions crises;

AND WHEREAS inflation, rising interest rates, and provincial policy decisions are sharply constraining municipal fiscal capacity;

AND WHEREAS property taxpayers – including people on fixed incomes and small businesses – can not afford to subsidize income re-distribution programs for those most in need;

AND WHEREAS the province can, and should, invest more in the prosperity of communities;

AND WHEREAS municipalities and the provincial government have a strong history of collaboration; **BE**

IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the Corporation of the Municipality of St.-Charles requests that the Province of Ontario commit to undertaking with the Association of Municipalities of Ontario a comprehensive social and economic prosperity review to promote the stability and sustainability of municipal finances across Ontario;

AND BE IF FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this Resolution be sent to Premier Doug Ford; Minister of Finance, Peter Bethlenfalvy; Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Paul Calandra; the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO); the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM); our local Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP); and all Ontario Municipalities.

CARRIED


MAYOR

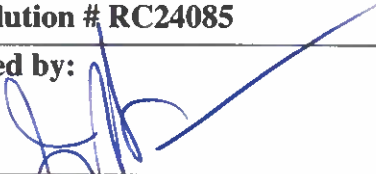
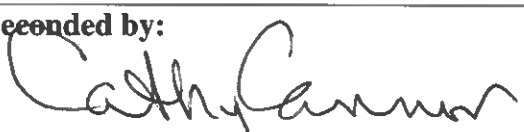


The Corporation of the Municipality of Wawa

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

RESOLUTION

Tuesday, April 16, 2024

Resolution # RC24085	Meeting Order: 8
Moved by: 	Seconded by: 

WHEREAS, municipal public works departments from across the Province of Ontario provide invaluable services to our communities ensuring the health and safety of all residents;

AND WHEREAS, if it was not for our municipal public works employees from across the Province of Ontario maintaining our public roads systems, our communities would not be able to function as emergency personnel could not respond to calls, school buses could not get our children to school, residents would not be able to get to work, school or appointments and many more basic functions would not be able to happen;

AND WHEREAS, municipal public works departments are already feeling the impacts of a labour shortage, which will only be exasperated over the next three to five years, which will cause levels of service municipalities are able to provide to ensure the health and safety of our residents to decrease;

AND WHEREAS, there is currently no provincial-wide course that properly trains potential municipal public works employees, specifically relating to municipal heavy equipment.

THEREFORE, IT BE RESOLVED, that the Municipality of Wawa supports the work of the Association of Ontario Road Supervisors to develop a Municipal Equipment Operator Course to address this issue;

AND FURTHERMORE THAT, the Municipality of Wawa calls on the Province of Ontario's Ministry of Labour, Training, Immigration and Skilled Trades to fully fund the Municipal Equipment Operator Course in 2024 through the Skills Development Fund;

p.2...



The Corporation of the Municipality of Wawa

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

RESOLUTION

AND FINALLY RESOLVED THAT, a copy of this resolution be sent to the Minister of Labour, Training, Immigration and Skilled Trades David Piccini, MPP John Yakabuski, the Association of Ontario Road Supervisors, and all Ontario Municipalities."

RESOLUTION RESULT		RECORDED VOTE	
<input type="checkbox"/> CARRIED		MAYOR AND COUNCIL	YES NO
<input type="checkbox"/> DEFEATED		Mitch Hatfield	
<input type="checkbox"/> TABLED		Cathy Cannon	
<input type="checkbox"/> RECORDED VOTE (SEE RIGHT)		Melanie Pilon	
<input type="checkbox"/> PECUNIARY INTEREST DECLARED		Jim Hoffmann	
<input type="checkbox"/> WITHDRAWN		Joseph Opato	

Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and the general nature thereof.

- ☐ Disclosed the pecuniary interest and general name thereof and abstained from the discussion, vote and influence.

Clerk: _____

MAYOR – MELANIE PILON	CLERK – MAURY O'NEILL

This document is available in alternate formats.



The Corporation of the Municipality of Wawa

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

RESOLUTION

Tuesday, March 19, 2024

Resolution # RC24067	Meeting Order: 10
Moved by: <i>Cathy Cannon</i>	Seconded by: <i>M Hatfield</i>

RESOLVED THAT Council of the Municipality of Wawa does hereby support the Resolution passed by the Municipality of St- Charles passed on February 21, 2024, regarding Guaranteed Livable Income attached hereto and;

FURTHERMORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT a copy of this Resolution be sent to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau; Premier Doug Ford; Minister of Children, Community and Social Service, Ryan Williams; the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO); our local Member of Parliament, Carol Hughes, our local Member of Provincial Parliament, Michael Mantha and all Ontario Municipalities.

RESOLUTION RESULT	RECORDED VOTE		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CARRIED	MAYOR AND COUNCIL	YES	NO
<input type="checkbox"/> DEFEATED	Mitch Hatfield		
<input type="checkbox"/> TABLED	Cathy Cannon		
<input type="checkbox"/> RECORDED VOTE (SEE RIGHT)	Melanie Pilon		
<input type="checkbox"/> PECUNIARY INTEREST DECLARED	Jim Hoffmann		
<input type="checkbox"/> WITHDRAWN	Joseph Opato		

Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and the general nature thereof.

- ☐ Disclosed the pecuniary interest and general name thereof and abstained from the discussion, vote and influence.

Clerk: _____

MAYOR – MELANIE PILON	CLERK – MAURU O'NEILL
<i>M. Pilon</i>	<i>Mauru O'Neill</i>

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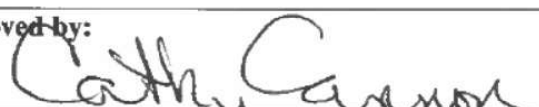
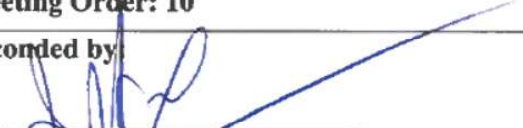


The Corporation of the Municipality of Wawa

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

RESOLUTION

Tuesday, April 16, 2024

Resolution # RC24087	Meeting Order: 10
Moved by: 	Seconded by: 

WHEREAS the Accessibility for Ontarians With Disabilities Act (AODA) is ground-breaking legislation, created to help people with disabilities fully participate in society, bring them to the table in crafting regulations, and build mechanisms to enforce standards;

AND WHEREAS Rich Donovan, an expert in accessibility issues, was appointed as the Independent Reviewer of the Act in 2022, and in his 2023 legislative review declared a crisis as a necessary catalyst to get Ontario back on track for accessibility;

AND WHEREAS at least 2.9 million Ontarians currently live with a disability, representing at least 22% of the consumer base and the workforce, but due to barriers, Ontarians with disabilities are too often falling short of their full potential;

AND WHEREAS the AODA aims to develop, implement and enforce standards related to goods, services, accommodation, employment and buildings before Jan. 1, 2025, and municipalities, as the level of government closest to the people are at the front lines, developing, implementing and enforcing these standards without meaningful guidance on its implementation and/or enforcement by the Province;

AND WHEREAS people with disabilities and advocates, note the slow pace of current and previous Ontario governments in implementing the AODA and there are growing concerns there will be no renewed push to keep accessibility issues at the forefront after 2025;

AND WHEREAS the Municipality of Wawa is dedicated and committed to creating a welcoming environment so that all people may have equitable access to programs, goods, services and facilities, but making investments to achieve the AODA standards has been challenging given the lack of consistent and stable funding for municipalities to remove accessibility barriers;

p.2...



The Corporation of the Municipality of Wawa

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

RESOLUTION

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Corporation of the Municipality of Wawa Council strongly encourages action on the part of the Provincial Government to urgently:

- a) create a "Municipal Accessibility Fund" for municipalities to develop, implement and enforce AODA standards related to goods, services, accommodation, employment and buildings. Such a fund could be modelled after the Canada Community-Building Fund or the Ontario Cannabis Legalization Implementation Fund on a per household basis;
- b) to commit to working with municipalities to implement the Donovan Review immediate crisis recommendations;

AND FURTHER THAT that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Minister of Seniors and Accessibility, the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Seniors and Accessibility, the Minister of Children, Community, and Social Services, the Minister of Health, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, and the Eastern Ontario Wardens Caucus, and all Ontario Municipalities.

RESOLUTION RESULT		RECORDED VOTE		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CARRIED	MAYOR AND COUNCIL	YES	NO
<input type="checkbox"/>	DEFEATED	Mitch Hatfield		
<input type="checkbox"/>	TABLED	Cathy Cannon		
<input type="checkbox"/>	RECORDED VOTE (SEE RIGHT)	Melanie Pilon		
<input type="checkbox"/>	PECUNIARY INTEREST DECLARED	Jim Hoffmann		
<input type="checkbox"/>	WITHDRAWN	Joseph Opat		

Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and the general nature thereof.

- ☐ Disclosed the pecuniary interest and general name thereof and abstained from the discussion, vote and influence.

Clerk: _____

MAYOR - MELANIE PILON	CLERK - MAURU O'NEILL

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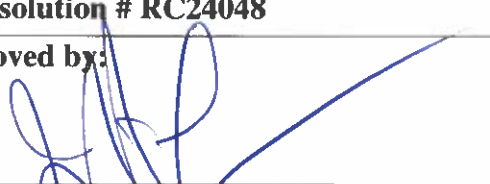



The Corporation of the Municipality of Wawa

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

RESOLUTION

Tuesday, March 5, 2024

Resolution # RC24048	Meeting Order: 9
Moved by: 	Seconded by: 

RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Municipality of Wawa, having considered the correspondence from the Town of Plympton-Wyoming and Township of Larder Lake regarding 'Support for amendment to the Occupational Health and Safety Act to Clarify the Definition of Employer', support this correspondence and attached motion from the City of Greater Sudbury; and

AND FURTHER, THAT that a copy of the resolution be sent to the Honourable Doug Ford Premier of Ontario, the Honorable David Piccini Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development, and the Honorable Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, and all Ontario Municipalities.

RESOLUTION RESULT	RECORDED VOTE	YES	NO
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CARRIED	MAYOR AND COUNCIL		
<input type="checkbox"/> DEFEATED	Mitch Hatfield		
<input type="checkbox"/> TABLED	Cathy Cannon		
<input type="checkbox"/> RECORDED VOTE (SEE RIGHT)	Melanie Pilon		
<input type="checkbox"/> PECUNIARY INTEREST DECLARED	Jim Hoffmann		
<input type="checkbox"/> WITHDRAWN	Joseph Opato		

Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and the general nature thereof.

- ☐ Disclosed the pecuniary interest and general name thereof and abstained from the discussion, vote and influence.

Clerk: _____

MAYOR – MELANIE PILON	CLERK – MAURY O'NEILL
	

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The Corporation of the Municipality of Wawa

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

RESOLUTION

Tuesday, March 19, 2024

Resolution # RC24069	Meeting Order: 12
Moved by: <i>M Hatfield</i>	Seconded by: <i>Cathy Cannon</i>

RESOLVED THAT Council of the Municipality of Wawa does hereby support the Resolution passed by the Township of Amaranth passed on February 23, 2024, regarding pausing advancement on proposed highway 413 and redirect the appropriate \$8 billion cost for Highway 413 to support municipal infrastructure costs and housing construction initiatives, a copy of which is attached hereto and;

FURTHERMORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT a copy of this Resolution be circulated to Premier Doug Ford, Minister of Infrastructure, Kinga Surma, Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), and all municipalities on Ontario.

RESOLUTION RESULT		RECORDED VOTE		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CARRIED	MAYOR AND COUNCIL	YES	NO
<input type="checkbox"/>	DEFEATED	Mitch Hatfield		
<input type="checkbox"/>	TABLED	Cathy Cannon		
<input type="checkbox"/>	RECORDED VOTE (SEE RIGHT)	Melanie Pilon		
<input type="checkbox"/>	PECUNIARY INTEREST DECLARED	Jim Hoffmann		
<input type="checkbox"/>	WITHDRAWN	Joseph Opato		

Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and the general nature thereof.

- ☐ Disclosed the pecuniary interest and general name thereof and abstained from the discussion, vote and influence.

Clerk: _____

MAYOR – MELANIE PILON	CLERK – MAURY O'NEILL
<i>M. Pilon</i>	<i>Maury O'Neill</i>

This document is available in alternate formats.

April 16, 2024

Conservation Authorities and
Natural Hazards Section
Ministry of Natural Resources and
Forestry – RPDPB
By E-mail: ca.office@ontario.ca

Matthew Rae
MPP for Perth-Wellington
By E-mail: matthew.rae@pc.ola.org

RE: Conservation Authorities Act

Please note that in response to the attached Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry's proposal "Regulation detailing new Minister's Permit and Review powers under the Conservation Authorities Act" on April 5, 2024, Council of the Municipality of West Perth at its Regular Council Meeting held on April 15, 2024, passed the following resolution:

RESOLUTION: 122/24

Moved By: Councillor Trentowsky

Seconded by: Councillor Duck

CARRIED

"That the Council for the Municipality of West Perth recommends to the province that any proposed changes contemplated by the province be put on hold until such time that the planning statement is finalized by the province and communicated to the municipalities and that this motion be circulated to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) All Ontario Municipalities for support."

If you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact the Clerk's Department.



Daniel Hobson
Manager of Legislative Services/Clerk
Municipality of West Perth

cc: Matthew Rae, MPP for Perth-Wellington
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
All Ontario Municipalities

Regulation detailing new Minister’s Permit and Review powers under the Conservation Authorities Act.

ERO.(Environmental Registry.of.Ontario) number	019-8320
Notice type	Regulation
Act	Conservation Authorities Act, R.S.O. 1990
Posted by	Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
Notice stage	Proposal
Proposal posted	April 5, 2024
Comment period	April 5, 2024 - May 6, 2024 (31 days) Open
Last updated	April 5, 2024

This consultation closes at 11:59 p.m. on:
May 6, 2024

Proposal summary

We are proposing a regulation specifying the circumstances under which the Minister may issue an order to prevent a conservation authority from making a permitting decision and make the permitting decision in the place of a conservation authority or may undertake a review of a conservation authority permitting decision.

Proposal details

Conservation authorities regulate development and other activities through a permitting process under the *Conservation Authorities Act* for the purposes of natural hazard management and to protect people and property from natural hazards, such as flooding and erosion. Each conservation authority implements the permitting framework based on provincial legislation, regulatory

requirements, and technical standards, as well as conservation authority board-approved policies that outline how the conservation authority administers regulations locally.

Recently proclaimed provisions in the *Conservation Authorities Act* and associated regulations came into effect on April 1, 2024, including new powers for the Minister to 1) issue an order to prevent a conservation authority from issuing a permit and to take over the permitting process in the place of a conservation authority, and 2) review a conservation authority permit decision at the request of the applicant.

The Ministry is proposing a regulation which would set out the circumstances under which these powers could be used. If the regulation is approved, public guidance would be made available on the criteria and processes outlined in the regulation.

1. **Permits issued by the Minister**

Existing requirements under the *Conservation Authorities Act* regarding permits issued by the Minister under section 28.1.1 include:

- The Minister may issue an order directing a conservation authority not to issue a permit to a specific individual to engage in a specified activity, or to persons who may wish to engage in a certain type or class of activity, that would be prohibited under section 28 without a permit.
- The Minister's decision to issue an order is discretionary, and it may be issued either before or after an application for a permit has been submitted to the relevant conservation authority.
- Notice of any order must be provided to affected conservation authorities, any person who applied for the permit in question prior to the order and be posted on the Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO (Environmental Registry of Ontario)) within 30-days.
- If an order made, the Minister has the power to issue a permit in place of the conservation authority. When making a permitting decision, the Minister is required to satisfy the same criteria concerning natural hazards and public safety that are considered by conservation authorities. This includes whether the activity is likely to affect the control of flooding, erosion, dynamic beaches or unstable soil or

bedrock. It also must consider whether the activity is likely to create conditions or circumstances that, in the event of a natural hazard, might jeopardize the health or safety of persons or result in the damage or destruction of property.

- The Minister may refuse the permit or issue a permit subject to such conditions as the Minister determines are appropriate.

Proposed additional requirements that would be set out in regulation include:

- The Minister may make an order to prevent a conservation authority from making a permitting decision and take over the permitting process only if the development activity or type or class of permits pertains to or supports a specified provincial interest, including:
 - Housing (community, affordable and market-based)
 - Community services (health, long-term care, education, recreation socio-cultural, security and safety, environment)
 - Transportation infrastructure
 - Buildings that facilitate economic development or employment
 - Mixed use developments
- If a proponent wishes to petition the Minister to issue an order, the proponent must submit a request to the Minister that would include information on:
 - Overview of proposed development.
 - Why the Minister's involvement is requested (e.g., development of provincial interest, timing/urgency; permitting process to date if applicable; other barriers) and preferable to the standard process in the *Conservation Authorities Act*.
 - Indication of whether the local municipality has endorsed the project and the request for Minister's involvement (e.g., by municipal letter or resolution).
 - Status of other required project approvals including the extent of any engagement with the conservation authority in the permitting process that the applicant has had to date.

2. Permits reviewed by the Minister

Existing requirements under the *Conservation Authorities Act* relating to requests for review under section 28.1.2 regarding permits where there is an order made by the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing under section 34.1 or 47 of the *Planning Act* and section 28.1 regarding all other conservation authority permits include:

- An applicant who has been refused a permit or had conditions attached to a permit by a conservation authority to which the applicant objects can, within 15-days of receiving reasons for the authority's decision, submit a request to the Minister for the Minister to review the authority's decision. Alternatively, an applicant also has the option to appeal the authority's decision to the Ontario Land Tribunal.
- After receiving a request, the Minister has 30-days in which to decide whether or not they intend to conduct a review. If the Minister decides to conduct the review, a notice shall be posted on the ERO (Environmental Registry of Ontario) within 30-days of a reply indicating the Minister intends to review the decision by the authority. If the Minister does not reply within 30-days of the request, this is deemed to indicate that the Minister does not intend to conduct a review.
- After conducting a review, the Minister may confirm or vary the authority's decision or make any decision that the Minister considers appropriate, including issuing the permit subject to conditions.
- The Minister is required to base the decision on same criteria concerning natural hazards and public safety that are considered by conservation authorities. This includes whether the activity is likely to affect the control of flooding, erosion, dynamic beaches or unstable soil or bedrock. It also must consider whether the activity is likely to create conditions or circumstances that, in the event of a natural hazard, might jeopardize the health or safety of persons or result in the damage or destruction of property.

Proposed additional requirements that would be set out in regulation include:

- The Minister may conduct a review of a conservation authority permit decision only if the development activity pertains to or supports a development of specified provincial interest, including:
 - Housing (community, affordable and market-based)

- Community services (health, long-term care, education, recreation socio-cultural, security and safety, environment)
- Transportation infrastructure
- Buildings that facilitate economic development or employment
- Mixed use developments

Note: This criteria would not apply to permit reviews under section 28.1.2 regarding permits where there is an order made by the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing under section 34.1 or 47 of the *Planning Act*.

- The request submitted to the Minister for a review would include information on:
 - Overview of proposed development.
 - If the request relates to conditions imposed by the conservation authority to which the applicant objects, identification of the specific conditions that are subject to the request for review, the changes requested to the conditions and the rationale in support of the requested changes.
 - If the request relates to an authority's decision to refuse a permit, the rationale in support of requesting that the Minister varies the decision and issues the permit.
 - Why the Minister's involvement is requested (e.g., development of provincial interest, timing/urgency; permitting process to date; other barriers) and preferable to alternative mechanisms in the *Conservation Authorities Act*.
 - Indication of whether the local municipality has endorsed the project and/or the request for Minister's involvement (e.g., by municipal letter or resolution).
 - Status of other required project approvals.

Regulatory impact analysis

By clearly communicating the circumstances under which the Minister would consider whether to issue an order to prevent a conservation authority from making a permitting decision and to make permitting decisions in place of a conservation authority or to review a conservation authority permitting decision, this proposal would ensure that development proponents pursue the appropriate permitting channel. Efficiently navigating the permitting process is

expected to help save proponents time and resources. We expect that there will be some minor administrative costs for development proponents based on the time needed to learn about and understand the proposed changes.

Supporting materials

Related links

Conservation Authorities Act

(<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/90c27#BK43>)

O. Reg. 41/24: Prohibited Activities, Exemptions and Permits

(<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/240041>)

View materials in person

Some supporting materials may not be available online. If this is the case, you can request to view the materials in person.

Get in touch with the office listed below to find out if materials are available.

MNRF - RPD PB - Resources Development Section

300 Water Street

2nd Floor South

Peterborough, ON

K9J 3C7

Canada

Comment

Let us know what you think of our proposal.

Have questions? Get in touch with the contact person below. Please include the ERO (Environmental Registry of Ontario) number for this notice in your email or letter to the contact.

[Read our commenting and privacy policies. \(/page/commenting-privacy\)](#)

Submit by mail

Conservation Authorities and
Natural Hazards Section

Ministry of Natural Resources and
Forestry - RPDPB

300 Water Street

2nd Floor South Tower

Peterborough, ON

K9J 3C7

Canada

Connect with
US

Contact

Conservation Authorities and
Natural Hazards Section



ca.office@ontario.ca



Northumberland County

Council Resolution

SENT VIA EMAIL

March 25, 2024

Hon. Doug Ford (Premier of Ontario)
Hon. Michael Parsa (Minister of Children, Community, and Social Services)
Hon. Paul Calandra (Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing)
Hon. Sylvia Jones (Minister of Health)
Hon. David Piccini (Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development and
MPP for Northumberland-Peterborough South)
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
Ontario Municipal Social Services Association
Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus
All Ontario Municipalities

**Re: Northumberland County Resolution – County of Prince Edward ‘Review of
Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Program Financial Assistance
Rates’**

At a meeting held on March 20, 2024 Northumberland County Council approved the following Council Resolution # 2024-03-20-190 adopting the below recommendation from the March 6, 2024 Social Services Committee meeting.

Moved by: Councillor Robert Crate

Seconded by: Councillor Scott Jibb

“That the Social Services Committee, having considered the correspondence from the County of Prince Edward regarding 'Review of Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Program Financial Assistance Rates', recommend that County Council support this correspondence and direct staff to send a copy of this resolution to the Honourable Doug Ford (Premier of Ontario), the Honourable Michael Parsa (Minister of Children, Community, and Social Services), the Honourable Paul Calandra (Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing), the Honourable Sylvia Jones (Minister of Health), the Honourable David Piccini (Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development and MPP for Northumberland-Peterborough South), the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Ontario Municipal Social Services Association, the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus, and all Ontario municipalities.”

"Council Resolution # 2024-03-20-190

Carried

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

Sincerely,
Maddison Mather



Manager of Legislative Services / Clerk
Northumberland County

Council Resolution

Moved By Crate

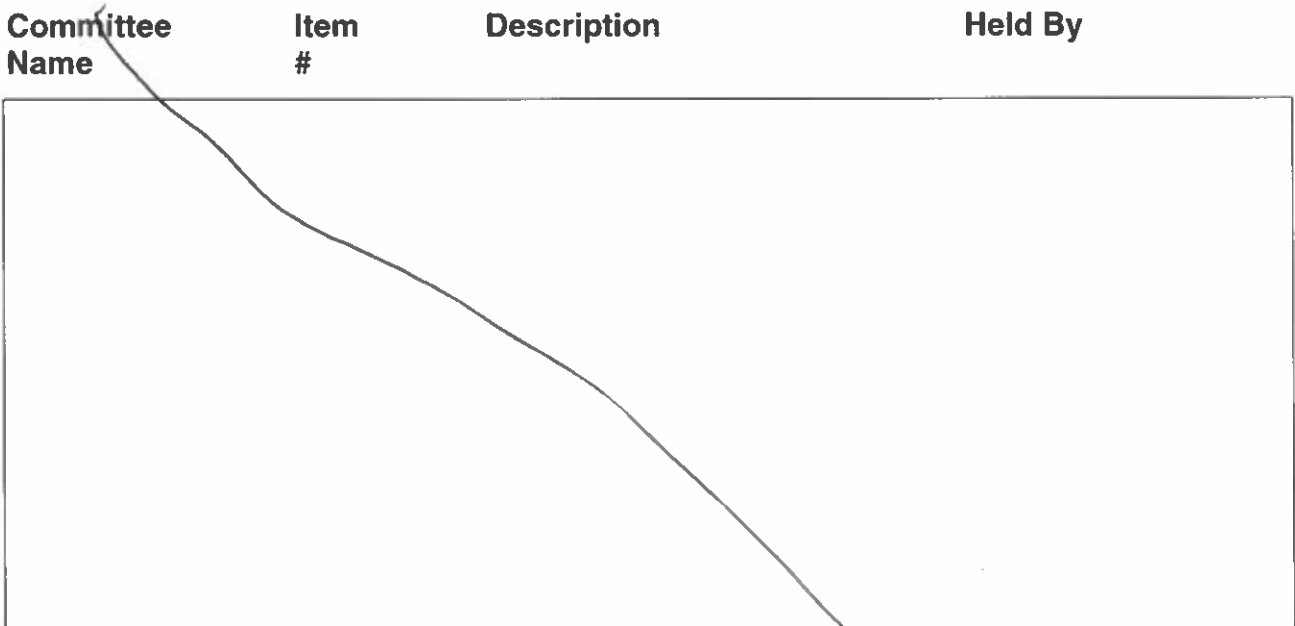
Seconded By Gibb

Agenda
Item 10

Resolution Number
2024-03-20- 110

Council Date: March 20, 2024

^{mm}
"That Council adopt all recommendations from the four Standing Committees, as contained within the Committee Minutes (meetings held March 5 and 6), ~~with the exception of the following items (referenced from the Standing Committee Minutes), that will be held for discussion:~~

Committee Name	Item #	Description	Held By
			

And Further That the items listed above and held for separate discussion each require a separate resolution."

Recorded Vote
Requested by _____
Councillor's Name

Deferred _____
Warden's Signature

Carried  _____
Warden's Signature

Defeated _____
Warden's Signature

Social Services Committee Resolution

Committee Meeting Date: March 6, 2024

Agenda Item: 7.a

Resolution Number: 2024-03-06- 159

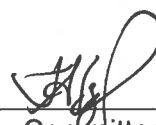
Moved by: O. Hankivsky

Seconded by: B. Ostrander

Council Meeting Date: March 20, 2024

"**That** the Social Services Committee, having considered the correspondence from the County of Prince Edward regarding 'Review of Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Program Financial Assistance Rates', recommend that County Council support this correspondence and direct staff to send a copy of this resolution to the Honourable Doug Ford (Premier of Ontario), the Honourable Michael Parsa (Minister of Children, Community, and Social Services), the Honorable Paul Calandra (Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing), the Honourable Sylvia Jones (Minister of Health), the Honorable David Piccini (Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development and MPP for Northumberland-Peterborough South), the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Ontario Municipal Social Services Association, the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus, and all Ontario municipalities."

Carried



Committee Chair's Signature

Defeated

Committee Chair's Signature

Deferred

Committee Chair's Signature

February 16, 2024

Please be advised that during the regular Council meeting of February 13, 2024 the following resolution regarding support for a review of the Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Program Financial Assistance Rates was carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-81

DATE: February 13, 2024

MOVED BY: Councillor Roberts

SECONDED BY: Councillor Hirsch

WHEREAS poverty is taking a devastating toll on communities, undermining a healthy and prosperous Ontario, with people in receipt of Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Program being disproportionately impacted;

WHEREAS the cost of food, housing, medicine, and other essential items have outpaced the highest inflation rates seen in a generation;

WHEREAS people in need of social assistance have been legislated into poverty, housing insecurity, hunger, poorer health, their motives questioned, and their dignity undermined;

WHEREAS Ontario Works (OW) Financial Assistance rates have been frozen since 2018 (\$733 per month);

WHEREAS Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) benefit rates have been increased by 6.5 per cent as of July 2023 to keep up with inflation, however even with the increase, ODSP rates still fall below their value in 2018 (\$1,376 when adjusted for inflation) and significantly below the disability-adjusted poverty line (\$3,091 per month)

WHEREAS OW and ODSP rates do not provide sufficient income for a basic standard of living and, as a result, hundreds of thousands of people across Ontario who rely on these programs live in poverty;

WHEREAS the poverty risk profile for Prince Edward County created by Vital Signs states that 10.1% - 13.5% of County residents are living on low income;

WHEREAS designated Service Managers are doing their part, but do not have the resources, capacity, or tools to provide the necessary income and health related supports to people experiencing poverty; and

WHEREAS leadership and urgent action is needed from the Provincial Government to immediately develop, resource, and implement a comprehensive plan to address the rising levels of poverty in Ontario, in particular for those on Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Programs;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of Prince Edward County joins the Town of Orangeville to calls on the Provincial Government to urgently:

- a) At least double Ontario Works and ODSP rates and index rates to inflation, answering calls already made by “Raise the Rates” campaign and the “Income Security Advocacy Centre”;
- b) Commit to ongoing cost of living increases above and beyond the rate of inflation to make up for the years they were frozen;
- c) Commit to jointly working between the Ministry of Children, Community, and Social Services and the Ministry of Health on the best methods of assessing client needs and then matching those in need to the services they require;

AND FURTHER THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to the Minister of Children, Community, and Social Services, the Minister of Health, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Ontario Municipal Social Services Association, Prince Edward Lennox and Addington Social Services, the Eastern Ontario Wardens Caucus, and all Ontario Municipalities.

CARRIED

Yours truly,



Catalina Blumenberg, **CLERK**

cc: Mayor Steve Ferguson, Councillor Roberts, Councillor Hirsch, and Marcia Wallace, CAO

From: [TVT Corporate Assistant](#)
To: [TVT Deputy Clerk](#)
Cc: [TVT Corporate Assistant](#)
Subject: Council Direction - Resolution in Support of the Expansion of the Life Span of Fire Apparatus
Date: Thursday, March 28, 2024 9:27:45 AM

Council Meeting – March 26th, 2024

i) **Resolution in Support of the Expansion of the Life Span of Fire Apparatus.**

RESOLUTION #C-2024-03-20

MOVED BY: Korrine Jordan

SECONDED BY: Andrew Kendrick

“WHEREAS, the Council of the Corporation of Tay Valley Township support Prince Edward County’s resolution regarding Expansion of the Life Span of Fire Apparatus;

AND WHEREAS, By-Law No. 2012-042, being a By-Law to Establish and Regulate the Fire Department (Drummond/North Elmsley Tay Valley Fire Rescue) established service level standards for the Drummond/North Elmsley Tay Valley Fire Rescue;

AND WHEREAS, apparatus and equipment are directly tied to the delivery of fire protection services authorized by Council in By-Law No. 2012-042, and a safe, reliable and diverse fleet is required to serve operations needs;

AND WHEREAS, fire Apparatus is governed by industry best practices, the application of law and recognized industry partners, including the Ontario Fire Service Section 21 Guidance Notes, National Fire Protection Association Standards, The Occupational Health and Safety Act, and Fire Underwriters Survey (FUS);

AND WHEREAS, Fire Underwriters Survey (FUS) is a provider of data, underwriting, risk management and legal/regulatory services focusing on community fire-protection and fire prevention systems in Canada, establishing apparatus replacement schedules based on safety and risk mitigation practices;

AND WHEREAS, no provincial funding is available for new fire trucks, yet, small and rural municipalities must meet the same standards set by FUS as larger municipalities for fire equipment, including additional pressure to move fire trucks out when they reach a specific age, even though they can still meet the safety regulations;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Reeve send a letter to FUS requesting the creation of a new community fire-protection and fire prevention insurance system that does not put all municipalities under the same umbrella, with distinct categories for rural and urban municipalities;

THAT, this resolution be sent to Premier Doug Ford, the Honourable David Piccini, Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development, Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing requesting a response on this matter within 30 days of receipt;

AND THAT, this resolution be shared with all 444 municipalities in Ontario, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FMC), the Association of Municipalities Ontario (AMO) and the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus (EOWC)."

ADOPTED

Brad Swayne
Administrative Assistant – Corporate

Tay Valley Township
217 Harper Road, Perth, ON K7H 3C6
T: 613-267-5353 ext. 110 or 1-800-810-0161
F: 613-264-8516
E: corporateassistant@tayvalleytp.ca
www.tayvalleytp.ca

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March 20, 2024

Hon. Paul Calandra
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Sent by email to: Paul.Calandra@pc.ola.org

Re: Operational Budget Funding

At its regular meeting of Council held on March 19, 2024, the Council of the Municipality of Powassan passed the following resolution:

Resolution #: 2024-93

Moved by: M. Wand **Seconded by:** R. Hall

That the council of the Municipality of Powassan supports the request of the Township of Amaranth calling upon the Province of Ontario to treat all municipalities fairly and provide equivalent representative operational budget funding amounts to all Ontario municipalities.

If you have any questions regarding the above, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



Allison Quinn
Clerk
Municipality of Powassan

Cc: Premier of Ontario; AMO; Ontario Municipalities



374028 6TH LINE • AMARANTH ON • L9W 0M6

March 12, 2024

Hon. Paul Calandra
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

Sent by email to: Paul.Calandra@pc.ola.org

Re: Operational Budget Funding

At its regular meeting of Council held on March 6, 2024, the Township of Amaranth Council passed the following resolution.

Resolution #: 4

Moved by: G Little

Seconded by: A. Stirk

Whereas all Ontario municipalities are prohibited from running budget deficits for operating purposes, and;

Whereas all Ontario municipalities have similar pressures with respect to aging infrastructure and operating costs for policing, and;

Whereas the City of Toronto has recently received Provincial funding to cover a \$1.2 billion dollar operating shortfall and approximately \$12 million in Federal and Provincial funding for their Police operating budget, and;

Whereas the City of Toronto has the lowest tax rates in the Province, approximately 40% less than the average Dufferin rural municipal tax rate.

Be it Resolved That the Township of Amaranth call on the Province of Ontario to treat all municipalities fairly and provide equivalent representative operational budget funding amounts to all Ontario municipalities.

CARRIED

Please do not hesitate to contact the office if you require any further information on this matter.

Yours truly,

Nicole Martin, Dipl. M.A.
CAO/Clerk
C: Premier of Ontario; AMO; Ontario Municipalities

March 14, 2024

Re: Item for Discussion – Resolution of Support Regarding Request to the Province of Ontario for New Provincial-Municipal Fiscal Framework

At its meeting of March 13, 2024, the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Bracebridge ratified motion #24-GC-053, regarding Resolution of Support Regarding Request to the Province of Ontario for New Provincial-Municipal Fiscal Framework, as follows:

“WHEREAS the current provincial-municipal fiscal arrangements are undermining Ontario’s economic prosperity and quality of life;

AND WHEREAS nearly a third of municipal spending in Ontario is for services in areas of provincial responsibility and expenditures are outpacing provincial contributions by nearly \$4 billion a year;

AND WHEREAS municipal revenues, such as property taxes, do not grow with the economy or inflation;

AND WHEREAS unprecedented population and housing growth will require significant investments in municipal infrastructure;

AND WHEREAS municipalities are being asked to take on complex health and social challenges – like homelessness, supporting asylum seekers and addressing the mental health and addictions crises;

AND WHEREAS inflation, rising interest rates, and provincial policy decisions are sharply constraining municipal fiscal capacity;

AND WHEREAS property taxpayers – including people on fixed incomes and small businesses – can’t afford to subsidize income re-distribution programs for those most in need;

AND WHEREAS the province can, and should, invest more in the prosperity of communities;

AND WHEREAS municipalities and the provincial government have a strong history of collaboration;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Town of Bracebridge calls on the Province of Ontario commit to undertaking, with the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, a comprehensive social and economic prosperity review to promote the stability and sustainability of municipal finances across Ontario;

1000 Taylor Court
Bracebridge, ON
P1L 1R6 Canada

telephone: (705) 645-5264
corporate services and finance fax: (705) 645-1262
public works fax: (705) 645-7525
planning & development fax: (705) 645-4209

AND FURTHER THAT a copy of this motion be sent to the Premier of Ontario; the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing; the Minister of Finance; the Local Member of Provincial Parliament; the Association of Municipalities of Ontario; the Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario (AMCTO); the Muskoka and Area Indigenous Leadership Table (MAILT); and all Ontario Municipalities.”

In accordance with Council's direction, I am forwarding you a copy of the resolution for your reference.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can provide any additional clarification in this regard.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. McDonald', written in a cursive style.

Lori McDonald
Director of Corporate Services/Clerk



The Corporation of the Town of Cobourg

Resolution

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

Town of Cobourg
55 King Street West,
Cobourg, ON, K9A 2M2
clerk@cobourg.ca
Town of Cobourg

Delivered via email
doug.fordco@pc.ola.org
premier@ontario.ca

April 8, 2024

RE: Correspondence from the Township of Perry regarding a Request to the Province to
Amend the Blue Box Regulation

Please be advised that the Town of Cobourg Council, at its meeting held on March 27, 2024, passed the following resolution:

THAT Council receive the correspondence from the Township of Perry regarding a Request to the Province to Amend the Blue Box Regulation for information purposes; and

FURTHER THAT Council support the recommendation of the Township of Perry and send a copy of the support letter to the Premier of Ontario, AMO and member municipalities.

Sincerely,

Kristina Lepik
Deputy Clerk/Manager, Legislative Services

Enclosure.

cc. AMO
All Ontario Municipalities



Township of Perry

PO Box 70, 1695 Emsdale Road, Emsdale, ON POA 1J0

PHONE: (705)636-5941

FAX: (705)636-5759

www.townshipofperry.ca

February 26, 2024

Via Email

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

Dear Premier Ford,

**RE: Request to the Province to Amend Blue Box Regulation for
'Ineligible' Sources**

At their last regular meeting on Wednesday February 21, 2024, the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Perry supported the following:

"Resolution #2024-52

Moved by: Paul Sowrey

Seconded by: Jim Cushman

Whereas under Ontario Regulation 391/21: Blue Box producers are fully accountable and financially responsible for their products and packaging once they reach their end of life and are disposed of, for 'eligible' sources only;

And Whereas 'ineligible' sources which producers are not responsible for include businesses, places of worship, daycares, campgrounds, public-facing and internal areas of municipal-owned buildings, and not-for-profit organizations, such as shelters and food banks;

And Whereas should a municipality continue to provide services to the 'ineligible' sources, the municipality will be required to oversee the collection, transportation, and processing of the recycling, assuming 100% of the costs;

Be it resolved that the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Perry hereby request that the province amend Ontario Regulation 391/21: Blue

...2

Box so that producers are responsible for the end-of-life management of recycling products from all sources;

And further that Council hereby request the support of all Ontario Municipalities;

And further that this resolution be forwarded to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, the Honourable Andrea Khanjin, Minister of the Environment, Conservation, and Parks, the Honourable Graydon Smith, MPP Parry Sound-Muskoka, and to all Ontario Municipalities.

Carried."

Your attention to this matter is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Bm', is positioned above the typed name of the signatory.

Beth Morton
Clerk-Administrator

BM/ec

c.c. Honourable Andrea Khanjin, Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks
Honourable Graydon Smith, MPP Parry Sound-Muskoka
All Ontario Municipalities



Legislative Services

March 19, 2024

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

Honourable and Dear Sir:

Re: Support Town of Lincoln Resolution - Request Provincial Government to Support Increasing Funding for Public Libraries and Community Museums

Please be advised the Municipal Council of the Town of Fort Erie at its meeting of March 18, 2024 received and supported correspondence from the Town of Lincoln dated February 28, 2024 requesting the Provincial Government to support increasing funding for Public Libraries and Community Museums.

Attached please find a copy of the Town of Lincoln correspondence dated February 28, 2024.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

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

Attach.

c.c. The Honourable Neil Lumsden, Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport neil.lumsden@pc.ola.org
The Association of Municipalities of Ontario amo@amo.on.ca
Local Area Municipalities
Niagara Region
All Ontario Municipalities



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

February 28, 2024

SENT VIA EMAIL: Premier@ontario.ca

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

Dear Honourable Doug Ford:

RE: Town of Lincoln Council Resolution – Urgent Need for Increased Funding to Libraries and Museums in Ontario

Please be advised that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Lincoln at its Council Meeting held on February 26, 2024, passed the following motion regarding an Urgent Need for Increased Funding to Libraries and Museums in Ontario:

Resolution No: RC-2024-23

Moved by Mayor Easton; Seconded by Councillor Mike Mikolic

WHEREAS the provincial funding for public libraries is currently based on population levels from 25 years ago, which fails to reflect the substantial growth and changing needs of our communities. The Town of Lincoln Council wishes to draw your attention to the "Overdue" report of 2023 from the Canadian Urban Council, which emphasizes the pivotal role libraries play in various aspects of community life, including knowledge distribution, culture, health, reconciliation, belonging, and our democracy; and

WHEREAS libraries, situated at the heart of our communities, serve as multifaceted institutions catering to diverse needs. They provide essential services such as access to culture and information, refuge for those experiencing domestic violence, election information centers, job search facilities, health clinics, language learning centers for newcomers, and spaces for educational and community events. Despite their vital role, public libraries in Ontario have not seen an increase in provincial funding for over 25 years, leading to a decrease in the value of the province's investment by over 60%; and

WHEREAS the Town of Lincoln Council urges the Provincial Government to

consider increasing provincial funding for Ontario's public libraries to address critical shared priorities and community needs. While over 90% of library funding comes from local municipal governments, provincial operating funding is crucial for providing stability to library budgets, especially in times of inflation, technological changes, and increasing demands on libraries as community hubs; and

WHEREAS the Town of Lincoln Council would like to bring to the Provincial Government's attention the pressing need to increase the funding envelope for the Community Museum Operating Grant (CMOG). The Town of Lincoln currently receives \$25,000 annually, the maximum amount through this grant, but the funding envelope has remained stagnant for over 15 years. This limitation hampers the ability of community museums to offset increasing operational expenses, impacting their role in preserving and promoting local stories, attracting cultural tourists, supplementing school curriculum, and contributing to vibrant and vital communities; and

WHEREAS the Lincoln Museum and Cultural Centre is a community hub critical to the health and vibrancy of our community. An increase in CMOG funding will enable our museum to continue its valuable service to the community, creating a sense of place, attracting cultural tourists, and preserving local stories that define our unique identity; and

WHEREAS Cultural institutions, particularly museums, play a vital role in shaping and preserving our community's identity. They contribute to tourism, social participation, senior well-being, skill-building, and learning. As the largest government funder for most of Ontario's smaller museums, municipalities create value in their communities through the work of these institutions.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Town of Lincoln Council urges the Provincial Government to support increasing funding to both public libraries and community museums. Recognizing these institutions as national assets and strategically investing in their potential will contribute significantly to renewing post-pandemic social cohesion, economic well-being, and community resilience; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this resolution be circulated to the Province, the Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport, Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the Niagara Region, the 12 Local Area Municipalities in Niagara and all municipalities of Ontario for endorsement.

CARRIED

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

Regards,



Julie Kirkelos
Town Clerk
jkirkelos@lincoln.ca

JK/dp

Cc: Premier of Ontario
Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
Ann-Marie Norio, Clerk, Niagara Region
Local Area Municipalities
All Ontario Municipalities



Office of the Mayor

WAYNE H. REDEKOP

March 22, 2024

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

The Honourable Michael D. Ford
Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism
14th floor, 56 Wellesley Street
Toronto, ON M7A 2E7
Michael.Ford@pc.ola.org

Honourable and Dear Sirs:

**Re: Architectural Conservancy Ontario - Request Provincial Government to Amend
Deadline of Subsection 27(16), Ontario Heritage Act**

Please be advised the Municipal Council of the Town of Fort Erie at its meeting of March 18, 2024 received and supported correspondence from the Architectural Conservancy Ontario dated February 8, 2024 requesting the Provincial Government to amend Subsection 27(16) of the Ontario Heritage Act by extending the deadline for five years, from January 1, 2025 to January 1, 2030, and passed the following resolution:

Whereas subsection 27(16) of the Ontario Heritage Act stipulates that any non-designated heritage property listed on the municipal register of properties as of December 31, 2022 shall be removed from the municipal register on or before January 1, 2025, if the council of the municipality does not give a notice of intention to designate the property under subsection 29(1) of the Ontario Heritage Act on or before January 1, 2025; and

Whereas since January 1, 2023, municipal staff and members of the municipal heritage committee in this municipality have been diligently working to: review the municipal heritage register; research the heritage value and interest of listed (non-designated) properties; review and research the heritage value and interest of non-designated properties; contact owners of such properties; determine which properties should potentially be designated in accordance with the provisions of Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act; and take all required steps to designate such properties; and

Whereas the above-noted work involving 34 listed properties in this municipality is extremely time-consuming and cannot be completed by December 31, 2024 with the limited municipal resources available;

.../2

Mailing Address:

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

Office Hours 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Phone: (905) 871-1600 FAX: (905) 871-4022

Web-site: www.forterie.ca

Now therefore be it resolved,

That Council authorize the Mayor to promptly send a letter to Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, and Michael Ford, Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism, requesting that Subsection 27(16) of the Ontario Heritage Act be amended to extend the above-noted deadline for five years from January 1, 2025 to January 1, 2030.

Attached please find a copy of the Architectural Conservancy Ontario correspondence dated February 8, 2024.

I know that you value the history and heritage of our province and the contributions made to our society of those who came before us. By preserving our architectural and built heritage, we honour those contributions and the historical foundations of our communities.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Yours very truly,



Wayne H. Redekop
Mayor

WHR:dlk
Attach.
c.c. All Ontario Municipalities

February 8, 2024



**ARCHITECTURAL
CONSERVANCY
ONTARIO**

Premier Ford,

Re: Looming expiry date for protection of heritage properties listed under the Ontario Heritage Act

We are writing to express our concerns with a key amendment to the *Ontario Heritage Act*; which your government passed in 2022. Under it, any heritage property listed on a municipal register as of December 31, 2022 shall be removed from the register on January 1, 2025, unless that council has given notice of its intention to designate the property under the Act. Properties that lose listing status cannot be re-listed for another five years.

This change affects some 36,000 listed heritage properties, according to the Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism, in over 100 municipalities across the province. These properties have only limited, short-term (60 day) protection. As ACO warned in December 2022, forcing municipalities to designate all listed properties within two years or drop them from the register was draconian and totally unrealistic. With the expiry date now less than one year away, municipalities, large and small, are scrambling to review their registers and prioritize properties for designation or other protection. The staff/financial cost in research alone is enormous.

Automatically removing listed properties from the registry in less than eleven months will encourage demolition of existing and affordable housing alternatives at a time when we need them the most.

ACO is asking that Subsection 27(16) of the *Ontario Heritage Act* be amended in the spring session of the Legislature, to extend the deadline in the Act for five years, from January 1, 2025 to January 1, 2030. This early certainty of an additional five years for implementation would give municipalities the opportunity to better plan, resource and undertake this complex exercise. The 2030 timeline would help municipalities ensure that properties are not "thrown off the list" prematurely and without input from property owners.

ACO believes that property owners should not be forced to choose between designation and nothing at all to recognize the heritage significance of their property. However, this is the choice your government has forced on them. At the very least, owners and municipalities should be given more time to make this choice, and given reasonable notice of this extension.

Diane Chin
President

401 Richmond Street West, Suite 206, Toronto, ON M5V 3A8

T 416.367.8075 TF 1.866.221.1420 F 416.367.8630 E info@acontario.ca

www.acontario.ca

The past. Our present. Your future.

RECEIVED

MAR 18 2024

BY COUNCIL

Monday, April 8, 2024

Michael de Rond
Clerk
Town of Aurora
100 John West, Box 1000
Aurora, Ontario
L4G 6J1

SENT VIA EMAIL: mderond@aurora.ca

RE: Town of Goderich Resolution – Legislative Amendments to Improve Municipal Code of Conduct

Dear M. Rond,

Please be advised of the following motion passed at the Monday, March 18, 2024, Goderich Town Council Meeting:

Moved By: Councillor Thompson

Seconded By: Councillor Kelly

WHEREAS all Ontarians deserve and expect a safe and respectful workplace;
and

WHEREAS municipal governments, as the democratic institutions most directly engaged with Ontarians need respectful discourse; and Whereas several incidents in recent years of disrespectful behaviour and workplace harassment have occurred amongst municipal members of councils across Ontario; and

WHEREAS these incidents seriously and negatively affect the people involved and lower public perceptions of local governments; and

WHEREAS municipal Codes of Conduct are helpful tools to set expectations of council member behaviour; and

WHEREAS municipal governments have limited abilities in their toolkit to adequately enforce compliance with municipal Codes of Conduct; and

WHEREAS the most severe penalty that can be imposed on a municipal member of council is the suspension of pay for 90 days, even when egregious acts are committed and substantiated; and

WHEREAS AMO has called on the government to table and pass legislation that reflects the following recommendations:

- Updating municipal Codes of Conduct to account for workplace safety and harassment.
- Creating a flexible administrative penalty regime, adapted to the local economic and financial circumstances of municipalities across Ontario.
- Increasing training of municipal Integrity Commissioners to enhance consistency of investigations and recommendations across the province.
- Allowing municipalities to apply to a member of the judiciary to remove a sitting member if recommended through the report of a municipal Integrity Commissioner.
- Prohibit a member so removed from sitting for election in the term of removal and the subsequent term of office;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Town of Goderich supports the call of action the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) has submitted to the Government of Ontario to introduce legislation to strengthen municipal Codes of Conduct and compliance with them, in consultation with municipal governments; and
2. Be It Further Resolved That the legislation encompasses the Association of Municipalities of Ontario's letter of recommendations which includes options for enforcing compliance by council members with municipal Codes of Conduct such as;
 - Updating municipal Codes of Conduct to account for workplace safety and harassment.
 - Creating a flexible administrative penalty regime, adapted to the local economic and financial circumstances of municipalities across Ontario.
 - Increasing training of municipal Integrity Commissioners to enhance consistency of investigations and recommendations across the Province.
 - Allowing municipalities to apply to a member of the judiciary to remove a sitting member if recommended through the report of a municipal Integrity Commissioner o Prohibit a member so removed from sitting for election in the term of removal and the subsequent term of office; and
3. Be It Further Resolved That a copy of this Motion be sent to the Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, the Hon. Lisa Thompson, MPP Huron-Bruce, and the Hon. Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, and Ontario municipalities.

The Town of Goderich
57 West Street
Goderich, Ontario
N7A 2K5
519-524-8344
townhall@goderich.ca
www.goderich.ca



CARRIED

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 519-524-8344 ext. 210 or afisher@goderich.ca.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Andrea Fisher".

Andrea Fisher
Director of Legislative Services/Clerk
/ar

cc. Premier Doug Ford premier@ontario.ca
Hon. Paul Calandra Paul.Calandra@pc.ola.org
MPP Lisa Thompson, Huron–Bruce lisa.thompsonco@pc.ola.org
Ontario Municipalities

Wednesday, April 10, 2024

Catalina Blumenberg
Clerk
Prince Edward County
332 Picton Main Street
Picton, Ontario
K0K 2T0

SENT VIA EMAIL: clerks@pecounty.on.ca

RE: Town of Goderich Resolution – Review of the Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Program Financial Assistance Rates

Dear C. Blumenberg,

Please be advised of the following motion passed at the Monday, March 18, 2024, Goderich Town Council Meeting:

Moved By: Councillor Segeren

Seconded By: Councillor Kelly

WHEREAS poverty is taking a devastating toll on communities, undermining a healthy and prosperous Ontario, with people in receipt of Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Program being disproportionately impacted;

WHEREAS the cost of food, housing, medicine, and other essential items have outpaced the highest inflation rates seen in a generation;

WHEREAS people in need of social assistance have been legislated into poverty, housing insecurity, hunger, poorer health, their motives questioned, and their dignity undermined;

WHEREAS Ontario Works (OW) Financial Assistance rates have been frozen since 2018 (\$733 per month);

WHEREAS Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) benefit rates have been increased by 6.5 percent as of July 2023 to keep up with inflation, however even with the increase, ODSP rates still fall below their value in 2018 (\$1,376 when adjusted for inflation) and significantly below the disability-adjusted poverty line (\$3,091 per month);

WHEREAS OW and ODSP rates do not provide sufficient income for a basic standard of living and, as a result, hundreds of thousands of people across Ontario who rely on these programs live in poverty;

WHEREAS designated Service Managers are doing their part, but do not have the resources, capacity, or tools to provide the necessary income and health-related supports to people experiencing poverty; and

WHEREAS leadership and urgent action is needed from the Provincial Government to immediately develop, resource, and implement a comprehensive plan to address the rising levels of poverty in Ontario, in particular for those on Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Programs;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Town of Goderich requests the Provincial Government to urgently:

1. At least double Ontario Works and ODSP rates and index rates to inflation, answering calls already made by “Raise the Rates” campaign and the “Income Security Advocacy Centre”;
2. Commit to ongoing cost of living increases above and beyond the rate of inflation to make up for the years they were frozen;
3. Commit to jointly working between the Ministry of Children, Community, and Social Services and the Ministry of Health on the best methods of assessing client needs and then matching those in need to the services they require;

AND FURTHER THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to the Minister of Children, Community, and Social Services, the Minister of Health, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Ontario Municipal Social Services Association, Huron County Social and Property Services, the Western Ontario Wardens Caucus, and all Ontario Municipalities.

CARRIED

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 519-524-8344 ext. 210 or afisher@goderich.ca.

Yours truly,



Andrea Fisher

Director of Legislative Services/Clerk
/ar

cc. Premier Doug Ford premier@ontario.ca
Hon. Paul Calandra Paul.Calandra@pc.ola.org
MPP Lisa Thompson, Huron–Bruce lisa.thompsonco@pc.ola.org
Hon. Sylvia Jones Sylvia.Jones@pc.ola.org
Association of Municipalities of Ontario resolutions@amo.on.ca
Ontario Municipal Social Services Association dball@omssa.com
Huron County Social and Property Services
Western Ontario Wardens Caucus
Ontario Municipalities

Wednesday, April 10, 2024

Matthew Pearson
Chair
Ausable Bayfield Maitland Valley Source Protection Committee
71108 Morrison Line
RR3, Exeter Ontario
N0M 1S5

SENT VIA EMAIL: mpearson@bmross.net

RE: Recommended Phase-Out of Free Well Water Testing in the 2023 Auditor General's Report

Dear M. Pearson,

Please be advised of the following motion passed at the Monday, March 18, 2024, Goderich Town Council Meeting:

Moved By: Councillor Segeren
Seconded By: Deputy Mayor Noel

That the Town of Goderich direct a letter to Minister Lisa Thompson requesting that the province not proceed with the recommended phase-out of free private well testing in Ontario;

And Further That area municipalities, the Minister of Environment Conservation and Parks, the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, other Source Protection Committees, and local health units be forwarded the letter and asked for their support.

CARRIED

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 519-524-8344 ext. 210 or afisher@goderich.ca.

Yours truly,



Andrea Fisher
Director of Legislative Services/Clerk
/ar

cc. Premier Doug Ford premier@ontario.ca
Hon. Paul Calandra Paul.Calandra@pc.ola.org

The Town of Goderich
57 West Street
Goderich, Ontario
N7A 2K5
519-524-8344
townhall@goderich.ca
www.goderich.ca



MPP Lisa Thompson, Huron–Bruce lisa.thompsonco@pc.ola.org
MPP Andrea Khanjin, Minister of Environment Conservation and Parks
andrea.khanjin@pc.ola.org
MPP Stan Cho, Minister of Long-Term Care Stan.Cho@pc.ola.org
Ontario Municipalities



**The Corporation of the Town of Grimsby
Administration**

Office of the Town Clerk

160 Livingston Avenue, Grimsby, ON L3M 0J5

Phone: 905-945-9634 Ext. 2171 | **Fax:** 905-945-5010

Email: vs Steele@grimsby.ca

April 23, 2024

SENT VIA E-MAIL

Andrea Fisher, Clerk
The Town of Goderich
57 West Street
Goderich, Ontario
N7A 2K5

Dear: Clerk Fisher,

**RE: Town of Goderich Resolution – Review of the Ontario Works and Ontario
Disability Support Program Financial Assistance Rates**

Please be advised that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Grimsby at its meeting held on April 15, 2024, passed, and endorsed the following resolution:

Moved: Councillor Korstanje

Seconded: Councillor DiFlavio

Resolved that the Town of Goderich's resolution regarding a review of the Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Program financial assistance rates be received and endorsed.

If you require any additional information, please let me know.

Regards,

Victoria Steele
Town Clerk

CC: Premier Doug Ford
Hon. Paul Calandra
MPP Lisa Thompson, Huron–Bruce
Hon. Sylvia Jones
Association of Municipalities of Ontario
Ontario Municipal Social Services Association
Ontario Municipalities

Wednesday, April 10, 2024

Catalina Blumenberg
Clerk
Prince Edward County
332 Picton Main Street
Picton, Ontario
K0K 2T0

SENT VIA EMAIL: clerks@pecounty.on.ca

RE: Town of Goderich Resolution – Review of the Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Program Financial Assistance Rates

Dear C. Blumenberg,

Please be advised of the following motion passed at the Monday, March 18, 2024, Goderich Town Council Meeting:

Moved By: Councillor Segeren

Seconded By: Councillor Kelly

WHEREAS poverty is taking a devastating toll on communities, undermining a healthy and prosperous Ontario, with people in receipt of Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Program being disproportionately impacted;

WHEREAS the cost of food, housing, medicine, and other essential items have outpaced the highest inflation rates seen in a generation;

WHEREAS people in need of social assistance have been legislated into poverty, housing insecurity, hunger, poorer health, their motives questioned, and their dignity undermined;

WHEREAS Ontario Works (OW) Financial Assistance rates have been frozen since 2018 (\$733 per month);

WHEREAS Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) benefit rates have been increased by 6.5 percent as of July 2023 to keep up with inflation, however even with the increase, ODSP rates still fall below their value in 2018 (\$1,376 when adjusted for inflation) and significantly below the disability-adjusted poverty line (\$3,091 per month);

WHEREAS OW and ODSP rates do not provide sufficient income for a basic standard of living and, as a result, hundreds of thousands of people across Ontario who rely on these programs live in poverty;

WHEREAS designated Service Managers are doing their part, but do not have the resources, capacity, or tools to provide the necessary income and health-related supports to people experiencing poverty; and

WHEREAS leadership and urgent action is needed from the Provincial Government to immediately develop, resource, and implement a comprehensive plan to address the rising levels of poverty in Ontario, in particular for those on Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Programs;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Town of Goderich requests the Provincial Government to urgently:

1. At least double Ontario Works and ODSP rates and index rates to inflation, answering calls already made by “Raise the Rates” campaign and the “Income Security Advocacy Centre”;
2. Commit to ongoing cost of living increases above and beyond the rate of inflation to make up for the years they were frozen;
3. Commit to jointly working between the Ministry of Children, Community, and Social Services and the Ministry of Health on the best methods of assessing client needs and then matching those in need to the services they require;

AND FURTHER THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to the Minister of Children, Community, and Social Services, the Minister of Health, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Ontario Municipal Social Services Association, Huron County Social and Property Services, the Western Ontario Wardens Caucus, and all Ontario Municipalities.

CARRIED

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 519-524-8344 ext. 210 or afisher@goderich.ca.

Yours truly,



Andrea Fisher

Director of Legislative Services/Clerk
/ar

cc. Premier Doug Ford premier@ontario.ca
Hon. Paul Calandra Paul.Calandra@pc.ola.org
MPP Lisa Thompson, Huron–Bruce lisa.thompsonco@pc.ola.org
Hon. Sylvia Jones Sylvia.Jones@pc.ola.org
Association of Municipalities of Ontario resolutions@amo.on.ca
Ontario Municipal Social Services Association dball@omssa.com
Huron County Social and Property Services
Western Ontario Wardens Caucus
Ontario Municipalities



**The Corporation of the Town of Grimsby
Administration**

Office of the Town Clerk

160 Livingston Avenue, Grimsby, ON L3M 0J5

Phone: 905-945-9634 Ext. 2171 | **Fax:** 905-945-5010

Email: vsteele@grimsby.ca

April 16, 2024

SENT VIA E-MAIL

Honourable Arif Virani
Minister of Justice & Attorney General
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

Dear Minister Virani,

RE: Township of Clearview Endorsement of Bill C-63 in the House of Commons

Please be advised that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Grimsby at its meeting held on April 2, 2024, passed the following resolution:

Moved: Councillor Charrois

Seconded: Councillor Korstanje

Resolved that Council support the Township of Clearview's resolution regarding the endorsement of Bill C-63 in the House of Commons.

If you require any additional information, please let me know.

Regards,

Victoria Steele
Town Clerk

CC: Township of Clearview
Right Honourable Prime Minister Justin Trudeau
Dean Allison, MP Niagara West
Association of Municipalities of Ontario
Ontario Municipalities



Clerk's Department
Township of Clearview
Box 200, 217 Gideon Street
Stayner, Ontario L0M 1S0
clerks@clearview.ca | www.clearview.ca
Phone: 705-428-6230

March 27, 2024

Honourable Arif Virani
Minister of Justice & Attorney General
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

Sent by Email

RE: Township of Clearview Endorsement of Bill C-63 in the House of Commons

Please be advised that Council of the Township of Clearview at its meeting held on March 25, 2024, passed the following resolution in support of the endorsement of Bill C-63 in the House of Commons:

Moved by Councillor Dineen, Seconded by Councillor Broderick, Whereas The Canadian Federal Government has drafted Bill C-63, The Online Harms Act, currently in front of Parliament and has had its first reading; and,

Whereas Bill C-63 requires that online tech companies and social media platforms remove child pornography and other dangerous content within 24 hours once the operator identifies the content, while also mandating the following duties:

- Duty to protect children;
- Duty to act responsibly;
- Duty to remove egregious content; and,

Whereas The Canadian Federal Government proposes to establish a "Digital Safety Commission" and nominate an "independent" Ombudsperson to proactively circumvent potential harms on behalf of Canadians; and,

Whereas online tech companies and social media platforms need to adhere to existing Criminal Laws; and,

Whereas online tech companies and social media platforms need to be held accountable to keep platforms safe from predators targeting children and other vulnerable Canadians and to protect them from bullying, hate, extremism, violence, discrimination, self harm, exploitation and sexual extortion that can lead to the most dire of consequences; and,

Whereas Clearview Township, as all Canadians, endeavours to foster safe homes, communities, schools and public spaces;

Be It Resolved That the Mayor and Council of Clearview Township endorse the passing of Bill C-63 in the House of Commons and the establishment of a "digital safety commission" and nomination of an "independent" Ombudsperson; and,

That a copy of this resolution be circulated to all municipalities in Ontario; the Association of Municipalities of Ontario; Terry Dowdall, MP; The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada and The Honourable Arif Virani, Minister of Justice & Attorney General of Canada. Motion Carried.

Sincerely,



Sasha Helmkey-Playter, B.A., Dipl. M.A., AOMC

Clerk/Director of Legislative Services

cc: Right Honourable Prime Minister Justin Trudeau
Simcoe Grey MP Terry Dowdall
Association of Municipalities of Ontario
Ontario Municipalities



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

April 3, 2024

SENT VIA EMAIL: Premier@ontario.ca

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

Dear Honourable Doug Ford:

RE: Town of Lincoln Council Resolution – Extension of Bill 23 Timelines regarding Heritage Registry Lists

Please be advised that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Lincoln at its Council Meeting held on March 25, 2024, passed the following motion regarding the Extension of Bill 23 Timelines regarding Heritage Registry Lists:

Resolution No: RC-2024-33
Moved by Mayor Easton; Seconded by Councillor Lynn Timmers

WHEREAS subsection 27(16) of the *Ontario Heritage Act* stipulates that any non-designated heritage property listed on the municipal register of properties as of December 31, 2022 shall be removed from the municipal register on or before January 1, 2025, if the council of the municipality does not give a notice of intention to designate the property under subsection 29(1) of the *Ontario Heritage Act* on or before January 1, 2025; and

WHEREAS since January 1, 2023, municipal staff and members of the Heritage Advisory Committee have been diligently working to: review the municipal heritage register; research the heritage value and interest of listed (non-designated) properties; review and research the heritage value and interest of non-designated properties; determine which properties should potentially be designated in accordance with the provisions of Section 29 of the *Ontario Heritage Act*; and take all required steps to designate such properties; and

WHEREAS the above-noted work involving 247 listed properties in the Town of Lincoln is extremely time-consuming and cannot be completed by December 31, 2024, with the limited municipal resources available.

WHEREAS the Heritage Advisory Committee on March 14, 2024 provided support to extend the January 1, 2025 deadline for five years to January 1, 2030 to continue efforts required to designate properties.

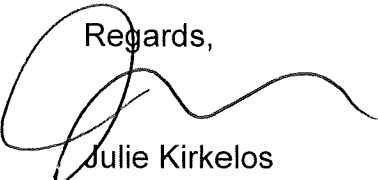
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Town of Lincoln authorize the Mayor to promptly send a letter to Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, and Michael Ford, Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism, requesting that Subsection 27(16) of the *Ontario Heritage Act* be amended to extend the above-noted deadline for five years from January 1, 2025 to January 1, 2030; and

FURTHER THAT Council direct staff to forward this resolution to all municipalities in Ontario seeking support of the ACO correspondence.

CARRIED

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

Regards,



Julie Kirkelos
Town Clerk
jkirkelos@lincoln.ca

JK/dp

Cc: Premier of Ontario
Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism
All Ontario Municipalities

The Corporation of the Town of Moosonee

P.O. BOX 727, MOOSONEE, ONTARIO, P0L 1Y0

RESOLUTION 2024

March 19th, 2024

NO. 2024- ~~46~~ 45

MOVED BY:

SECONDED BY:

Councillor Theresa Chavez	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Councillor Theresa Chavez	<input type="checkbox"/>
Councillor Sheldon Ross	<input type="checkbox"/>	Councillor Sheldon Ross	<input type="checkbox"/>
Councillor Diane Ryder	<input type="checkbox"/>	Councillor Diane Ryder	<input type="checkbox"/>
Councillor Carman Tozer	<input type="checkbox"/>	Councillor Carman Tozer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mayor Wayne Taipale	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mayor Wayne Taipale	<input type="checkbox"/>

MOTION:

WHEREAS Canada has 90,000 volunteer firefighters who provide fire and all hazard emergency services to their communities; in addition, approximately 8,000 essential search and rescue volunteers respond to thousands of incidents every year; and

WHEREAS many of these individuals receive some form of pay on call, an honorarium, or are given some funding to cover expenses, but they do not draw a living wage from firefighting; and

WHEREAS without volunteer firefighters and search and rescue volunteers, thousands of communities in Canada would have no fire and emergency response coverage; and

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

WHEREAS in 2013, the federal government initiated a tax credit recognizing these volunteer firefighters and search and rescue volunteers;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Corporation of the Town of Moosonee Council request the Government of Canada to increase the tax credit from \$3,000 to \$10,000 for volunteer firefighters and search and rescue volunteers.

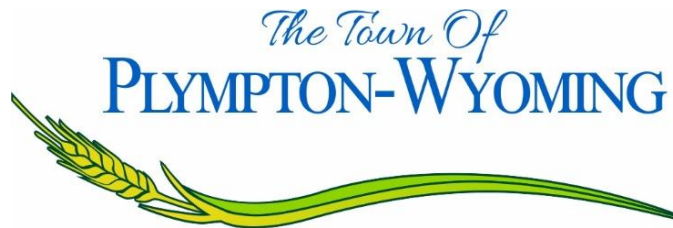
CARRIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	DEFEATED	<input type="checkbox"/>	TABLED/DEFERRED UNTIL	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Declaration of Conflict of Interest: _____

- ☐ Disclosed His/Her/Their Interest
- ☐ Vacated His/Her/Their Seat
- ☐ Deferred

DEPUTY CLERK  Shalom Capili


MAYOR – Wayne Taipale



Ministry of Municipal Affairs minister.mah@ontario.ca
Ministry of Finance Minister.fin@ontario.ca
Ontario Tax & Revenue Association webmaster@omtra.ca
Association of Municipalities Ontario resolutions@amo.on.ca
MPP Bob Bailey bob.baileyco@pc.ola.org
(sent via e-mail)

April 12th, 2024

Re: Municipalities Retaining Surplus from Tax Sales

Please be advised that the Council of the Town of Plympton-Wyoming, at its meeting on April 10th, 2024, passed the following motion supporting the resolution from the Municipality of St. Charles regarding municipalities retaining surplus from tax sales.

Motion #13

Moved by Councillor Mike Vasey

Seconded by Councillor Bob Woolvett

That Council support correspondence item 'h' from the municipality of St. Charles regarding Support for Municipalities to Retain Surplus from Tax Sales.

Carried.

If you have any questions regarding the above motion, please do not hesitate to contact me by phone or email at eflynn@plympton-wyoming.ca.

Sincerely,

Ella Flynn
Executive Assistant – Deputy Clerk
Town of Plympton-Wyoming

Cc: All regional Municipalities

**The Corporation of the Municipality of St. Charles
RESOLUTION PAGE**



Regular Meeting of Council

Agenda Number: 10.3.

Resolution Number 2023-151

Title: Resolution Stemming from May 17, 2023 Regular Meeting of Council (Item 9.1 - Correspondence #9 and 15) and from the June 21, 2023 Regular Meeting Council (Item 9.1 - Correspondence #19)

Date: July 19, 2023

Moved by: Councillor Loftus

Seconded by: Councillor Lachance

WHEREAS prior to being repealed by the Modernizing Ontario's Municipal Legislation Act, 2017, Section 380(6) of the Municipal Act, 2001, allowed for a municipality to retain surplus proceeds from tax sales within their jurisdiction;

AND WHEREAS the current Public Tax Sale process is a burdensome process to a municipality that invests a considerable amount of time and money recovering these proceeds for the potential sole benefit of the Crown in Right of Ontario;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council for the Corporation of the Municipality of St.-Charles supports the Corporation of the Town of Essex in the reinstatement of previous legislation that permitted municipalities to apply for and retain surplus proceeds from tax sales in their jurisdictions;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this Resolution be circulated to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH); the Ministry of Finance (MOF); the Ontario Municipal Tax & Revenue Association (OMTRA); the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the local Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP); and, all Ontario Municipalities.

CARRIED


MAYOR



RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION NO. 10

DATE: April 10th, 2024

MOVED BY: Netty McEwen

SECONDED BY: John van Klaveren

RE: SECURING ACCESS TO NATURAL GAS FOR OUR COMMUNITY AND ONTARIO

WHEREAS Access to natural gas is important to residents and businesses in our community for affordability and reliability.

WHEREAS The Ontario Energy Board's (OEB) decision on Phase 1 of the Enbridge Gas 2024 rebasing application, issued on 21 December 2023, has concerning implications including putting into question the future access to natural gas that support of economic development, affordable housing growth, and energy reliability in communities such as the Town of Plympton-Wyoming.

AND WHEREAS Ontario is growing and access to affordable energy to support this growth for homes and businesses is crucial, and is a measured approach to energy transition as not having access to natural gas will stifle economic growth and put housing and energy affordability at risk.

NOWTHEREBE IT RESOLVED:

1. THAT the Town of Plympton-Wyoming supports a measured approach to Ontario's energy transition.

AND THAT the Town of Plympton-Wyoming recognizes that there may not be enough electricity available to replace the energy provided by natural gas and meet the increased demand from electrification.

2. THAT Natural gas must continue to play an integral role in meeting the energy needs of Ontario.

3. THAT the Town of Plympton-Wyoming supports the work the Government of Ontario has done to date, including the Natural Gas Expansion Program and Electrification and Energy Transition Panel's call for a clear policy on the role of natural gas to secure access to affordable energy.

4. THAT this resolution be circulated to the President of AMO, Colin Best, Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, Hon. Todd Smith, the Minister of Energy, Bob Bailey Member of Provincial Parliament for Sarnia-Lambton, all regional municipalities as significant actors to ensuring the need for natural gas in Ontario as part of a measured approach towards energy transition, and submitted to municipalaffairs@enbridge.com.

Mayor
Town of Plympton-Wyoming

March 25, 2024

Via Email:

Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
premier@ontario.ca

Re: Memorandum from H. Ellis, Council and Committee Coordinator, dated February 2, 2024 re: Whitby Sustainability Advisory Committee Request that Council Support the Ontario Energy Board's Decision to end the Gas Pipeline Subsidy

Please be advised that at its meeting held on March 18, 2024, the Council of the Town of Whitby adopted the following as Resolution # 50-24:

Whereas residents are struggling with energy bill increases and need relief; and,

Whereas natural gas is no longer the cheapest way to heat homes because electric heat pumps are now much more efficient, can provide all heating needs even in cold climates, and result in far lower energy bills compared to gas heating; and,

Whereas natural gas is methane gas, which is a fossil fuel that causes approximately one-third of Ontario's GHG emissions, and must be phased out because it is inconsistent with all climate targets, while heat pumps result in the lowest GHG emissions and are consistent with a zero-carbon future; and,

Whereas the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) decided to end a subsidy for methane gas pipelines to be built in new construction developments, effective 2025, finding that this would lower energy bills for existing gas customers and improve affordability for new homebuyers, but this decision is at risk of being overturned by the provincial government; and,

Whereas the OEB decision will help lower energy bills and encourage heating systems that are consistent with climate targets and plans; and,

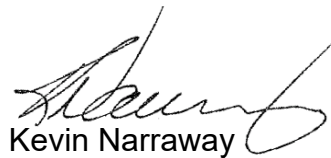
Whereas the construction of new methane gas pipelines, which have 60-year lifetimes, should not be subsidized because they are inconsistent with the Town's climate targets and will result in higher carbon emissions, higher energy bills, higher future decarbonization retrofit costs to phase out fossil fuel heating, and a

continued financial drain as dollars leave the province to pay for fossil fuels extracted in other jurisdictions.

Now therefore, be it resolved:

1. That the Town of Whitby expresses its support for the decision of the Ontario Energy Board to end the gas pipeline subsidy and ask the Ontario Government to allow the decision to stand; and,
2. That this resolution be circulated to Premier Doug Ford; the Minister of Energy, Todd Smith; the Minister of Finance, Peter Bethlenfalvy; the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Paul Calandra; the Associate Minister of Housing, Rob Flack; President of AMO, Colin Best, the Region of Durham, and all local Ontario municipalities requesting support of the proposed changes.

Should you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact Sarah Klein, Director, Strategic Initiatives at 905-430-4338.



Kevin Narraway
Sr. Manager of Legislative Services/Deputy Clerk

Copy: C. Harris, Director, Legislative Services/Town Clerk – clerk@whitby.ca
S. Klein, Director, Strategic Initiatives – kleins@whitby.ca

Honourable Todd Smith, Minister of Energy
Honourable Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance
Honourable Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Honourable Rob Flack, Associate Minister of Housing
Colin Best, President of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario
A. Harras, Regional Clerk, Regional Municipality of Durham
All Ontario Municipalities



March 22nd, 2024

The Honourable Lisa Thompson
Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
11th Floor
77 Grenville St.
Toronto, ON M5S 1B3

RE: Township of Adelaide Metcalfe – Request to Increase Tile Drain Loan Limit

Dear Minister Thompson,

On March 18, 2024, the Township of Adelaide Metcalfe Council approved the following resolution:

WHEREAS farm drainage is of paramount importance in Ontario due to its significant impact on agricultural productivity and sustainability. Effective drainage systems help mitigate waterlogging, control soil moisture levels, and enhance soil structure, thereby optimizing growing conditions for crops;

WHEREAS improved drainage also facilitates timely field operations, reduces erosion, and minimizes nutrient runoff, contributing to environmental conservation efforts;

WHEREAS Ontario's diverse agricultural landscape, where weather variability is common, well-maintained drainage systems play a crucial role in ensuring stable yields, economic viability, and long-term resilience for farmers across the Province;

WHEREAS the Tile Loan Drainage Act, R.S.O 1990, c. T.8 allows for the borrowing of money for the purpose of constructing drainage works;

WHEREAS the maximum annual limit for these loans, unchanged since 2004, is currently set at \$50,000.

WHEREAS costs for Tile Drainage has increased markedly since 2004;

NOW THEREFORE the Council of the Township of Adelaide Metcalfe requests that the Province through the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) consider increasing the maximum annual Tile Loan limit to a minimum of \$100,000.

AND THAT this resolution be circulated the Honourable Lisa Thompson – Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA), the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA), and all Ontario municipalities.

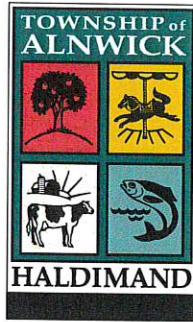
Your consideration of Council's request is appreciated.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'MB', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Michael Barnier
Clerk & Manager of Legislative Services
Township of Adelaide Metcalfe
mbarnier@adelaidemetcalfe.on.ca

Cc: Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA)
All Ontario Municipalities



March 28, 2024

David Piccini, MPP
Northumberland-Peterborough South
Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development
117 Peter Street,
Port Hope, ON L1A 1C5

Dear Sir:

RE: Support of Resolution – Highway Traffic Act Amendments, Automated Speed Enforcement Systems

This is to advise that the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Alnwick/Haldimand at their Regular Council Meeting on September 5th, 2023, passed the following resolution supporting the resolutions of the Municipality of St. Charles and City of Cambridge regarding Highway Traffic Act Amendments:

Moved by Councillor Greg Booth, seconded by Councillor Mary Catherine O'Neill;

"Whereas Council reviewed the correspondence "Highway Traffic Act Amendments, Automated Speed Enforcement (ASE) Systems" from the Municipality of St. Charles, and the Resolution from the City of Cambridge;

Be it resolved that the Council of the Township of Alnwick/Haldimand support amendments to the Highway Traffic Act that would allow municipalities to locate an ASE system permanently or temporarily on any roadway under the jurisdiction of municipalities, and as determined by municipalities, and not be restricted to only community safety zones and school safety zones; and

Further that Council direct staff to forward a copy of this resolution to local MPP David Piccini, the Minister of Transportation, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, AMO, and all Ontario municipalities."

CARRIED

A copy of the above noted resolution from both the Municipality of St. Charles and the City of Cambridge is attached for your reference.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Yolanda Melburn', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Yolanda Melburn, Deputy Clerk
Township of Alnwick/Haldimand
905-349-2822 ext. 32
ymelburn@ahctp.ca

Encl.

Cc: (via email)
Clerk, City of Cambridge
Clerk, Municipality of St. Charles
Prabmeet Sarkaria, Minister of Transportation
Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
All Ontario Municipalities

The Corporation of the City of Cambridge
Corporate Services Department
Clerk's Division
The City of Cambridge
50 Dickson Street, P.O. Box 669
Cambridge ON N1R 5W8
Tel: (519) 740-4680 ext. 4585
mantond@cambridge.ca

May 10, 2023

Re: Highway Traffic Act Amendments

Dear Ms. Mulroney,

At the Council Meeting of May 9, 2023, the Council of the Corporation of the City of Cambridge passed the following Motion:

WHEREAS speeding on our roads is a major concern in our community,

AND WHEREAS speeding can occur in all areas of our community,

AND WHEREAS barriers and delays to enforcement pose a danger to our community,

AND WHEREAS our municipality has limited resources to implement speed mitigation road design and re-design,

AND WHEREAS our local police service has limited resources to undertake speed enforcement,

AND WHEREAS s.205.1 of the Highway Traffic Act (HTA) provides that Automated Speed Enforcement systems (ASE) may only be placed in designated community safety zones and school safety zones,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the City of Cambridge request that the Ontario Government amend s.205.1 of the HTA to permit municipalities to locate an ASE system permanently or temporarily on any roadway under the jurisdiction of municipalities and as determined by municipalities and not be restricted to only community safety zones and school safety zones;

AND THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Ontario Minister of Transportation, the Ontario Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, local area MPPs, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and all Ontario Municipalities.

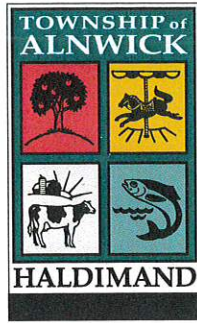
Should you have any questions related to the approved resolution, please contact me.

Yours Truly,



Danielle Manton
City Clerk

Cc: (via email)
Steve Clark, Ontario Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Local Area MPPs
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
All Ontario Municipalities



March 27, 2024

Tammy J. Godden, Clerk (Clerks@stcharlesontario.ca)
The Municipality of St. Charles
2 King Street East, P.O. Box 70
St. Charles, ON P0M 2W0

Dear Ms. Godden:

RE: Support of Resolution – Municipalities Retaining Surplus Proceeds from Tax Sales

This is to advise that the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Alnwick/Haldimand at their Regular Council Meeting on September 5th, 2023, passed the following resolution supporting the Municipality of St. Charles Resolution and the Town of Essex in the reinstatement of previous legislation that permitted municipalities to apply for and retain surplus proceeds from tax sales in their jurisdictions:

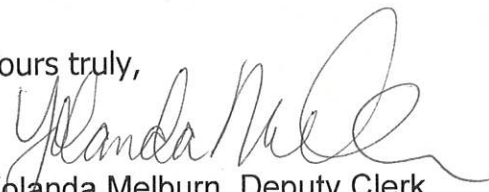
Moved by Councillor Greg Booth, seconded by Councillor Mike Ainsworth;

"Be it resolved that Council support the correspondence from the Municipality of St. Charles regarding retention of surplus proceeds from tax sales; and

Further that Council direct staff to forward a copy of this resolution to the County of Northumberland and all Ontario municipalities."

CARRIED

Yours truly,


Yolanda Melburn, Deputy Clerk
Township of Alnwick/Haldimand
905-349-2822 ext. 32
ymelburn@ahtwp.ca
Encl.

**The Corporation of the Municipality of St. Charles
RESOLUTION PAGE**



Regular Meeting of Council

Agenda Number: 10.3.

Resolution Number 2023-151

Title: Resolution Stemming from May 17, 2023 Regular Meeting of Council (Item 9.1 - Correspondence #9 and 15) and from the June 21, 2023 Regular Meeting Council (Item 9.1 - Correspondence #19)

Date: July 19, 2023

Moved by: Councillor Loftus

Seconded by: Councillor Lachance

WHEREAS prior to being repealed by the Modernizing Ontario's Municipal Legislation Act, 2017, Section 380(6) of the Municipal Act, 2001, allowed for a municipality to retain surplus proceeds from tax sales within their jurisdiction;

AND WHEREAS the current Public Tax Sale process is a burdensome process to a municipality that invests a considerable amount of time and money recovering these proceeds for the potential sole benefit of the Crown in Right of Ontario;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council for the Corporation of the Municipality of St.-Charles supports the Corporation of the Town of Essex in the reinstatement of previous legislation that permitted municipalities to apply for and retain surplus proceeds from tax sales in their jurisdictions;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this Resolution be circulated to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH); the Ministry of Finance (MOF); the Ontario Municipal Tax & Revenue Association (OMTRA); the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the local Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP); and, all Ontario Municipalities.

CARRIED


MAYOR

March 26, 2024

Sent by E-mail
sylvia.jones@ontario.ca

Hon. Sylvia Jones, Minister of Health
Ministry of Health
5th Floor - 777 Bay St.
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3

Re: Public Health Ontario Labs

Dear Minister Jones,

At its regular meeting held March 12, 2024, the Council of the Township of Asphodel-Norwood passed a resolution expressing concern about the possible closure of regional Public Health Ontario (PHO) laboratories, as stated in the [Office of the Auditor General of Ontario's Value-for Money Audit: Public Health Ontario](#).

WHEREAS the mission of Public Health Ontario (PHO) is to "enable informed decisions and get actions that protect and promote health and contribute to reducing health inequities", there are grave concerns that the closure of six community-based PHO labs will increase health inequities, especially for rural communities; and

WHEREAS combined these labs collect and process thousands of water samples and time sensitive medical tests each day; and

WHEREAS there are grave concerns about the integrity of samples being compromised if travel time is increased by centralizing all tests to a few locations; and

WHEREAS these labs already process overflow tests and samples when labs such as Toronto and Ottawa cannot keep up to demand and many scaled up to meet demand during the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS frequent drinking water testing services is vital for Ontarians who draw their water from private drinking water systems (i.e. wells) and protecting groundwater quality and quantity is a shared responsibility.

As stewards of care for the *Safe Drinking Water Act, 2022*, Council urges the provincial government to take caution against acting on the recommendations stated in the aforementioned audit report.

-2-

Sincerely,



Melanie Hudson, Clerk
Township of Asphodel-Norwood

Encl./ Letter of Concern from former senior managers of Public Health Ontario (PHO)

Cc: MPP David Piccini | david.piccinico@pc.ola.org
MP Philip Larence | philip.lawrence@parl.gc.ca
Ontario Municipalities

Letter of Concern regarding Regional Public Health Ontario Laboratories

December 18, 2023

We, the undersigned, are a group of retired senior managers who were long term employees of Public Health Ontario (PHO), with extensive knowledge of regional laboratory operations and the public health system. We are writing to express our concerns with PHO's laboratory modernization plan, discussed recently in the Office of the Auditor General of Ontario's *Value-for-Money Audit: Public Health Ontario* (report dated December 2023).

Our major concern rests with the recommendation to close 6 of the 10 regional, fully accredited laboratories based in Peterborough, Orillia, Hamilton, Kingston, Sault Ste. Marie and Timmins, which serve communities in 15 public health unit jurisdictions. This change will impact about 85 laboratory personnel and a number of Infection, Prevention and Control (IPAC) staff who are also housed in some of those sites. In addition to these closures, there is a concerning recommendation to gradually eliminate drinking water testing services for Ontarians who draw their water from private drinking water systems (e.g. wells). We believe the associated risks to public health were not properly analyzed during the investigative process and such measures, if approved by the Ontario government, could be detrimental.

The regional laboratory sites serve all of PHO's clients located outside the Greater Toronto Area (GTA). They act as a first contact when specific testing is required by public health units, hospital and community labs, long term care homes, clinicians and private citizens within their regions; and they provide access to over 270 diagnostic tests related to diseases of public health significance listed in O. Reg 135/18 under the *Health Protection and Promotion Act*. The high number of specimens processed during the COVID pandemic at these locations is a testament to the ability of these labs to respond quickly to emerging pathogens, to manage outbreaks and to assist with surveillance.

The Auditor General's report has a financial focus, and in this respect, inefficiencies are outlined which we acknowledge need to be addressed. However, PHO's regional laboratory sites indicated for closure offer analyses requiring specialized training, such as the identification of parasites, ticks (important due to the increasing risk of Lyme disease), and pathogenic fungi. Having multiple sites competent in these specialty tests adds backup support into the system and enables the management of surge capacity, especially in outbreak situations. Two of these regional sites are also associated with postsecondary institutions, providing academic placements and research opportunities.

In addition to the diagnostic testing of medical samples, regional laboratory locations conduct the majority of testing for indicators of bacterial contamination in private drinking water systems, as well as public drinking water and beach water submitted by Ontario Parks and public health unit staff, supporting their Safe Water programs under Ontario public health standards. With water samples being time and temperature sensitive, any increase in the transportation time can have a negative impact on sample integrity. The current geographical configuration of PHO's laboratory network allows clients direct access to information and testing, and samples are transported from drop off depots in the communities quickly and efficiently. Loss of these regional labs could result in increased courier costs, increased turn-around times, and possible rejection of samples, due to integrity issues. In short, their closing will have a direct and dramatic impact on PHO's ability to achieve its mandate: the protection and promotion of public health.

PHO's laboratory sites test between 150,000 to 175,000 private drinking water samples each year at no cost to the submitter. With the recommendation to phase out PHO's drinking water service, private citizens who do not have access to municipally treated drinking water will have to submit their samples to a licensed private laboratory, which currently can cost more than \$150 per sample. Considering the current economic state in Ontario, some residents may consider the cost prohibitive and decide not to monitor their water source, thereby reducing sampling rates. As a result, people will be unaware of the quality of their drinking water, which can put them at a higher risk of contamination. Private drinking water sources, in particular, are susceptible to contamination at significantly higher rates than municipal systems. With the removal of this testing service at PHO, there will also no longer be a centralized database containing bacteriological test results that are available for PHO's researchers or public health unit staff, who use it to determine contamination rates in their regions.

The *Report of the Walkerton Inquiry* (2002) discusses the tragic impact of provincial budget cuts on water testing services in the 1990s in Walkerton, Ontario. In 1996, the Ministry of Environment regional laboratories were closed as a cost saving measure, and the testing that they performed on municipal drinking water systems was privatized. Justice Dennis O'Connor, who authored the Walkerton report, highlighted how this action "connected directly" to the Walkerton *E.coli* O157:H7 and *Campylobacter jejuni* outbreak in May 2000 (part 1, p. 406), which resulted in seven deaths and 2,300 illnesses. Recognizing the importance of the private drinking water testing service offered by Ontario's public health laboratory sites, Justice O'Connor suggested that the province maintain free, bacteriological water testing for private well owners.

Overall, we are concerned that, if the recommendation to close 6 of the 10 regional PHO locations and to phase out private water testing is approved, there will be serious negative impacts on public health. Rather than reduce health inequities across the province of Ontario, we feel the proposed changes will do the opposite. We caution the provincial government against acting on these recommendations without fully understanding the ramifications and the complex logistics required in specimen handling to deliver timely results. While the Auditor General's report has a financial focus, which is important, we caution that an up-to-date, independent impact assessment be carried out using a *public health* focus. Stakeholders, including members of the public, should be consulted, as well. As we have seen in the past, an effective public health network is needed, not only to ensure essential day-to-day testing, but also to respond to emerging public health emergencies, such as Walkerton, SARS, West Nile and COVID.

Key Resources

O'Connor, Dennis R. (2002). *Report of the Walkerton Inquiry*. 2 parts. Toronto: Ontario Ministry of the Attorney General. https://www.archives.gov.on.ca/en/e_records/walkerton/index.html

Office of the Auditor General of Ontario. (2023). *Value-for-Money Audit: Public Health Ontario*. https://auditor.on.ca/en/content/annualreports/arreports/en23/AR_publichealth_en23.pdf

Signatories

Rena Retallick

Former Operations Director, Regional Public Health Laboratories

CONTACT: rena.retallick@gmail.com

Jean Cousineau

Former Technical Manager, Timmins Regional Public Health Laboratory

Elizabeth Pszczolko
Former Manager, Thunder Bay Regional Public Health Laboratory

John Jessop
Former Manager, Sault Ste. Marie, Sudbury and Timmins Regional Public Health Laboratories

Leslee Shuttleworth
Former Manager, Ottawa Public Health Laboratory

Robin Eddington
Former Manager, Orillia Public Health Laboratory

Cindy Froats
Former Manager, Kingston Public Health Laboratory

Pamela O'Brien
Former Manager, Peterborough Public Health Laboratory

Suzan Breton
Former Manager, Sault Ste. Marie Public Health Laboratory

Monica Murphy
Former Quality and Technical Manager, Public Health Laboratories
Former Manager, Windsor Public Health Laboratory

Debbie Sikora
Former Manager, Kingston Public Health Laboratory

Doreen Graham
Former Senior Manager, Central North Region

Dr. Fred Ball
Former Manager, Thunder Bay Public Health Laboratory

Twyla Harcourt
Former Manager, Peterborough Public Health Laboratory



Clerk's Department
Township of Clearview
Box 200, 217 Gideon Street
Stayner, Ontario L0M 1S0
clerks@clearview.ca | www.clearview.ca
Phone: 705-428-6230

March 27, 2024

Honourable Arif Virani
Minister of Justice & Attorney General
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

Sent by Email

RE: Township of Clearview Endorsement of Bill C-63 in the House of Commons

Please be advised that Council of the Township of Clearview at its meeting held on March 25, 2024, passed the following resolution in support of the endorsement of Bill C-63 in the House of Commons:

Moved by Councillor Dineen, Seconded by Councillor Broderick, Whereas The Canadian Federal Government has drafted Bill C-63, The Online Harms Act, currently in front of Parliament and has had its first reading; and,

Whereas Bill C-63 requires that online tech companies and social media platforms remove child pornography and other dangerous content within 24 hours once the operator identifies the content, while also mandating the following duties:

- Duty to protect children;
- Duty to act responsibly;
- Duty to remove egregious content; and,

Whereas The Canadian Federal Government proposes to establish a "Digital Safety Commission" and nominate an "independent" Ombudsperson to proactively circumvent potential harms on behalf of Canadians; and,

Whereas online tech companies and social media platforms need to adhere to existing Criminal Laws; and,

Whereas online tech companies and social media platforms need to be held accountable to keep platforms safe from predators targeting children and other vulnerable Canadians and to protect them from bullying, hate, extremism, violence, discrimination, self harm, exploitation and sexual extortion that can lead to the most dire of consequences; and,

Whereas Clearview Township, as all Canadians, endeavours to foster safe homes, communities, schools and public spaces;

Be It Resolved That the Mayor and Council of Clearview Township endorse the passing of Bill C-63 in the House of Commons and the establishment of a "digital safety commission" and nomination of an "independent" Ombudsperson; and,

That a copy of this resolution be circulated to all municipalities in Ontario; the Association of Municipalities of Ontario; Terry Dowdall, MP; The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada and The Honourable Arif Virani, Minister of Justice & Attorney General of Canada. Motion Carried.

Sincerely,



Sasha Helmkey-Playter, B.A., Dipl. M.A., AOMC

Clerk/Director of Legislative Services

cc: Right Honourable Prime Minister Justin Trudeau
Simcoe Grey MP Terry Dowdall
Association of Municipalities of Ontario
Ontario Municipalities

TOWNSHIP OF EDWARDSBURGH CARDINAL

i)1.

March 25, 2024

Resolution Number: 2024-001

Moved By: [Signature]

Seconded By: [Signature]

WHEREAS the Edwardsburgh Cardinal Fire Department is comprised of a Fire Chief, Deputy Chief and has two fire stations, which are both staffed with three Captains and a complement of volunteer firefighters; and

WHEREAS the Edwardsburgh Cardinal Fire Department volunteer firefighters typically do not reach the 200-hour threshold within a calendar year to qualify for an increase to the tax credit from \$3,000 to \$10,000; and

WHEREAS the Government of Canada should support all volunteer firefighters whether or not they accumulate 200-hours of volunteer services within a calendar year; and

WHEREAS the Edwardsburgh Cardinal Fire Department and Township of Edwardsburgh Cardinal believe that all volunteer firefighters that have actively contributed to their communities through firefighting and search and rescue services should be recognized and included within the Bill C-310 to increase the amount of the tax credits permitted; and

WHEREAS volunteer firefighters and search and rescue services that have accumulated between 0 to 199 hours of volunteer services should be considered with Bill C-310 for an increase to the amount of tax credit from \$1,000 to \$3,000.

NOW BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Municipal Council of the Township of Edwardsburgh Cardinal call upon the Government of Canada to support Bill C-310 and enact amendments to subsection 118.06(2) and 118.07(2) of the Income Tax Act in order to increase the amount of the tax credits for volunteer firefighting and search and rescue volunteer services from \$1,000 to \$3,000 for any member that has completed between 0 to 199 hours of volunteer services in a calendar year.

☐ Carried ☐ Defeated ☒ Unanimous

Mayor: [Signature]

RECORDED VOTE REQUESTED BY: _____

NAME	YEA	NAY
Councillor J. Martelle		
Councillor W. Smail		
Councillor C. Ward		
Deputy Mayor S. Dillabough		
Mayor T. Deschamps		
TOTAL		

i)2.

TOWNSHIP OF EDWARDSBURGH CARDINAL

March 25, 2024

Resolution Number 2024-0601
Moved By: [Signature]
Seconded By: [Signature]

AND FURTHER THAT the Municipal Council of the Township of Edwardsburgh Cardinal supports Bonfield Township Resolution No. 15 calling upon the Government of Canada to support Bill C-310 and enact amendments to subsection 118.06(2) and 118.07(2) of the Income Tax Act in order to increase the amount of the tax credits for volunteer firefighting and search and rescue volunteer services from \$3,000 to \$10,000.

☐ Carried ☐ Defeated ☐ Unanimous

Mayor: _____

RECORDED VOTE REQUESTED BY: _____		
NAME	YEA	NAY
Councillor J. Martelle		
Councillor W. Smail		
Councillor C. Ward		
Deputy Mayor S. Dillabough		
Mayor T. Deschamps		
TOTAL		



The Corporation of the Township of Georgian Bluffs

April 3, 2024

Re: Resolution to Support - Bill C-310 and Enact Amendments to the Income Tax Act in order to Increase the Amount of Tax Credits for Volunteer Firefighters and Search and Rescue Respondents

To whom I may concern,

Please be advised that Council for the Township of Georgian Bluffs considered the above-noted matter and passed resolution RES2024-054 at the March 20, 2024, meeting of Council:

Moved By: Councillor Isaac Shouldice

Seconded By: Councillor Tobin Day

That item 9.3.1 Township of Georgian Bay - Resolution to Support Bill C-310 and Enact Amendments to the Income Tax Act in order to Increase the Amount of Tax Credits for Volunteer Firefighters and Search and Rescue Respondents be received for information; and

That staff be directed to forward a letter in support.

Carried

Thank you,

Rayburn Murray
Deputy Clerk
Township of Georgian Bluffs
519-376-2729 x. 603 | rmurray@georgianbluffs.ca



The Township of Georgian Bay Resolutions Council - 04 Mar 2024

Item 11.(e)

Date: March 4, 2024

C-2024-089

Moved by Councillor Steven Predko

Seconded by Councillor Stephen Jarvis

WHEREAS Canada has 90,000 volunteer firefighters who provide fire and all hazard emergency services to their communities; in addition, approximately 8,000 essential search and rescue volunteers respond to thousands of incidents every year; and

WHEREAS many of these individuals receive some form of pay on call, an honorarium, or are given some funding to cover expenses, but they do not draw a living wage from firefighting; and

WHEREAS without volunteer firefighters and search and rescue volunteers, thousands of communities in Canada would have no fire and emergency response coverage; and

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

WHEREAS in 2013, the federal government initiated a tax credit recognizing these volunteer firefighters and search and rescue volunteers;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Township of Georgian Bay Council request the Government of Canada to increase the tax credit from \$3,000 to \$10,000 for volunteer firefighters and search and rescue volunteers; and

THAT a copy of the resolution be shared with the Association of Fire Chiefs of Ontario, Association of Municipalities of Ontario, all Ontario municipalities, and Scott Aitchison, MP.

☒ Carried ☐ Defeated ☐ Recorded Vote ☐ Referred ☐ Deferred

Peter Koetsier, Mayor



Council Resolution Form

Date: 21 Mar 2024 No: Resolution No.62-24
Moved By: Councillor Tripp Disposition: CARRIED.
Seconded by Councillor Popkie
Item No: 12.2

Description: Occupational Health and Safety Act Definition of "Employer"

RESOLUTION:

That Council support Resolution CC2023-303 passed by the Council of the City of Greater Sudbury on December 5, 2023 regarding the Amendment of the Occupational Health and Safety Act to Clarify the Definition of "Employer", including that the definition of "employer" excludes owners that have contracted with a constructor for a project;

And furthermore that a copy of this resolution and a copy of the City of Greater Sudbury's resolution be circulated to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, the Honourable David Piccini, Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development, the Honourable Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, John Yakabuski, MPP for Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and all Ontario Municipalities.

Recorded Vote Requested by:

.....n/a.....

	Yea	Nay
J. Levesque	_____	_____
T. Popkie	_____	_____
L. Thomson	_____	_____
R. Tripp	_____	_____
R. Weir	_____	_____


MAYOR

Declaration of Pecuniary Interest:

.....n/a.....

Disclosed his/her/their interest(s), vacated he/her/their seat(s),
abstained from discussion and did not vote

December 12, 2023

Sent Via Email

Municipalities of Ontario

Re: Amendment to the Occupational Health and Safety Act to Clarify the Definition of "Employer"

PO BOX 5000 STN A
200 BRADY STREET
SUDBURY ON P3A 5P3

The following resolution was passed by Council of the City of Greater Sudbury on December 5, 2023:

CP 5000 SUCCA
200, RUE BRADY
SUDBURY ON P3A 5P3

CC2023-303: WHEREAS in 2015 the City of Greater Sudbury (the "City") entered into a contract with a contractor experienced in road construction projects to complete a project on Elgin Street in the City's downtown core;

AND WHEREAS the contract provided that the contractor would be the constructor for the project as that term is defined in the Occupational Health and Safety Act (the "Act");

AND WHEREAS an employee of the constructor operating a grader on the project struck and killed a pedestrian;

AND WHEREAS the City was charged with offences under the Act as the constructor and the employer;

AND WHEREAS after being acquitted at trial and on appeal, the Ontario Court of Appeal, in a decision issued on April 23, 2021, found the City to be liable for contraventions of the Construction Regulations as an employer as it employed quality control inspectors to monitor the quality of work on the project from time-to-time;

AND WHEREAS the Supreme Court of Canada, in a decision issued on November 10, 2023, was evenly divided 4-4 on the issue resulting in dismissal of the City's appeal;

AND WHEREAS the consequence of this decision is that municipalities in Ontario, as well as all other owners of property in the province, who wish to undertake construction, are subject to being charged and convicted as an employer for offences in relation to project sites for which they have no control and have, in accordance with the Act, contracted with an entity to assume plenary oversight and authority over the work on such site as the constructor; AND WHEREAS the potential of an owner being charged as an employer as that term is defined in the Act in circumstances where it has engaged a constructor disregards and renders meaningless the owner-constructor provisions contained in the Act and presents an unacceptable level of increased risk and confusion for owners and contractors throughout the province;

705.671.2489

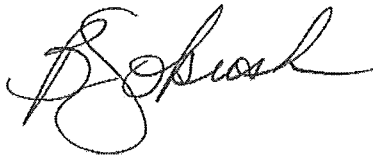
www.greatersudbury.ca
www.grandsudbury.ca

AND WHEREAS the City believes that the safety of workers is paramount however the safety of workers on construction projects in Ontario is not increased by placing liability on parties that do not have control of and are not responsible for the conduct of the work on such sites;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council for the City of Greater Sudbury requests that the province amend the Occupational Health and Safety Act to clarify the definition of "employer" to exclude owners that have contracted with a constructor for a project;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this motion be provided to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, the Honourable David Piccini, Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development, the Honourable Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, France Gelin, MPP for Nickel Belt, Jamie West, MPP for Sudbury, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities, Ontario's Big City Mayors, Mayors and Regional Chairs of Ontario, Northern Ontario Large Urban Mayors, the Council of Ontario Construction Associations, the Ontario Chamber of Commerce and all Ontario municipalities.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brigitte Sobush', with a stylized, flowing script.

Brigitte Sobush
Manager of Clerk's Services/Deputy City Clerk

- c. Members of City Council
Eric Labelle, City Solicitor and Clerk



Council Resolution Form

Date: 21 Mar 2024 No: Resolution No.61-24
Moved By: Councillor Popkie Disposition: CARRIED.
Seconded by Councillor Thomson
Item No: 12.1

Description: Cemetery Transfer/Abandonment Administration & Management Support

RESOLUTION:

That Council support the resolution passed by the Council of Tay Township during their December 20, 2023 Council Meeting regarding the Provincial Cemetery Management Support Request, including that the Province through the Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery and the Bereavement Authority of Ontario (BAO) consider several points of concern to assist municipalities with the growing concern of cemetery transfers;

And furthermore, that a copy of this resolution and a copy Tay Township's resolution be circulated to the Honourable Todd McCarthy, Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery, Jim Cassimatis, BAO Interim CEO/Registrar, John Yakabuski, MPP for Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke, and all Ontario Municipalities.

Recorded Vote Requested by:

.....n/a.....

	Yea	Nay
J. Levesque	_____	_____
T. Popkie	_____	_____
L. Thomson	_____	_____
R. Tripp	_____	_____
R. Weir	_____	_____


MAYOR

Declaration of Pecuniary Interest:

.....n/a.....

Disclosed his/her/their interest(s), vacated he/her/their seat(s),
abstained from discussion and did not vote

TAY TOWNSHIP

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



Received December 21, 2023
C-2023-442

December 21, 2023

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

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

Dear Hon. Todd McCarthy,

Re: Provincial Cemetery Management Support Request – Tay Township

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

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

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

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

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

TAY TOWNSHIP

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



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

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

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

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

Sent on behalf of Tay Township Council.

Yours truly,

Katelyn Johns, MPPA
Municipal Clerk

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



Council Resolution Form

Date: 21 Mar 2024 No: Resolution No.63-24
Moved By: Councillor Tripp Disposition: CARRIED.
Seconded by Councillor Popkie
Item No: 12.3

Description: Funding for the 2024 Municipal Equipment Operator Course

RESOLUTION:

WHEREAS, municipal public works departments from across the Province of Ontario provide invaluable services to our communities ensuring the health and safety of all residents;

AND WHEREAS, if it was not for our municipal public works employees from across the Province of Ontario maintaining our public roads systems, our communities would not be able to function as emergency personnel could not respond to calls, school buses could not get our children to school, residents would not be able to get to work, school or appointments and many more basic functions would not be able to happen;

AND WHEREAS, municipal public works departments are already feeling the impacts of a labour shortage, which will only be exasperated over the next three to five years, which will cause levels of service municipalities are able to provide to ensure the health and safety of our residents to decrease;

AND WHEREAS, there is currently no provincial-wide course that properly trains potential municipal public works employees, specifically relating to municipal heavy equipment.

THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED, that the Township of Greater Madawaska supports the work of the Association of Ontario Road Supervisors to develop a Municipal Equipment Operator Course to address this issue;

Recorded Vote Requested by:

.....n/a.....

	Yea	Nay
J. Levesque	_____	_____
T. Popkie	_____	_____
L. Thomson	_____	_____
R. Tripp	_____	_____
R. Weir	_____	_____

Page 1 of 2

MAYOR

Declaration of Pecuniary Interest:

.....n/a.....

Disclosed his/her/their interest(s), vacated he/her/their seat(s),
abstained from discussion and did not vote

AND THAT, the Township of Greater Madawaska calls on the Province of Ontario’s Ministry of Labour, Training, Immigration and Skilled Trades to fully fund the Municipal Equipment Operator Course in 2024 through the Skills Development Fund;

AND THAT, a copy of this resolution be sent to the Minister of Labour, Training, Immigration and Skilled Trades David Piccini, MPP John Yakabuski, the Association of Ontario Road Supervisors, and all Ontario Municipalities.

Recorded Vote Requested by:		
.....n/a.....		
	Yea	Nay
J. Levesque	_____	_____
T. Popkie	_____	_____
L. Thomson	_____	_____
R. Tripp	_____	_____
R. Weir	_____	_____



MAYOR

Declaration of Pecuniary Interest:
.....n/a.....
Disclosed his/her/their interest(s), vacated he/her/their seat(s),
abstained from discussion and did not vote



March 13th, 2024

Premier's Office
Room 281
Legislative Building, Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

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

Ministry of Legislative Affairs
Main Legislative Building
Room 223
111 Wellesley St. W
Toronto, ON M7A 1A8

ATTENTION: Hon. Doug Ford, Hon. David Piccini, & Hon. Paul Calandra

Dear Premier Ford, Hon. David Piccini, & Hon. Paul Calandra:

RE: Resolution – Expanding the Life of Fire Apparatus

Please be advised that the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Lanark Highlands passed the following resolution at their regular meeting held March 13th, 2024:

Moved by Councillor Kelso

Seconded by Councillor Closs

THAT, the Council of the Township of Lanark Highlands supports the resolution from the Village of Merrickville Wolford regarding Expanding the Life of Fire Apparatus;

AND THAT, this resolution be sent to Premier Doug Ford, the Honourable David Piccini, Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development, Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing;



AND FURTHER THAT, this resolution be circulated to all Ontario municipalities, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and the Eastern Ontario Warden's Caucus (EOWC).

Resolved

Sincerely,

Amanda Noël

Amanda Noël,
Clerk/Acting CAO

Encls.

c.c. All Ontario Municipalities
Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)
Eastern Ontario Warden's Caucus (EOWC)
Association of Municipalities

Village of Merrickville Wolford

317 Brock Street W PO Box 340
Merrickville, ON K0G 1N0
T: 613-269-4791
W: Merrickville-wolford.ca

February 16, 2024

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

Re: Expanding the Life of Fire Apparatus

Please be advised that the Council of the Corporation of the Village of Merrickville-Wolford, at its regular meeting on February 12th, 2024, passed the following motion endorsing the resolution from Prince Edward County regarding Expanding the Life of Fire Apparatus.

Resolution #: R-21-12-02-24

Moved by: Deputy Mayor Barr

Seconded by: Councillor Ireland

THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Village of Merrickville-Wolford endorse the resolution received from Prince Edward County regarding support for the Province to expand the life span of fire apparatus, specifically pertaining to the replacement of fire trucks due to insurance requirements Fire Underwriters Survey requesting the creation of a new community fire-protection and fire prevention insurance system that does not put all municipalities under the same umbrella, with distinct categories for rural and urban municipalities.

Carried.

If you have any questions regarding the above resolution, please do not hesitate to contact me by email at clerk@merrickville-wolford.ca.

Your truly,



Julia McCaugherty-Jansman
Clerk

January 22, 2024

Please be advised that during the regular Council meeting of January 16, 2024 the following motion regarding support for the Province to expand the life span of fire apparatus, specifically pertaining to the replacement of fire trucks due to insurance requirements was carried:

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-46

DATE: January 16, 2024

MOVED BY: Councillor Nieman

SECONDED BY: Councillor Branderhorst

WHEREAS By-Law 3256-2013, being a By-Law to Establish, Maintain, and Operate a Fire Department established service level standards for the Corporation of the County of Prince Edward Fire Department;

AND WHEREAS apparatus and equipment are directly tied to the delivery of fire protection services authorized by Council in By-Law 3256-2013, and a safe, reliable and diverse fleet is required to serve operational needs;

AND WHEREAS fire Apparatus is governed by industry best practices, the application of law and recognized industry partners, including the Ontario Fire Service Section 21 Guidance Notes, National Fire Protection Association Standards, The Occupational Health and Safety Act, and Fire Underwriters Survey (FUS);

AND WHEREAS Fire Underwriters Survey (FUS) is a provider of data, underwriting, risk management and legal/regulatory services focusing on community fire-protection and fire prevention systems in Canada, establishing apparatus replacement schedules based on safety and risk mitigation practices;

AND WHEREAS on November 16, 2023, Council, received report FD-06-2023 regarding asset Management - Fire Apparatus Fleet Report and noted the budgetary pressures of meeting FUS replacement schedules;

AND WHEREAS no provincial funding is available for new fire trucks, yet, small and rural municipalities must meet the same standards set by FUS as larger municipalities for fire equipment, including additional pressure to move fire trucks out when they reach a specific age, even though they can still meet the safety regulations;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of Prince Edward County direct the Mayor to draft a letter to MPP Minister Todd Smith requesting a meeting to discuss the life span of fire apparatus, specifically pertaining to the replacement of fire trucks due to insurance requirements; and

THAT the Mayor draft a letter to FUS requesting the creation of a new community fire-protection and fire prevention insurance system that does not put all municipalities under the same umbrella, with distinct categories for rural and urban municipalities;

THAT this resolution be sent to Premier Doug Ford, the Honourable David Piccini, Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development, Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing requesting a response on this matter within 30 days of receipt; and

THAT this resolution be shared with all 444 municipalities in Ontario, The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), The Association of Municipalities Ontario (AMO), and The Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus (EOWC).

CARRIED

Yours truly,



Catalina Blumenberg, **CLERK**

cc: Mayor Steve Ferguson, Councillor Nieman, Councillor Branderhorst, Marcia Wallace, CAO and Fire Chief Chad Brown



April 17th, 2024

Premier's Office
Room 281
Legislative Building, Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

Ministry of Legislative Affairs
Main Legislative Building
Room 223
111 Wellesley St. W
Toronto, ON M7A 1A8

Ben Lobb, MP
30 Victoria Street
Goderich, Ontario
N7A 2R6

ATTENTION: Hon. Doug Ford, Hon. Paul Calandra, & MP Ben Lobb

Dear Premier Ford, Hon. Paul Calandra, & MP Benn Lobb:

RE: Resolution – Return to combined ROMA and OGRA Conferences

Please be advised that the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Lanark Highlands passed the following resolution at their regular meeting held March 26th, 2024:

Moved by Councillor Kelso

Seconded by Councillor Closs

THAT, the Council of the Township of Lanark Highlands supports the resolution from the Town of Goderich regarding the return to combined ROMA and OGRA conferences;

AND THAT, this resolution be forwarded to Premier Doug Ford, Minister Paul Calandra, MP Ben Lobb and be circulated to the Mayor of Mississippi Mills as the Zone 8 Representative on the Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) board of directors, and the Municipalities of Ontario.

Resolved



Sincerely,

Amanda Noël

Amanda Noël,
Clerk/Acting CAO

Encls.

c.c. Christa Lowry, Mayor of Mississippi Mills & Zone 8 Representative on the Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) board of directors
All Ontario Municipalities

TOWNSHIP OF MCMURRICH/MONTEITH

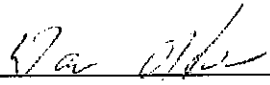
Resolution


Number: 2024-15

January 16, 2024

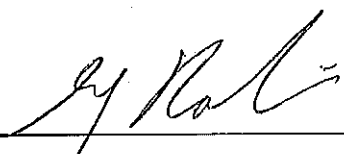
Moved by: Currie, Terry ☐
Dyson, Wesley ☐
O'Halloran, Daniel ☒
Roeder-Martin, Vicky ☐
Robinson, Glynn ☐

Seconded by: Currie, Terry ☐
Dyson, Wesley ☒
O'Halloran, Daniel ☐
Roeder-Martin, Vicky ☐
Robinson, Glynn ☐


Signature: _____


Signature: _____

Be It Resolved that Council receives correspondence from the Township of Clearview dated December 12, 2023 including Staff Report LS-032-2023 regarding cemeteries and that we send a resolution of support for their correspondences to Bereavement Authority of Ontario (BAO), Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery and MPP Graydon Smith.

Mayor  _____

Carried ☒ Defeated ☐

Declaration of Pecuniary Interest by: _____

Recorded vote requested by: _____

Recorded Vote:	Yays	Nays
Currie	_____	_____
Dyson	_____	_____
O'Halloran	_____	_____
Roeder-Martin	_____	_____
Robinson	_____	_____



CLEARVIEW
TOWNSHIP

Clerk's Department

Township of Clearview
Box 200, 217 Gideon Street
Stayner, Ontario L0M 1S0

clerks@clearview.ca | www.clearview.ca
Phone: 705-428-6230

December 12, 2023

File: C00.2023

Hon. Todd McCarthy
Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery
777 Bay Street, 5th Floor
Toronto ON M5B 2H7

Sent by Email

Jan 16
2024
10.9

RE: Cemetery Transfer/Abandonment Administration & Management Support

Please be advised that Council of the Township of Clearview, at its meeting held on December 11, 2023, passed a resolution regarding Cemetery Transfer/Abandonment Administration & Management Support as follows:

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

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

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

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

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

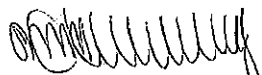
Now Therefore Be It Resolved that Council of the Township of Clearview requests that the Province through the Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery and the Bereavement Authority of Ontario (BAO) consider the following to assist municipalities in this growing concern of cemetery transfers:

- Amend the Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act, 2002 (FBCSA), to have the Province, through the BAO, identified as the default owner and operator of a cemetery when it is abandoned;
- Provide annual funding (based on the number of cemeteries a municipality owns and operates) to municipalities to assist with the maintenance of inactive and active cemeteries; Page 6 of 7
- Provide free training opportunities for municipalities regarding cemetery administration; and,
- Investigate and support the design of universal cemetery software for use by municipal cemetery operators that can be offered at an affordable cost.

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

For reference, please find attached the Staff Report LS-032-2023 that provides background for the above resolution. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Regards,



Sasha Helmkey-Playter, B.A., Dipl. M.A., AOMC
Clerk/Director of Legislative Services

cc: Jim Cassimatis, BAO Interim CEO/Registrar
MPP Simcoe Grey, Brian Saunderson
Ontario Municipalities



CLEARVIEW

Staff Report

To: Mayor and Council

From: Sasha Helmkey, Clerk/Director of Legislative Services

Date: December 11, 2023

Subject: Report # LS-032-2023 – Cemetery Transfer/Abandonment
Administration & Management Support

Recommendation

Be It Resolved that Council of the Township of Clearview hereby receives Report LS-032-2023 (Cemetery Transfer/Abandonment Administration & Management Support) dated December 11, 2023; and,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Background

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

Over the last decade there appears to be a trend where cemeteries in Ontario are being transferred, whether through abandonment or a mutually agreed upon transfer, to the care and control of municipalities. This is often seen when there is a breakdown in existing cemetery boards and/or when churches cease operations. For many existing private cemetery boards their board members and volunteers are aging and are unable to assist with the operations and maintenance of the cemetery any longer. Finding new members proves to be difficult for these boards to continue. In addition to aging board members, there are other issues that are contributing to the increase in cemetery transfers:

- high maintenance costs
- inaccuracy of records
- lack of financial and human resources to effectively operate and maintain the cemetery

- increased regulatory processes that require ongoing training for selling of interment rights, and the financial operation of the care and maintenance fund, etc.

Township Owned Cemeteries

The Township of Clearview currently owns and operates nine (9) cemeteries within its geographic boundaries. Out of these nine cemeteries, four (4) are considered active meaning that there are still interment rights to be sold, or burials to take place. Below is a chart outlining these cemeteries and their status:

Cemetery Name	Address	Status
Batteau Hill Cemetery	2670 County Road 124, Duntroon	Inactive
Bethel Union Cemetery	2249 Creemore Avenue, New Lowell	Inactive
Dunedin Union Cemetery	9 Turkeyroost Lane, Dunedin	Active
Duntroon Pioneer Cemetery	2870 County Road 124, Duntroon	Inactive
Lavender Cemetery	827103 Mulmur/Nottawasaga Townline, Creemore	Active
Old Zion Presbyterian Church Cemetery	6130 Highway 26, Sunnidale Corners	Inactive
Second Line Nottawasaga Cemetery	2279 County Road 42, Stayner	Active
Stayner Union Cemetery	7661 Highway 26, Stayner	Active
Zion Presbyterian Church Cemetery	12358 County Road 10, Sunnidale Corners	Inactive

For the Dunedin and Stayner Union Cemetery, the Township looks after the maintenance and burials through a third-party contractor. The maintenance and burials for the Lavender Cemetery are conducted through the Board. For the Second Line Nottawasaga Cemetery all the interment rights have been sold, but there remains one burial to be completed. The cost to maintain an active cemetery is expensive. Although burial costs and the installation of markers, etc. are cost recovery through the purchaser, grounds maintenance is not.

Inactive cemeteries still require consistent grounds maintenance, which includes any monument restoration for health and safety, and record searches for the public register.

Comments and Analysis

When analyzing the number of cemeteries that Clearview Township currently owns and operates, maintenance and administration is a large undertaking. To add any additional cemeteries by way of transfer or abandonment will only compound the issues the Township is already facing. In the past year, the Township has been approached by two separate entities regarding possible cemetery transfers. When a board or cemetery transfers ownership to the municipality, the issues are transferred with it. Municipalities are not immune to the same concerns. It becomes a strain on municipal resources, financially, administratively, and operationally.

Administrative Impact

From an administrative perspective the management of four active cemeteries is both time consuming and complex. No interment is the same, and providing good customer service takes time especially for those making arrangements while also dealing with grief. Administrative tasks include but are not limited to: interment right sales and mapping, burial contracts and scheduling, monument placement, historical record searches, plot and monument staking, fees and charges review, family transfers of interment rights and annual reporting to the Bereavement Authority of Ontario (BAO).

- **Incomplete records**

Often the records accepted by the Township from a dissolved cemetery board or church are incomplete and disorganized. This is no fault of the previous board members, as they are also often operating with limited resources. However, it does make it difficult to manage the cemetery post-transfer when records are sparse. Understanding which plots are occupied and by who is critical to the sound management of a cemetery. Unfortunately, this is not made possible in all cases because of incomplete records. In addition, records received during a transfer usually are maintained under different records management standards and are often organized and named inconsistently. Adaptation to Township records keeping practices takes time.

- **Lack of human resources**

Cemetery management is a highly regulated professional field, with the responsibility of which is often placed on public sector employees who may have limited knowledge of cemeteries in general. With reduced resources within municipalities especially rural ones, the management of cemeteries often becomes a secondary responsibility to another position. There is also a lack of affordable training available for municipal employees who are required to abide by regulations set out by the FBCSA and the BAO.

- Increased regulatory processes

Annual reporting requirements of the BAO can be extensive and complex. This includes monitoring the number of interments, the transfers to the Care and Maintenance Fund (C&M), and how the C&M fund can be used. There are also regulations pertaining to maintaining a public register, how sales are to be conducted and strict guidelines on Cemetery By-law approvals, and expansions including the erection of columbaria structures.

- Inconsistent cemetery regulations

Cemeteries can have many different regulations related to plot size, number of burials allowed in a given plot, monument size, what types of flowers/shrubs are allowed to be installed near a headstone etc. The transfer of different cemeteries having inconsistent regulations can make it difficult to adapt management practices in order to maintain original cemetery operational standards.

Operational Impact

Similarly, from an operational perspective the grounds maintenance of cemeteries, whether active or inactive, is both time consuming and complex. A key issue when analyzing the maintenance component of cemetery management is the lack of financial resources to support the operation. Cemetery maintenance includes, but is not limited to: grass cutting (whipper snipping around monuments), tree and shrub maintenance, monument and corner stone maintenance, water pipe and washroom monitoring, and general upkeep of cemetery grounds (removal of debris, etc.).

- High maintenance costs

As with many services, there are rising costs to contend with. Municipalities have adopted different models to address the maintenance of such, with third party contractors being commonly used or it becomes the responsibility of an internal department such as Parks & Recreation. Regardless the model, the costs have increased significantly over the last decade with equipment purchases/upgrades, insurance requirements for third-party contractors, and the time it takes to cut the grass and whipper snip around monuments. To put it into perspective, the Stayner Union Cemetery with the expansion is 25 acres with monuments to manoeuvre around during ground care. Other considerations for maintenance includes monument restoration and ensuring that they are not deteriorated to the point where they are unsafe. This is important for older cemeteries where restoration hasn't been provided in the past and there are many deteriorating monuments.

- Cost of cemetery management software

Cemetery Management Software can help municipalities manage cemetery records, including plot sale contracts, interment rights certificates, and regulatory reporting.

However, these software solutions are often expensive and require a large amount of staff time to implement especially with incomplete data and records. These software solutions range in price from \$5,000 to \$100,000 with annual maintenance costs. This investment in software can be a large budget request and one that would need to be supported from taxation with the limited funds in cemetery general accounts.

- **Inadequate Care and Maintenance funds**

When the Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act, 2002 (FBCSA) was enacted, it stipulated that a care and maintenance fund for a cemetery shall be established. A cemetery operator is required to make contributions to the fund from the sale of in-ground graves, crypts, tombs, niches, scattering rights and monument installation. The contribution is prescribed under the FBCSA and differs dependant on the interment type. The idea is that the fund (income earned from the fund - interest) pays for maintenance costs after a cemetery has stopped making sales. In reality, this concept does not produce enough funds to maintain a cemetery. Looking at the Stayner Union Cemetery as an example, for the very basics (grass cutting and whipper snipping) the interest from the care and maintenance fund does not provide enough monies to maintain the cemetery for the 7 months it's required. In addition, the care and maintenance fund is also to be utilized for the stabilization, maintenance and security of markers. Cemeteries are not self funding, and maintenance of such is becoming a larger budget concern.

Support Request

Cemetery transfers and abandonments have been an ongoing concern for Clearview Township for many years. When you look at the large geography of the Township there are many cemeteries within the boundaries that have the potential to be transferred. To gauge the concern of other municipalities on this issue, staff addressed it at a Simcoe County Clerks group discussion. Many neighbouring municipalities expressed that they were dealing with the same issues and have also been approached by different external entities on possible transfers.

As result of the discussion, it was agreed that to assist with the real concerns with transfers and abandonments of cemeteries, it's vital that the Province provide assistance to adequately support this infrastructure. Support can be provided in many different forms, with staff making the following recommendations for the Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery and the BAO:

- Amend the Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act, 2002 (FBCSA), to have the Province, through the BAO, identified as the default owner and operator of a cemetery when it is abandoned;

- Provide annual funding (based on the number of cemeteries a municipality owns and operates) to municipalities to assist with the maintenance of inactive and active cemeteries;
- Provide free training opportunities for municipalities regarding cemetery administration; and,
- Investigate and support the design of universal cemetery software for use by municipal cemetery operators that can be offered at an affordable cost.

There is not one solution to solve all the issues, but at the very least it's important to identify the concerns and have open and real discussions at the provincial level on what support can be provided.

Clearview's Strategic Plan

The above initiative supports the following strategic pillars:

- Governance

Financial Implications

It is difficult to identify an exact dollar amount that can be attributed to a cemetery transfer/abandonment to the municipality. Every transfer is different and depends on a multitude of factors beginning with the cemetery status (active/inactive), acreage, care and maintenance fund (if any), maintenance of records, etc. What is being recommended by staff by way of support from the province is not meant to erase the costs entirely, but rather, to alleviate the financial burden in some capacity.

Report Appendices

Not applicable.

Approvals

Submitted by:	Sasha Helmkey, B.A., Dipl. M.A., AOMC, Clerk/Director of Legislative Services
Reviewed by:	Krista Pascoe, Deputy Clerk
Financial Implications Reviewed by:	Kelly McDonald, Treasurer
Approved by:	John Ferguson, CAO



The Corporation of

THE TOWNSHIP OF MELANCTHON

157101 Highway 10, Melancthon, Ontario, L9V 2E6

Telephone - (519) 925-5525

Fax No. - (519) 925-1110

Website: www.melancthontownship.ca

Email: info@melancthontownship.ca

March 25, 2024

City of Greater Sudbury
PO Box 5000 Stn A
200 Brady Street
Sudbury, Ontario
P3A 5P3

Attention: Brigitte Sobush, Manager of Clerk's Services/Deputy City Clerk

Dear Ms. Sobush:

At the meeting of Council held on March 21, 2024, the following motion was introduced and passed:

Moved by Neilson, Seconded by Plowright

Be it resolved that: "Council support the motion from the City of Greater Sudbury regarding the Amendment to the Occupational Health and Safety Act to Clarify the Definition of Employer, in its entirety." **Carried.**

Yours truly,

Denise B. Holmes, AMCT
CAO/Clerk

- c. Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
Honourable David Piccini, Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development
Honourable Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Sylvia Jones, MPP Dufferin-Caledon
All Municipalities in Dufferin County



Hon. David Piccini
Minister of Labour,
Immigration, Training and
Skills Development
117 Peter St.
Port Hope, ON L1A 1C5
VIA EMAIL:
David.Piccini@pc.ola.org

Hon. Vic Fedeli
219 Main St. E
North Bay, ON P1B 1B2
VIA EMAIL:
Vic.Fedeli@pc.ola.org

Township of Puslinch
7404 Wellington Road 34
Puslinch, ON N0B 2J0
www.puslinch.ca

March 14, 2024

Association of Ontario Road
Supervisors (AORS)
VIA EMAIL:
Email: admin@aors.on.ca

Association of Municipalities
of Ontario (AMO)
VIA EMAIL:
amo@amo.on.ca

RE: 6.6 Municipality of Powassan resolution regarding Association of Ontario Roads Supervisors Training

Please be advised that Township of Puslinch Council, at its meeting held on February 28, 2024 considered the aforementioned topic and subsequent to discussion, the following was resolved:

Resolution No. 2024-066:

Moved by Councillor Bailey and
Seconded by Councillor Sepulis

That the Consent Agenda item 6.1.6 and 6.6 listed for FEBRUARY 28, 2024 Council meeting be received for information; and

Whereas the Township recognizes that public works departments are responsible for a number of skilled tasks such as proper forestry techniques, welding and metal fabrication, heavy equipment mechanics, and general carpentry skills;

That The Township of Puslinch Council supports the resolution by the Municipality of Powassan resolution regarding the Association of Ontario Roads Supervisors Training and in addition, it would be ideal to consider all aspects of a public works department when advocating for government funded training opportunities.



CARRIED

As per the above resolution, please accept a copy of this correspondence for your information and consideration.

Sincerely,

Justine Brotherston
Municipal Clerk

February 13, 2024

The Honourable David Piccini
Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development
Minister.MLITSD@ontario.ca

DELIVERED VIA EMAIL

RE: Municipal Equipment Operator Course

Dear Minister Piccini,

Please be advised that at the Regular Council Meeting of February 6, 2024, the council of the Municipality of Powassan passed the following resolution:

WHEREAS municipal public works departments from across the Province of Ontario provide invaluable services to our communities ensuring the health and safety of all residents;

AND WHEREAS, if it was not for our municipal public works employees from across the Province of Ontario maintaining our public roads systems, our communities would not be able to function as emergency personnel could not respond to calls, school buses could not get our children to school, residents would not be able to get to work, school or appointments and many more basic functions would not be able to happen;

AND WHEREAS, municipal public works departments are already feeling the impacts of a labour shortage, which will only be exasperated over the next three to five years, which will cause levels of service municipalities are able to provide to ensure the health and safety of our residents to decrease;

AND WHEREAS, there is currently no provincial-wide course that properly trains potential municipal public works employees, specifically relating to municipal heavy equipment.

THEREFORE, IT BE RESOLVED, that the Municipality of Powassan supports the work of the Association of Ontario Road Supervisors to develop a Municipal Equipment Operator Course to address this issue;

AND THAT, the Council of the Municipality of Powassan calls on the Province of Ontario's Ministry of Labour, Training, Immigration and Skilled Trades to fully fund the Municipal Equipment Operator

Course in 2024 through the Skills Development Fund;

AND THAT, a copy of this resolution be sent to the Minister of Labour, Training, Immigration and Skilled Trades David Piccini, Municipality of Powassan's Member of Provincial Parliament Honourable Vic Fedeli, and the Association of Ontario Road Supervisors.

If you have any questions regarding Resolution 2024-43, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



Allison Quinn
Clerk
Municipality of Powassan

Cc: Municipality of Powassan's Member of Provincial Parliament Honourable Vic Fedeli
Association of Ontario Road Supervisors
AMO
All Municipalities in Ontario



VIA EMAIL:
All Ontario municipalities

Township of Puslinch
7404 Wellington Road 34
Puslinch, ON N0B 2J0
www.puslinch.ca

March 14, 2024

RE: 9.3.1 Report ADM-2024-010 Enbridge Gas Follow-Up

Please be advised that Township of Puslinch Council, at its meeting held on February 28, 2024 considered the aforementioned topic and subsequent to discussion, the following was resolved:

Resolution No. 2024-072:

Moved by Councillor Goyda and
Seconded by Councillor Sepulis

That Council receives report ADM-2024-010 regarding the follow-up to the Enbridge Gas Presentation on February 7, 2024; and

Whereas access to natural gas is important to residents and businesses in our community for affordability and reliability; and

Whereas the Ontario Energy Board's (OEB) decision on Phase 1 of the Enbridge Gas 2024 rebasing application, issued on 21 December 2023, has concerning implications including putting into question the future access to natural gas that support of economic development, affordable housing growth, and energy reliability in communities such as the Township of Puslinch; and

Whereas Ontario is growing and access to affordable energy to support this growth for homes and businesses is crucial, and is a measured approach to energy transition as not having access to natural gas will stifle economic growth and put housing and energy affordability at risk; and

Whereas delivery rates for electricity in rural areas are significantly more costly than delivery rates in urban centres creating an inequity for those living in rural areas; and



Whereas Bill 165: Keeping Energy Costs Down Act, 2024, if passed, would reverse a December 2023 decision by the OEB that requires consumers to pay the cost of connecting a new home to natural gas infrastructure up front instead of over a period of 40 years; and

Whereas Bill 165: Keeping Energy Costs Down Act, 2024, if passed, would increase the OEB's Leave to Consult threshold from \$2 million to \$10 million, requiring that fewer energy projects would need OEB orders to construct a new pipeline resulting in project streamlining and focusing OEB approvals on larger, more complex projects;

Therefore be it resolved:

1. That the Township of Puslinch supports Bill 165: Keeping Energy Costs Down Act, 2024; and
2. That the Township of Puslinch supports a measured approach to Ontario's energy transition; and
3. That the Township of Puslinch recognizes that there may not be enough electricity available to replace the energy provided by natural gas and meet the increased demand from electrification; and
4. That Natural gas must continue to play an integral role in meeting the energy needs of Ontario; and
5. That the Township of Puslinch supports the need for equitable electricity delivery rates in rural areas and natural gas offers an affordable option for these rural areas at this time; and
6. That the Township of Puslinch supports the work the Government of Ontario has done to date, including the Natural Gas Expansion Program and Electrification and Energy Transition Panel's call for a clear policy on the role of natural gas to secure access to affordable energy; and
7. That this resolution be circulated to the President of AMO, Colin Best, Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, Hon. Todd Smith, the Minister of Energy, Hon. MPP Arnott, Hon. MPP Rae, all Ontario municipalities as significant actors to ensuring the need for natural gas in



Ontario as part of a measured approach towards energy transition, and submitted to municipalaffairs@enbridge.com; and further

That Council direct staff to consult with Enbridge Gas on the next steps associated with commencing the Community Natural Gas Expansion Program in Puslinch subject to the passing of Bill 165: Keeping Energy Costs Down Act, 2024.

CARRIED

As per the above resolution, please accept a copy of this correspondence for your information and consideration.

Sincerely,

Justine Brotherston
Municipal Clerk

CC:
Premier of Ontario, Hon. Doug Ford,
Minister of Energy, Hon. Todd Smith
Hon. MPP Arnott,
Hon. MPP Rae,
All Ontario municipalities



181 Perry Street, PO Box 780
Port Perry, ON L9L 1A7
Phone: 905-985-7346
Fax: 905-985-9917
scugog.ca

Sent Via Email to: premier@ontario.ca

April 18, 2024

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

The Honourable Michale D. Ford
Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism
14th Floor, 56 Wellesley Street
Toronto, ON
M7A 2E7

RE: Proposed Amendment to Subsection 27(16) of the Ontario Heritage Act with respect to the removal of listed (non-designated) properties from Municipal heritage registers

Please be advised that the Township of Scugog, at its Regular Council meeting on March 25, 2024, passed the following motion supporting the resolution from the Town of Cobourg regarding Proposed Amendment to Subsection 27(16) of the Ontario Heritage Act with respect to the removal of listed (non-designated) properties from Municipal heritage registers:

1. **THAT** the Council of the Township of Scugog authorize the Mayor to send a letter to Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, and Michael Ford, Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism, requesting that Subsection 27(16) of the Ontario Heritage Act be amended to extend the deadline for five years from January 1, 2025 to January 1, 2030;
2. **AND THAT** Council direct staff to forward this resolution to all 443 municipalities in Ontario seeking support of the ACO correspondence.

Attached please find a copy of the Architectural Conservancy Ontario correspondence dated February 8, 2024.

To access this document in an accessible format, please contact 905-985-7346 ext. 115



181 Perry Street, PO Box 780
Port Perry, ON L9L 1A7
Phone: 905-985-7346
Fax: 905-985-9917
scugog.ca

I know that you value the history and heritage of our province and the contributions made to our society of those who came before us. By preserving our architectural and built heritage, we honour those contributions and the historical foundations of our communities.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Wilma Wotten".

Wilma Wotten
Mayor, Township of Scugog
/cr

Enclosure

CC All Ontario Municipalities

Resolution Number 2024-067

Title: Support Resolution: Ontario's economic prosperity and quality of life

Date: Monday, March 18, 2024

Moved by Councillor Jaworski

Seconded by

Councillor Baugie

Whereas current provincial-municipal fiscal arrangements are undermining Ontario's economic prosperity and quality of life;

And whereas nearly a third of municipal spending in Ontario is for services in areas of provincial responsibility, and expenditures are outpacing provincial contributions by nearly \$4 billion a year;

And whereas municipal revenues, such as property taxes, do not grow with the economy or inflation;

And whereas unprecedented population and housing growth will require significant investments in municipal infrastructure;

And whereas municipalities are being asked to take on complex health and social challenges, like homelessness, supporting asylum seekers, and addressing the mental health and addictions crises;

And whereas inflation, rising interest rates, and provincial policy decisions are sharply constraining municipal fiscal capacity;

And whereas property taxpayers, including people on fixed incomes and small businesses, cannot afford to subsidize income re-distribution programs for those most in need;

And whereas the province can, and should, invest more in the prosperity of communities;

And whereas municipalities and the provincial government have a strong history of collaboration.

Be it resolved that the Province of Ontario commit to undertaking with the Association of Municipalities of Ontario a comprehensive social and economic prosperity review to promote the stability and sustainability of municipal finances across Ontario.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this Resolution be circulated to all the municipalities in Ontario.

CARRIED

TIED

DEFEATED

POSTPONED



Mayor Lachlan McDonald

Terrace Bay
Regular Council - 02 Apr 2024

Item a)

Date: April 2, 2024

CR91-2024

Moved by 
Seconded by 

WHEREAS municipal public works departments from across the Province of Ontario provide invaluable services to our communities ensuring the health and safety of all residents;

AND WHEREAS, if it was not for our municipal public works employees from across the Province of Ontario maintaining our public roads systems, our communities would not be able to function as emergency personnel could not respond to calls, school buses could not get our children to school, residents would not be able to get to work, school or appointments and many more basic functions would not be able to happen;

AND WHEREAS, municipal public works departments are already feeling the impacts of a labour shortages, which will only be exasperated over the next three (3) to five (5) years, which will cause the levels of service that municipalities are able to provide to ensure the health and safety of our residents to decrease;

AND WHEREAS, there is currently no provincial-wide course that properly trains potential municipal public works employees, specifically relating to municipal heavy equipment;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the Corporation of the Township of Terrace Bay supports the work of the Association of Ontario Road Supervisors to develop a Municipal Equipment Operator Course to address this issue;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Council for the Corporation of the Township of Terrace Bay calls on the Province of Ontario's Ministry of Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development to fully fund the Municipal Equipment Operator Course in 2024 through the Skills Development Fund;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the Minister of Labour, Training, Immigration and Skilled Trades, David Piccinni; our local Member of Provincial Parliament; the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO); the Association of Ontario Road Supervisors (AORS); and all Ontario Municipalities.

☒ Carried ☐ Defeated ☐ Recorded Vote

Recorded Vote:

	Yes	No
Mayor Paul Malashewski		
Councillor Gary Adduono		
Councillor Chris Dube		
Councillor Bert Johnson		

Councillor Rick St. Louis			



 Mayor

Terrace Bay
Regular Council - 02 Apr 2024

Item c)

Date: April 2, 2024

CR93-2024

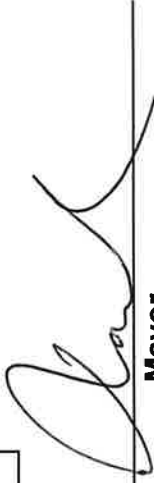
Moved by 
Seconded by 

RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Township of Terrace Bay supports the request of the Township of Amaranth in calling upon the Province of Ontario to treat all municipalities fairly and provide equivalent representative operational budget funding amounts to all Ontario municipalities.

☒ Carried ☐ Defeated ☐ Recorded Vote

Recorded Vote:

	Yes	No
Mayor Paul Malashewski		
Councillor Gary Adduono		
Councillor Chris Dube		
Councillor Bert Johnson		
Councillor Rick St. Louis		


Mayor

Terrace Bay
Regular Council - 20 Feb 2024

Item d)

Date: February 20, 2024

CR39-2024

Moved by 
Seconded by 

WHEREAS the Council of Prince Edward County (PEC) passed the following resolution at their January 16, 2024 regular meeting:

WHEREAS By-Law 3256-2013, being a By-Law to Establish, Maintain, and Operate a Fire Department established service level standards for the Corporation of the County of Prince Edward Fire Department;

AND WHEREAS apparatus and equipment are directly tied to the delivery of fire protection services authorized by Council in By-Law 3256-2013, and a safe, reliable and diverse fleet is required to serve operational needs;

AND WHEREAS fire Apparatus is governed by industry best practices, the application of law and recognized industry partners, including the Ontario Fire Service Section 21 Guidance Notes, National Fire Protection Association Standards, The Occupational Health and Safety Act, and Fire Underwriters Survey (FUS);

AND WHEREAS Fire Underwriters Survey (FUS) is a provider of data, underwriting, risk management and legal/regulatory services focusing on community fire-protection and fire prevention systems in Canada, establishing apparatus replacement schedules based on safety and risk mitigation practices;

AND WHEREAS on November 16, 2023, Council, received report FD-06-2023 regarding asset Management - Fire Apparatus Fleet Report and noted the budgetary pressures of meeting FUS replacement schedules;

AND WHEREAS no provincial funding is available for new fire trucks, yet, small and rural municipalities must meet the same standards set by FUS as larger municipalities for fire equipment, including additional pressure to move fire trucks out when they reach a specific age, even though they can still meet the safety regulations;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of Prince Edward County direct the Mayor to draft a letter to MPP Minister Todd Smith requesting a meeting to discuss the life span of fire apparatus, specifically pertaining to the replacement of fire trucks due to insurance requirements; and

THAT the Mayor draft a letter to FUS requesting the creation of a new community fire-protection and fire prevention insurance system that does not put all municipalities under the same umbrella, with distinct categories for rural and urban municipalities;

THAT this resolution be sent to Premier Doug Ford, the Honourable David Piccini, Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development, Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing requesting a response on this matter within 30 days of receipt; and

THAT this resolution be shared with all 444 municipalities in Ontario, The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), The Association of Municipalities Ontario (AMO), and The Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus (EOWC).

AND WHEREAS the Township of Terrace Bay supports the resolution and initiative of Prince Edward County;

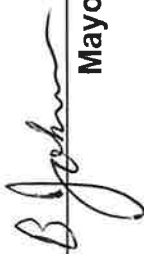
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT this resolution of support be sent to Premier Doug Ford, the Honourable David Piccini, Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development, Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing;

THAT this resolution of support be shared with all 444 municipalities in Ontario, The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), The Association of Municipalities Ontario (AMO), The Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus (EOWC) and, the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association

☒ Carried ☐ Defeated ☐ Recorded Vote

Recorded Vote:

	Yes	No
Mayor Paul Malashewski	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Councillor Gary Adduono	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Councillor Chris Dube	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Councillor Bert Johnson	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Councillor Rick St. Louis	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>


Mayor

Terrace Bay
Regular Council - 20 Feb 2024

Item a)

Date: February 20, 2024

CR37-2024

Moved by 
Seconded by 

WHEREAS the following resolution was passed by Council of the City of Greater Sudbury on December 5, 2023: CC2023-303:

WHEREAS in 2015 the City of Greater Sudbury (the "City") entered into a contract with a contractor experienced in road construction projects to complete a project on Elgin Street in the City's downtown core;

AND WHEREAS the contract provided that the contractor would be the constructor for the project as that term is defined in the Occupational Health and Safety Act (the "Act");

AND WHEREAS an employee of the constructor operating a grader on the project struck and killed a pedestrian;

AND WHEREAS the City was charged with offences under the Act as the constructor and the employer;

AND WHEREAS after being acquitted at trial and on appeal, the Ontario Court of Appeal, in a decision issued on April 23, 2021, found the City to be liable for contraventions of the Construction Regulations as an employer as it employed quality control inspectors to monitor the quality of work on the project from time-to-time;

AND WHEREAS the Supreme Court of Canada, in a decision issued on November 10, 2023, was evenly divided 4-4 on the issue resulting in dismissal of the City's appeal;

AND WHEREAS the consequence of this decision is that municipalities in Ontario, as well as all other owners of property in the province, who wish to undertake construction, are subject to being charged and convicted as an employer for offences in relation to project sites for which they have no control and have, in accordance with the Act, contracted with an entity to assume plenary oversight and authority over the work on such site as the constructor;

AND WHEREAS the potential of an owner being charged as an employer as that term is defined in the Act in circumstances where it has engaged a constructor disregards and renders meaningless the owner-constructor provisions contained in the Act and presents an unacceptable level of increased risk and confusion for owners and contractors throughout the province;

AND WHEREAS the City believes that the safety of workers is paramount however the safety of workers on construction projects in Ontario is not increased by placing liability on parties that do not have control of and are not responsible for the conduct of the work on such sites;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council for the City of Greater Sudbury requests that the province amend the Occupational Health and Safety Act to clarify the definition of "employer" to exclude owners that have contracted with a constructor for a project;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this motion be provided to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, the Honourable David Piccini, Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development, the Honourable Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, France Gelinas, MPP for Nickel Belt, Jamie West, MPP for Sudbury, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities, Ontario's Big City Mayors, Mayors and Regional Chairs of Ontario, Northern Ontario Large Urban Mayors, the Council of Ontario Construction Associations, the Ontario Chamber of Commerce and all Ontario municipalities.

AND WHEREAS the Township of Terrace of Terrace Bay supports the City of Greater Sudbury's request that the province amend the Occupational Health and Safety Act to clarify the definition of "employer" to exclude owners that have contracted with a constructor for a project;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council for the Township of Terrace Bay also requests that the province amend the Occupational Health and Safety Act to clarify the definition of "employer" to exclude owners that have contracted with a constructor for a project;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this motion be provided to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, the Honourable David Piccini, Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development, the Honourable Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Lise Vaugeois, MPP for Thunder Bay Superior North, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities, Ontario's Big City Mayors, Mayors and Regional Chairs of Ontario, Northern Ontario Large Urban Mayors, the Council of Ontario Construction Associations, the Ontario Chamber of Commerce and all Ontario municipalities.

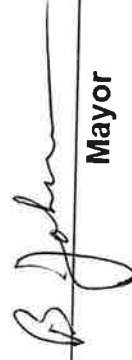
☒ Carried

☐ Defeated

☐ Recorded Vote

Recorded Vote:

	Yes	No
Mayor Paul Malashewski	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Councillor Gary Adduono	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Councillor Chris Dube	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Councillor Bert Johnson	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Councillor Rick St. Louis	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>


Mayor

Terrace Bay
Regular Council - 18 Mar 2024

Item a)

Date: March 18, 2024

CR78-2024

Moved by

Seconded by



WHEREAS as a past attendee of combined conferences, it makes great sense for the OGRA & ROMA conferences to be returned to a combined conference effort, not only financially for the municipality but also for availability for participation of members of Council and staff; and

WHEREAS these conferences afford a vital opportunity for delegations with members of our provincial parliament, returning to a combined conference provides a better respect to their availability and participation; and

WHEREAS during the 2019 OGRA conference AGM a resolution was passed regarding the re-establishment of an annual combined conference for both OGRA & ROMA; and

WHEREAS it is understandable that little movement has happened since the resolution at the 2019 OGRA conference AGM was passed, due to delays of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS not all persons who wish to attend can do so in person, that a hybrid participation option be considered for the sessions;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Township of Terrace Bay call upon both the ROMA & OGRA boards to re-establish a combined OGRA & ROMA annual conference.

FURTHERMORE that this resolution be forwarded to Premier Doug Ford, Minister Paul Calandra, MPP Vaugeois and be circulated to Municipalities of Ontario; as required.

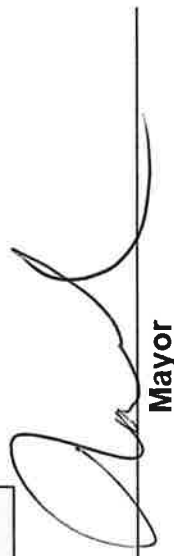
☒ Carried

☐ Defeated

☐ Recorded Vote

Recorded Vote:

	Yes	No
Mayor Paul Malashewski		
Councillor Gary Adduono		
Councillor Chris Dube		
Councillor Bert Johnson		
Councillor Rick St. Louis		


Mayor

Terrace Bay
Regular Council - 04 Mar 2024

Item b)

Date: March 4, 2024

CR60-2024

Moved by 
Seconded by 

WHEREAS access to natural gas is important to residents and businesses in our community for affordability and reliability

AND WHEREAS the Ontario Energy Board's (OEB) decision on Phase 1 of the Enbridge Gas 2024 rebasing application, issued on 21 December 2023, has concerning implications including putting into question the future access to natural gas that support of economic development, affordable housing growth, and energy reliability in communities such as the Township of Terrace Bay;

AND WHEREAS Ontario is growing and access to affordable energy to support this growth for homes and businesses is crucial, as is a measured approach to energy transition as not having access to natural gas will stifle economic growth and put housing and energy affordability at risk;

Page 206 of 253
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: THAT the Township of Terrace Bay supports a measured approach to Ontario's energy transition; *Terrace Bay*

AND FURTHER, that the Municipality of ~~Tweed~~ recognizes that there may not be enough electricity available to replace the energy provided by natural gas and meet the increased demand from electrification;

AND FURTHER, that natural gas must continue to play an integral role in meeting the energy needs of Ontario;

AND FURTHER, that the Municipality of ~~Tweed~~ *Terrace Bay* supports the work the Government of Ontario has done to date, including the Natural Gas Expansion Program and Electrification and Energy Transition Panel's call for a clear policy on the role of natural gas to secure access to affordable energy;


AND FURTHER, that this resolution be circulated to the President of AMO, Colin Best, Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, Hon. Todd Smith, the Minister of Energy, Lise Vaugeois, Member of Provincial Parliament for Thunder Bay - Superior North, all regional municipalities as significant actors to ensuring the need for natural gas in Ontario as part of a measured approach towards energy transition, and submitted to municipalaffairs@enbridge.com

☒ Carried ☐ Defeated ☐ Recorded Vote

Recorded Vote:

	Yes	No
Mayor Paul Malashewski		
Councillor Gary Adduono		
Councillor Chris Dube		

Councillor Bert Johnson			
Councillor Rick St. Louis			




 Mayor

Terrace Bay
Regular Council - 04 Mar 2024

Item a)

Date: March 4, 2024

CR59-2024

Moved by 
Seconded by 

WHEREAS current provincial-municipal fiscal arrangements are undermining Ontario's economic prosperity and quality of life

WHEREAS nearly a third of municipal spending in Ontario is for services in areas of provincial responsibility and expenditures are outpacing provincial contributions by nearly \$4 billion a year

WHEREAS municipal revenues, such as property taxes, do not grow with the economy or inflation

WHEREAS unprecedented population and housing growth will require significant investments in municipal infrastructure

WHEREAS municipalities are being asked to take on complex health and social challenges – like homelessness, supporting asylum seekers and addressing the mental health and addictions crises

WHEREAS inflation, rising interest rates, and provincial policy decisions are sharply constraining municipal fiscal capacity

WHEREAS property taxpayers – including people on fixed incomes and small businesses – can't afford to subsidize income re-distribution programs for those most in need

WHEREAS the province can, and should, invest more in the prosperity of communities

WHEREAS municipalities and the provincial government have a strong history of collaboration

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Province of Ontario commit to undertaking with the Association of Municipalities of Ontario a comprehensive social and economic prosperity review to promote the stability and sustainability of municipal finances across Ontario

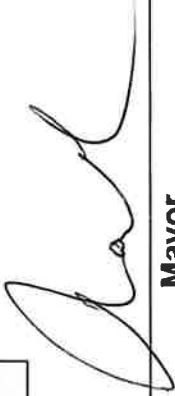
AND FURTHER THAT a copy of this motion be sent to the Premier of Ontario (premier@ontario.ca); Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing (minister.mah@ontario.ca); the Minister of Finance (minister.fin@ontario.ca); and to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (amo@amo.on.ca).

☒ Carried ☐ Defeated ☐ Recorded Vote

Recorded Vote:

	Yes	No
Mayor Paul Malaschewski		

Councillor Gary Adduono			
Councillor Chris Dube			
Councillor Bert Johnson			
Councillor Rick St. Louis			



Mayor



**The Corporation of The Township of The Archipelago
Council Meeting**

Agenda Number: 15.8.

Resolution Number 24-082

Title: Public Health Ontario proposes phasing out free water testing for private wells

Date: Friday, April 19, 2024

Moved by: Councillor Manners

Seconded by: Councillor MacLeod

WHEREAS the Ontario Auditor General's annual report on public health from December 2023 indicates that Public Health Ontario is proposing the phasing-out of free provincial water testing services for private drinking water; and

WHEREAS free private drinking water testing services has played a pivotal role in safeguarding public health, particularly in rural communities, including the entire Township of The Archipelago, that rely predominantly on private drinking water; and

WHEREAS the removal of free private drinking water testing could lead to a reduction in testing, potentially increasing the risk of waterborne diseases in these vulnerable populations; and

WHEREAS the tragic events in Walkerton, Ontario underscored the critical importance of safe drinking water.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that The Township of The Archipelago hereby requests that the Province reconsider and ultimately decide against the proposed phasing-out of free private drinking water testing services.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that this resolution be sent to all Ontario municipalities, Minister of Environment Conservation and Parks, Minister of Health, North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit, Graydon Smith, MPP Parry Sound-Muskoka.

Carried



Office of the Auditor General of Ontario

Value-for-Money Audit:
Public Health
Ontario



December 2023

Public Health Ontario

1.0 Summary

Public Health Ontario is an independent, board-governed agency with a broad mandate to provide scientific and technical advice and support to those working across health-related sectors to protect and improve the health of Ontarians. This includes carrying out and supporting activities such as population health assessment, public health research, surveillance, epidemiology, and planning and evaluation. Established in 2007 following the SARS outbreak in 2003, Public Health Ontario is one of the three pillars of Ontario's public health system, consisting of 34 local public health units and the Ministry of Health (Ministry), which exercises its authority in the area of public health primarily through the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Ontario supports areas such as preventing and controlling infections and the spread of communicable diseases, improving environmental health and preventing chronic diseases, and operates Ontario's public health laboratory. Public Health Ontario provided public health and testing expertise during the COVID-19 pandemic, for example, in the area of vaccine safety, through its surveillance of adverse events following immunization.

The Ministry is the primary funder of Public Health Ontario. The agency spends the majority of its annual funding, which was about \$222 million in 2022/23, on operating the province's 11 public health laboratory sites. Ontarians relied on the agency's public health laboratory to perform 6.8 million tests in 2022/23 for diseases that include HIV, syphilis, tuberculosis, influenza, COVID-19 and West Nile virus. The laboratory

also carries out all required testing relating to outbreaks and investigations in Ontario, and has the capability of diagnosing pathogens requiring a high level of biosecurity and safety measures.

In early 2019, the Province announced its intention to modernize Ontario's public health system. A 2019 discussion paper to support the provincial plan outlined the key challenges facing public health. The paper noted the importance of working toward clearer and better aligned roles and responsibilities between the Province, Public Health Ontario and local public health units. In particular, it stated Public Health Ontario's potential to strengthen public health functions if these are co-ordinated or provided at the provincial level. The government revised its approach to modernizing the public health system in August 2023 to include a review of standards that govern the work of public health units, the roles and responsibilities that all three pillars of the public health system play, as well as their relationships and alignment across and beyond the broader health-care system.

Our audit found that Public Health Ontario has been unable to meet a number of its legislated responsibilities under the *Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion Act, 2007*. This is partially due to a lack of direction from the Ministry to perform at its full potential. This includes a continued lack of clarity on roles and responsibilities in an evolving health-care system that saw the introduction of a new health agency, Ontario Health, that became operational in 2019. Though Public Health Ontario is responsible for providing scientific and technical advice and support to clients in the government, it was not consulted on some critical decisions concerning public health, such as the health impacts of increased access to gambling

and alcohol in recent years, and it did not address these topics independently.

We also found that lack of information sharing between the Ministry, public health units and Public Health Ontario has limited the agency's ability to centralize and co-ordinate work effectively in the area of research and evidence synthesis (a research methodology involving collecting the best available evidence on a given topic and summarizing it to inform best practice). This has resulted in duplication of efforts between provincial and local public health entities. From our work, we noted examples where multiple public health units have independently developed local resources in areas including key public health issues such as mental health and alcohol, when it would have been more cost-effective for Public Health Ontario to develop resources centrally.

Further, we found that Public Health Ontario's laboratory sites, where about 70% of its financial resources are allocated, were not operating efficiently. We found that three sites were able to perform tests on only 9% to 20% of the samples and specimens they receive, transferring the remainder of samples to other laboratory sites. Each of these three sites had base operating costs ranging from \$5 million to \$10 million over the last five years. The agency explained that transferring out laboratory tests to other sites was necessary for reasons that included lack of expertise or lack of sufficient volume to maintain competency of laboratory personnel in a specific test, lack of equipment to conduct certain tests, and efficiencies to achieve economy of scale. The agency developed a plan collaboratively with the Ministry in 2017 to modernize its laboratory operations by consolidating resources into fewer laboratory sites and discontinuing or restricting eligibility for certain tests; however, the government still had not approved the plan at the time of our audit. The Ministry stated this was due to reasons that include the COVID-19 pandemic and more recent recommendations relating to provincial laboratory optimization from an external consulting firm. We also found that the agency was not taking the lead in performing or co-ordinating testing for the surveillance of some diseases of public health significance.

These include a laboratory test to detect latent tuberculosis—a disease of public health significance that can disproportionately affect Indigenous people and newcomers to Ontario—as well as wastewater testing for the detection of COVID-19, which is currently led by another Ministry.

Other observations of this audit include:

- **Public Health Ontario is challenged by a lack of sustainable funding from the Ministry of Health.** We found that since 2019/20, Public Health Ontario has seen limited increases in base funding, and has had some of its base funding replaced by one-time annual funding. While the Ministry has increased base funding since 2020/21, it has still not restored it to pre-pandemic levels. This lack of consistent funding threatens Public Health Ontario's ability to fully deliver on its mandate, and hinders the agency's ability to continue to provide services. For example, the agency has begun to explore options to scale back or dismantle the operations of a committee designed to enhance provincial capacity to respond to public health emergencies.
- **Public Health Ontario did not adequately monitor compliance with procurement policies.** We found that Public Health Ontario has not always followed the Ontario Public Service Procurement Directive, as well as the agency's own corporate procurement policy. From 2018/19 to 2022/23, Public Health Ontario staff at various laboratory sites were using their purchasing cards to make recurring purchases of laboratory and health-care supplies from the same vendor, instead of engaging in competitive procurement as required by internal policies. The agency provided explanations for why it used purchasing cards for recurring transactions with two of the top vendors. For the remaining 28 vendors, we found that annual transaction values over this same period ranged from \$25,133 to \$222,283. We further found that Public Health Ontario does not have a formal process to track vendor performance

and non-compliance, even though the Directive requires vendor performance to be managed and documented.

- **Public Health Ontario mostly measures outputs but little in the way of client satisfaction or service quality.** The agency establishes performance indicators as well as targets in its annual business plans; however, these indicators mostly focus on quantifying the output of the agency's operational activities rather than client satisfaction and actual performance of its core activities, making it difficult for the agency to demonstrate that it has been effective in meeting the needs of its clients. We also found that the agency's performance indicators do not cover all of its key functions, for example, the performance of its research ethics committee, which provides ethics reviews to 26 of Ontario's 34 public health units, to measure the turnaround time of its reviews.
- **Public Health Ontario's information technology (IT) processes need improvement.** We examined Public Health Ontario's IT controls and processes related to user account management, cybersecurity and software management. Due to the nature of these findings and so as to minimize the risk of exposure for Public Health Ontario, we provided relevant details of our findings and recommendations directly to Public Health Ontario. Public Health Ontario agreed with the recommendations and committed to implementing them.

This report contains 10 recommendations, with 24 action items, to address our audit findings and to position Public Health Ontario for success to continue to contribute to the overall health of Ontarians as a public health agency, independent from the government.

Overall Conclusion

Our audit concluded that Public Health Ontario has delivered on some areas of its mandate as set out in the *Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion Act, 2007* (Act), but does not yet sufficiently collaborate

with the Ministry of Health and local public health units to clearly define and ascertain the agency's role in areas such as undertaking public health research, disseminating knowledge, and delivering public health laboratory services to more effectively protect and promote the health of the people in Ontario and reduce health inequities.

We also concluded that Public Health Ontario mostly measures outputs but little in the way of client satisfaction or service quality, and that the agency's suite of performance indicators does not cover all of its key functions.

OVERALL PUBLIC HEALTH ONTARIO RESPONSE

Public Health Ontario thanks the Auditor General for this comprehensive value-for-money audit report.

Public Health Ontario is committed to fulfilling our mission to enhance the protection and promotion of the health of the people in Ontario and to contribute efforts toward reducing health inequities. By providing scientific and technical advice and leadership to support our clients across the public health and health systems, we enable evidence-informed public health action and decision-making.

In consideration of our role in the province, we recognize the importance of continuing to strive to improve our operations and enhance the quality of our services and products. As such, we appreciate the independent review of our organization by the Auditor General and the recommendations brought forward, all of which we have accepted and have plans to address.

When interpreting the findings of the report, it is important to note that the time frame covered by the audit includes more than three years during which Public Health Ontario was actively engaged in the COVID-19 pandemic response. Public Health Ontario, like other public health organizations, was greatly affected by the extraordinary demands of the pandemic. Due to the need to dedicate considerable resources to the pandemic, some areas of

our work did not progress as planned during this period, such as efforts to reduce purchasing card usage in the laboratory and expand our outcome-based performance measures.

As we are now in the process of returning to a “new normal” for the public health system in Ontario, Public Health Ontario is leveraging the lessons learned during the pandemic to inform the development of our next strategic plan covering the years 2024–29. The insights shared through this audit are helpful inputs that will support us in our commitment to continuous quality improvement and further enhance our leadership role within the public health system.

2.0 Background

2.1 Overview of Public Health Ontario

The Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion (also known as Public Health Ontario) was established in 2007 as an independent, board-governed agency, primarily funded by the Ministry of Health (Ministry) in response to Ontario’s challenges faced during SARS, a global respiratory outbreak that affected Ontario and other parts of Canada in 2003. Public health is the organized effort of society to promote and protect the health of populations and reduce health inequities through the use of supportive programs, services and policies. Thus, Public Health Ontario’s role is chiefly in disease surveillance, disease prevention and outbreak preparedness, as opposed to clinical treatment.

In accordance with the *Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion Act, 2007*, the legislation that created Public Health Ontario, the agency’s mandate is to:

- enhance the protection and promotion of the health of Ontarians;
- contribute to efforts to reduce health inequities by providing scientific and technical advice and support to those working across health-related

sectors to protect and improve the health of Ontarians; and

- carry out and support activities such as population health assessment, public health research, surveillance, epidemiology, planning and evaluation.

The agency’s primary clients are the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health as well as various divisions within the Ministry, Ontario’s 34 public health units, health system providers and health system partners. The Chief Medical Officer of Health of Ontario is responsible for determining provincial public health needs, developing public health initiatives and strategies, and monitoring public health programs delivered by Ontario’s local public health units. Ontario’s 34 public health units are primarily funded by the Ministry but also receive funding from local municipalities; each is led by its own Medical Officer of Health and governed by a Board of Health—and therefore they operate independently from each other. The public health units provide programs and services to all members of their respective communities as per the Ontario Public Health Standards—the minimum requirements that public health units must adhere to in delivering programs and services—and as determined by their own Boards of Health. They are not accountable to Public Health Ontario.

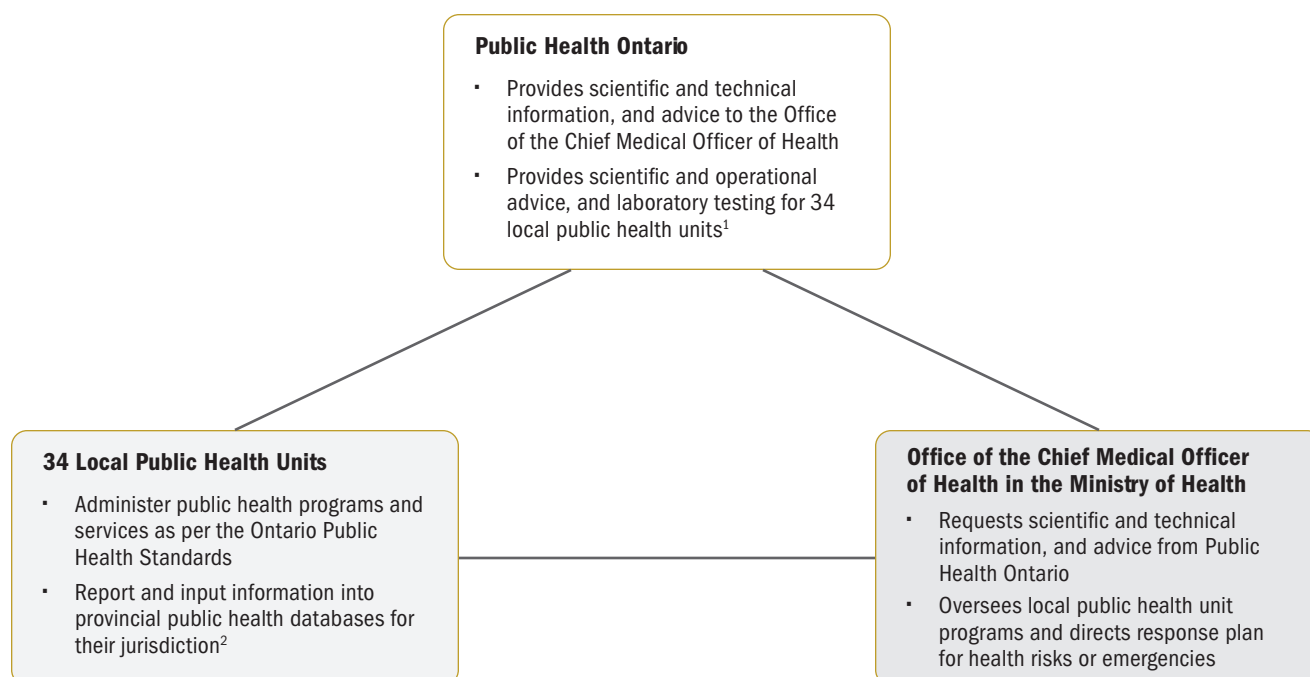
Figure 1 illustrates the relationship between Public Health Ontario and the various organizations involved in Ontario’s public health system, which, according to the Chief Medical Officer of Health, consists of about 9,000 people. Public Health Ontario has a complement of just under 870 full-time-equivalent staff as of June 2023.

2.1.1 Public Health Modernization

As part of the 2019 Ontario Budget, the Province announced in April 2019 (pre-COVID-19 pandemic) that public health would be undergoing a modernization process. This decision had the most impact on public health units, aiming to reduce their number from 35 (since reduced to 34 through amalgamation)

Figure 1: Public Health Model in Ontario

Prepared by the Office of the Auditor General of Ontario



1. In addition to public health units, Public Health Ontario's laboratory provides testing services to other health-care providers, for example, clinicians and community laboratories.

2. Local public health units are not accountable to Public Health Ontario.

to 10 by April 1, 2020; however, this modernization process was paused when the COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020.

As part of the modernization process, the Ministry of Health launched a public consultation in November 2019, appointing a special advisor to lead the process of gathering feedback, and releasing a discussion paper in November 2019 outlining the key challenges facing public health. In this paper, Public Health Ontario is acknowledged as a key partner in the public health system, with the following themes being discussed:

- working toward improved clarity and alignment of roles and responsibilities between the Province, Public Health Ontario and local public health units;
- reducing duplication of efforts, co-ordinating and providing certain public health functions, programs or services at the provincial level, possibly by Public Health Ontario; and

- clarifying the role of Public Health Ontario in better informing and co-ordinating provincial priorities to increase consistency.

The government revised its approach to modernizing the public health system in August 2023 to include a review of the Ontario Public Health Standards, the roles and responsibilities that all three pillars of the system—the Ministry, Public Health Ontario and the local public health units—play, as well as their relationships and alignment across and beyond the broader health-care system.

2.2 Key Program Areas

Public Health Ontario's operations consist of five principal public health program areas: Laboratory Science and Operations; Health Protection; Environmental and Occupational Health; Health Promotion, Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention; and Knowledge Exchange and Informatics.

2.2.1 Laboratory Science and Operations

About 70% of the agency's resources are allocated to the operation of its laboratory. Public Health Ontario has 11 fully accredited laboratory sites across Ontario, located in Toronto, Hamilton, Kingston, London, Orillia, Ottawa, Peterborough, Sault Ste. Marie, Sudbury, Thunder Bay and Timmins. The agency's laboratory conducts a wide range of functions described by the Canadian Public Health Laboratory Network, including laboratory tests such as diagnostic tests and confirmatory tests, as well as complex tests that other providers, such as hospital and community laboratories, refer to it. This testing informs public health surveillance, detects threats and outbreaks, and enables preventive and therapeutic interventions for public health action and patient management in Ontario.

Public Health Ontario's laboratory serves public health units, hospital and community laboratories, long-term-care homes and other congregate settings, clinicians in private practice, and private citizens in the context of private well water testing. It performs the majority of its laboratory tests Monday to Friday for the detection and diagnosis of infectious diseases (such as tuberculosis) or antimicrobial resistance (that is, when a bacterium or fungus develops the ability to defeat the drug designed to kill it), and for specialized testing for molecular profiling of pathogens by examining the entire genetic makeup of a specimen (for example, identifying which variant of COVID-19 someone has), including genomics. Public Health Ontario's laboratory also offers after-hours support, and it has been performing COVID-19 testing daily since the summer of 2020. It was still performing this daily testing at the time of our audit.

Public Health Ontario's laboratory performed about 6.8 million tests in 2022/23; these tests include 100% of diagnostic HIV testing and over 95% of syphilis testing in the province. According to the agency, it operates one of the largest tuberculosis laboratories and one of the largest diagnostic mycology laboratories in North America. As well, the agency indicates that it is known as the provincial resource and expert for laboratory testing and outbreak support for emerging

pathogens, as well as for the 10 most common infectious agents causing the greatest burden of disease in Ontario. These agents include *C. difficile*, *E. coli*, hepatitis B, hepatitis C, HIV, human papillomavirus, influenza, rhinovirus, *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Streptococcus pneumoniae*. The laboratory also carries out all testing relating to pathogens found in food, water or the environment to assist in their investigations, and is able to diagnose pathogens requiring a high level of biosecurity and safety measures, such as tuberculosis and anthrax.

Public Health Ontario's laboratory undergoes accreditation by Accreditation Canada and the Canadian Association for Laboratory Accreditation Inc. to ensure that processes in accordance with the International Organization for Standards and requirements under environmental laws such as the *Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002* are in place. As of June 2023, all 11 public health laboratory sites have met these standards and requirements, including those designed to help mitigate future occurrences similar to the Walkerton *E. coli* outbreak in 2000.

Figure 2 shows that test volumes at public health laboratory sites increased from about 6.3 million in 2018/19 to 7.7 million in 2021/22, primarily due to conducting COVID-19-related laboratory tests, and then decreased to 6.8 million in 2022/23. The cost of each laboratory test generally increased between 2018/19 and 2022/23 by 36%, from about \$16.33 to \$22.15.

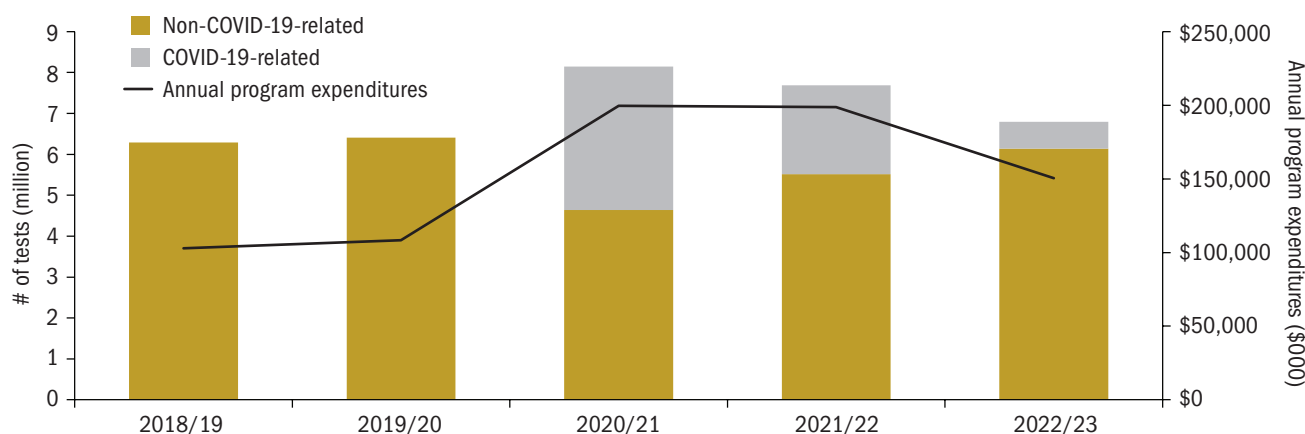
2.2.2 Health Protection

Public Health Ontario's Health Protection program provides data analysis, surveillance, evidence generation and synthesis, and consultation services to its clients. These activities are intended to better prevent communicable diseases, reduce transmission of infectious agents, and support system capacity building and professional development in public health and infection control best practices in Ontario. Expertise in this program spans:

- all diseases of public health significance (such as hepatitis A and B) as defined under the

Figure 2: Expenditures on Laboratory Services and Number of Tests Performed by Public Health Ontario, 2018/19–2022/23

Source of data: Public Health Ontario



Health Protection and Promotion Act (see **Appendix 1** for a full list of diseases of public health significance);

- surveillance and epidemiology of communicable diseases;
- infection prevention and control (IPAC) best practices and lapse investigations (that is, deviations from IPAC standard of care);
- programs and research to support epidemiology, immunization and antimicrobial stewardship (that is, promoting appropriate use of antibiotics to limit the development of antibiotic resistance); and
- emergency preparedness.

Public Health Ontario has an interactive online tool to track infectious disease trends, which provides 10 years of analyzed data on diseases of public health significance in Ontario. This helps the agency's clients and partners with surveillance, as well as informing program planning and policy. For example, as shown in **Figure 3**, the cases and rate of syphilis in Ontario from 2012 to 2021 have been steadily increasing according to Public Health Ontario's surveillance efforts; this information could be helpful to clinicians, policy-makers, and the public to raise awareness. In 2021/22—the latest year for which information is available—over 2.1 million total visits were made to Public Health Ontario's online centralized data and

analytic tools, down from about 2.9 million in 2020/21, the first year that the agency measured this metric.

2.2.3 Environmental and Occupational Health

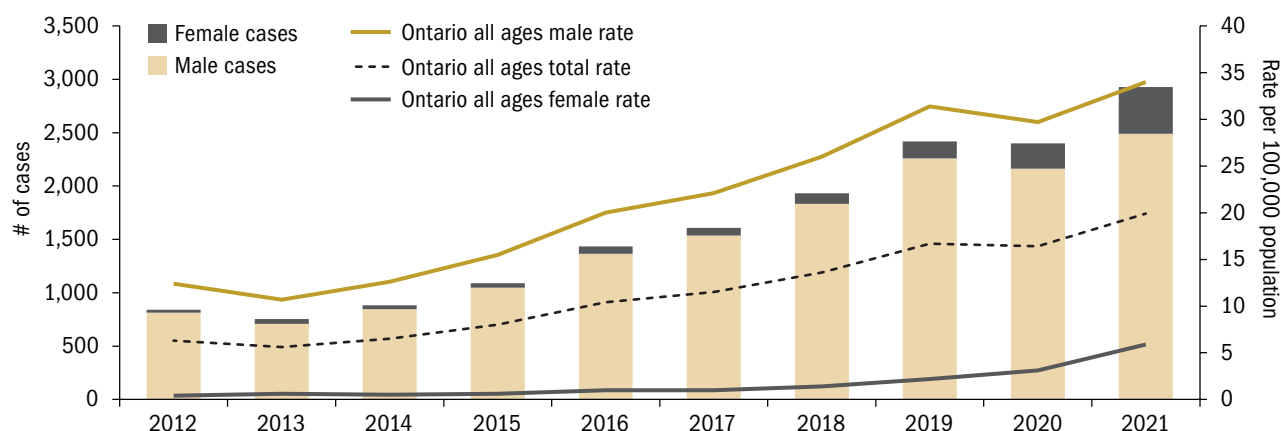
Public Health Ontario's Environmental and Occupational Health program area provides field support and helps the agency's clients and partners better understand and address evolving public health issues relating to exposures in the environment, such as indoor air quality, outdoor air pollution, water quality and food safety. This program works with and supports public health units and policy-makers to better respond to environmental threats and issues. This is done through situation-specific consultation and advice, interpretation of data, research, evidence-based reviews, case studies, access to environmental monitoring equipment, and training workshops.

2.2.4 Health Promotion, Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention

According to the World Health Organization, health promotion entails building healthy public policy; creating supportive environments; strengthening community action; developing personal skills; and reorienting health-care services toward prevention of illness and promotion of health. Public Health

Figure 3: Infectious Syphilis Cases and Rates for All Ages and by Sex in Ontario, 2012–2021

Source of data: Public Health Ontario



Ontario's Health Promotion, Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention program focuses on non-communicable diseases (such as heart disease, cancer, diabetes) and injuries, oral health conditions, and the modifiable risk factors that contribute to them. The program covers comprehensive tobacco control; healthy eating and physical activity; oral health; reproductive, child and youth health; healthy schools; mental health promotion; substance use (for example, opioids, alcohol, cannabis, tobacco); injury prevention; health equity; and health promotion. One of the program's activities is tracking data on substance abuse, such as opioid-related morbidity and mortality, as shown in **Figure 4**.

2.2.5 Knowledge Exchange and Informatics

Public Health Ontario's Knowledge Exchange program supports the development and dissemination of the agency's products and services, including its external website. The program delivers professional development, including special events and learning exchanges, and the annual Ontario Public Health Convention; supports medical resident and student placements at Public Health Ontario and in public health units; provides training and education programs; and delivers library services, knowledge mobilization and

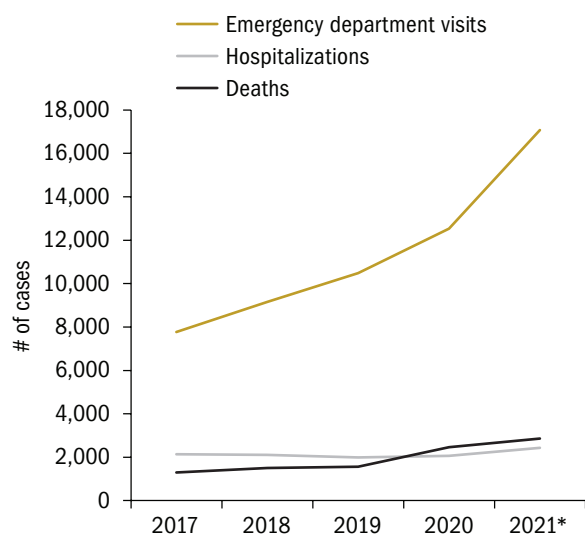
evaluation supports to its own staff, as well as to the overall public health sector. In 2021/22—the latest year for which information is available—this program area facilitated 70 professional development sessions to external clients and stakeholders.

This program also includes the Locally Driven Collaborative Projects (LDCP) program, which brings together public health units, along with academic and community partners, to collaboratively design and implement applied research and program evaluation projects on important public health issues of shared interest, and build new partnerships among participants. Examples of LDCP in prior years include a project to help public health units plan programs around substance abuse and harm reduction, and another project to identify lessons learned from the collection of sociodemographic data during the COVID-19 pandemic, as this data informs targeted improvement to address health inequities.

Informatics applies information and data science to public health practice, research and learning, enabling and bridging the use of technology and data to present critical information needed for effective public health decision-making. This team provides specialized and centralized supports for the governance, acquisition, synthesis, analysis, interpretation and presentation of data and information.

Figure 4: Emergency Department Visits, Hospitalizations and Deaths Related to Opioid Use in Ontario, 2017–2021

Source of data: Public Health Ontario



* According to Public Health Ontario, death data for 2021 should be considered as preliminary and is subject to change. Possible contributing factors to rising rates of opioid-related harm during the COVID-19 pandemic include increased stress, social isolation and mental illness, resulting in changes in drug use, and reduced accessibility of addiction, mental health and harm reduction services.

2.3 Organizational Structure and Accountability

2.3.1 Organizational Structure

Figure 5 shows Public Health Ontario's program areas and senior management. Public Health Ontario's office and main laboratory site is located in Toronto, with laboratory sites in 10 other cities across Ontario. As of August 2023, Public Health Ontario had 1,176 employees (just under 870 full-time equivalents), with 67% (792) of its employees working in laboratory sites across the province.

2.3.2 Governance and Accountability

The Agencies and Appointments Directive issued by the Management Board of Cabinet, an accountability framework for all board-governed provincial agencies, outlines the requirements of the reporting relationships between parties (see **Appendix 2** for more information). Public Health Ontario must adhere to this

accountability framework. The Chief Medical Officer of Health, a senior employee of the Ministry, also has the power to issue directives to the agency, as shown in **Figure 6**.

A memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the agency and the Ministry outlines accountability relationships, roles and responsibilities, and expectations for the operational, administrative, financial, staffing, auditing and reporting relationships. Public Health Ontario's day-to-day operations are administered by the President and CEO, who reports to the agency Board of Directors. Public Health Ontario's Board of Directors consists of a maximum of 13 voting members; each is appointed for a three-year term by the Lieutenant Governor in Council. According to the *Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion Act, 2007*, appointment of people to Public Health Ontario's Board should consider persons with skills and expertise in areas covered by Public Health Ontario or in corporate governance, and include a person with expertise in public accounting or with related financial experience, and a lay person with demonstrated interest or experience in health issues. **Figure 7** shows that the agency's Board of Directors consisted of 12 people, with one vacancy, as of June 2023.

2.3.3 Joint Liaison Committee

The Joint Liaison Committee was created by the Ministry in 2008, shortly after the agency was established, to address issues of mutual interest between the Ministry and Public Health Ontario, resolve issues, provide direction, and delegate and co-ordinate work. The Committee is co-chaired by either the Assistant Deputy Minister or the Chief Medical Officer of Health from the Ministry, as well as the Chief Executive Officer of Public Health Ontario. The Committee held its last meeting prior to 2017/18, and since then the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health and the Chief Executive Officer of Public Health Ontario have mutually agreed to liaise informally as needed.

In April 2020, the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health created the COVID-19 Public Health Measures Table, consisting of public health unit

Figure 5: Program Areas and Senior Management of Public Health Ontario, August 2023

Source of data: Public Health Ontario

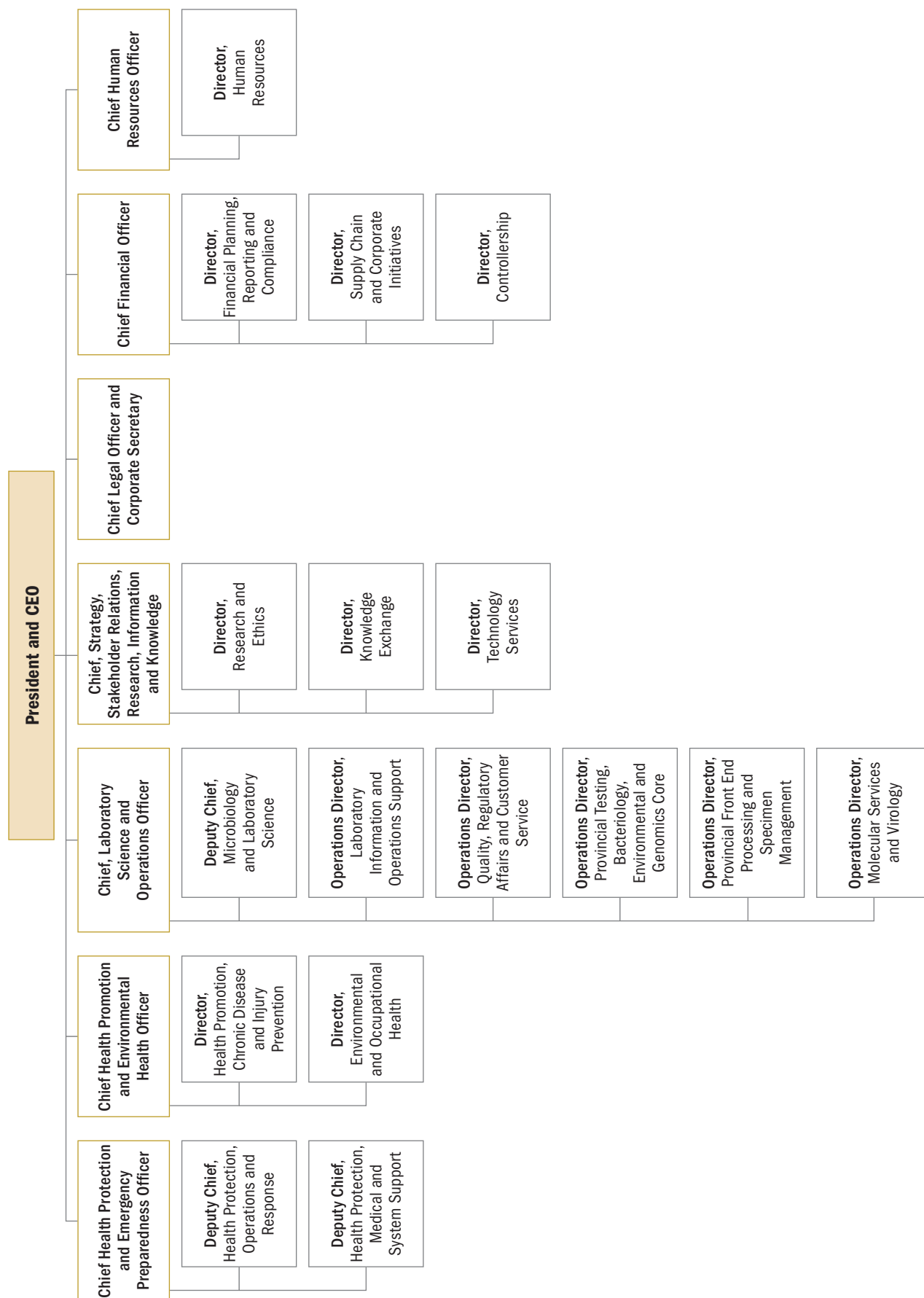
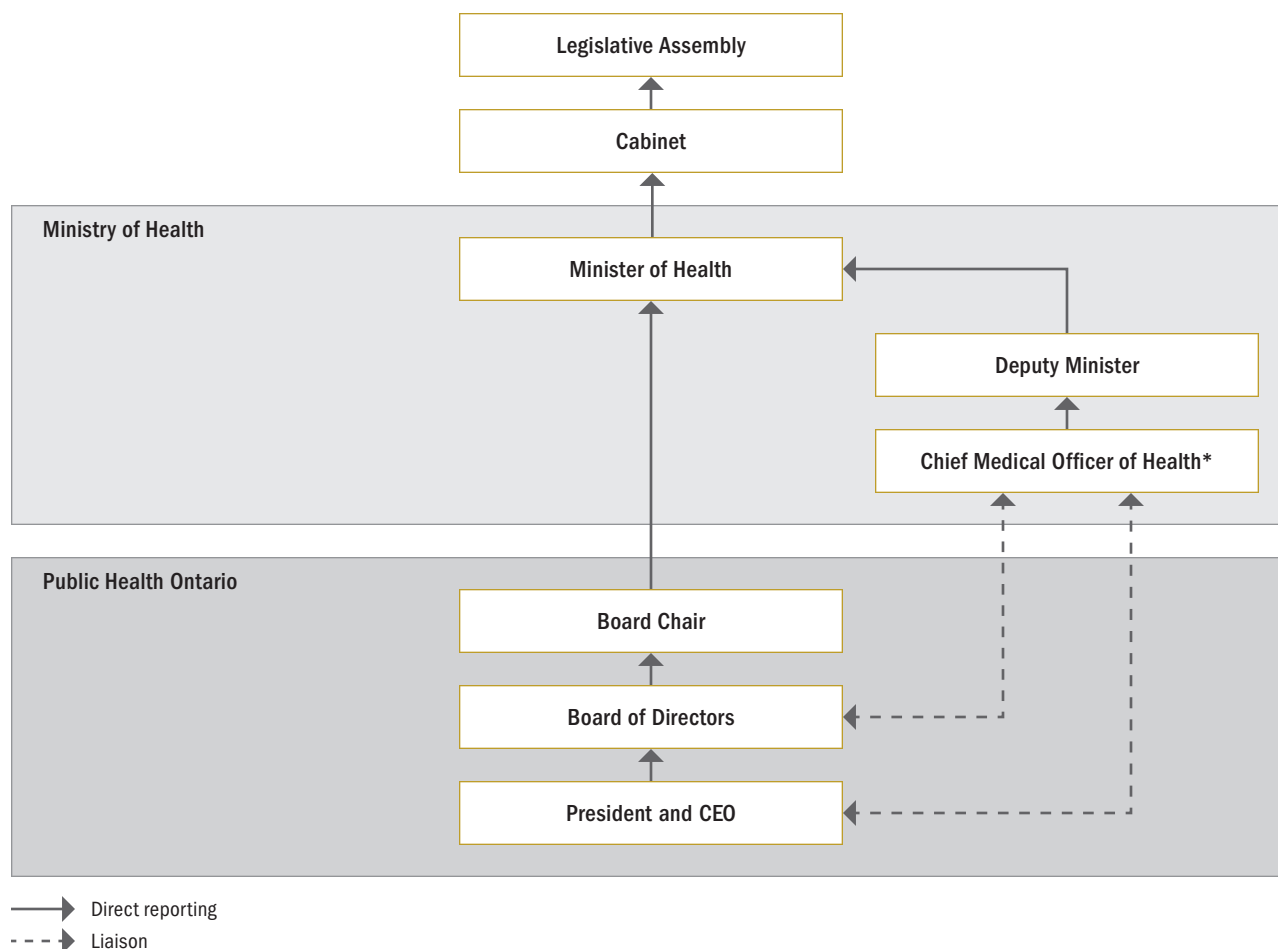


Figure 6: Accountability Framework for Public Health Ontario

Prepared by the Office of the Auditor General of Ontario



* The Chief Medical Officer of Health plays a liaison role between Public Health Ontario and the Ministry of Health, sitting as a non-voting member of the Board of Directors at Public Health Ontario, as well as a voting member on the Strategic Planning Standing Committee of the Board of Directors at Public Health Ontario to convey Ministry strategies and provincial priorities to Public Health Ontario. The Chief Medical Officer of Health also has the power to issue directives to Public Health Ontario.

representatives and Public Health Ontario, with the purpose of providing advice to the Chief Medical Officer of Health on public health measures that may be implemented to prevent or slow the transmission of COVID-19.

2.4 Financial Information

As shown in **Figure 8**, Public Health Ontario's expenditures were about \$222 million in 2022/23, an approximately 37% increase over the last five fiscal years. The increase was mainly attributable to

a temporary increase in testing volumes during the COVID-19 pandemic. In the last five years, 71% of the agency's actual expenditures related to its laboratory program, 18% related to science and public health programs, and the remaining 11% were for general administrative and amortization expenses.

Figure 9 shows funding provided to Public Health Ontario for the last five years. The Ministry is the primary funder of Public Health Ontario, providing about 94% of the agency's revenue. The agency also receives grants, mainly from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, which averaged about \$1.8 million

Figure 7: Public Health Ontario Board of Directors as of June 30, 2023

Source of data: Public Health Ontario

Name	Board Position	Current/Most Recent Role
Helen Angus	Chair	Chief Executive Officer of AMS Healthcare, former Deputy Minister of Health
Dr. Isra Levy	Vice-Chair Chair, Governance and Human Resources Standing Committee ¹	Vice-President of Medical Affairs and Innovation, Canadian Blood Services
Ian McKillop	Member Chair, Strategic Planning Standing Committee ²	Associate Professor at University of Waterloo, School of Public Health Sciences
S. Ford Ralph	Member Chair, Audit Finance and Risk Standing Committee ³	Former Vice-President of Petro-Canada
Roxanne Anderson	Member	Senior Vice-President of Business Optimization and the Chief Financial Officer of the Victorian Order of Nurses
Harpreet Bassi	Member	Executive Vice-President, Strategy and Communications, Niagara Health
Cat (Mark) Criger	Member	Indigenous Elder, Traditional Teacher and Knowledge Keeper
William MacKinnon	Member	Former Chief Executive Officer of KPMG
Theresa McKinnon	Member	Former Partner at PwC Canada, Assurance
Rob Notman	Member	Trustee and former Board Chair of the Royal Ottawa Mental Health Centre
Dr. Andy Smith	Member	President and Chief Executive Officer of Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre, Professor of Surgery at the University of Toronto
David Wexler	Member	Former Chief Human Resources Officer for the Vector Institute for Artificial Intelligence, FreshBooks, Syncapse, Alias Systems and the Canada Pension Plan Investment Board

1. The Governance and Human Resources Standing Committee supports the Board's commitment to and responsibility for the sound and effective governance of Public Health Ontario. This includes nominations for recommendation by the Board for appointment to the Board; appointment of Board members to committees; help with orientation and education of new directors to assist them in fulfilling their duties effectively; and support for the Board in its oversight of human resources policies and strategies.
2. The Strategic Planning Standing Committee provides reviews and advice on Public Health Ontario's strategic planning, performance measurement, quality assurance and stakeholder engagement processes, and monitors and advises it on progress against goals. The Chief Medical Officer of Health is part of this standing committee.
3. The Audit Finance and Risk Standing Committee ensures that Public Health Ontario conducts itself according to the principles of ethical financial and management behaviour and that it is efficient and effective in its use of public funds by overseeing Public Health Ontario's accounting, financial reporting, audit practices and enterprise risk management.

annually in the last five years. Ministry-provided base funding for Public Health Ontario has generally flatlined over the last 10 years, and decreased in 2019/20 just prior to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. While the Ministry has increased base funding subsequent to 2020/21, it still has not restored it to pre-pandemic levels.

2.5 Other Jurisdictions

In Canada, British Columbia's BC Centre for Disease Control and Quebec's Institut national de santé publique are close comparators to Public Health Ontario. The federal government's Public Health Agency of

Figure 8: Public Health Ontario Expenditures, 2018/19–2022/23 (\$000)

Source of data: Public Health Ontario

	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	% of Total Expenditures (2018/19–2022/23)
Public health labs	102,889	108,399	199,562	198,741	150,495	71
Science and public health programs	38,802	37,757	36,597	38,537	39,843	18
General and administrative	14,007	13,148	17,024	19,098	19,102	8
Amortization of capital assets	6,547	5,464	7,428	11,655	12,539*	3
Total	162,245	164,768	260,611	268,031	221,979	100

* Increased 92% over five years due to increase in capital acquisitions starting in 2020/21 due to COVID-19.

Figure 9: Public Health Ontario Funding, 2018/19–2022/23 (\$000)

Source of data: Public Health Ontario

	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	% of Total Funding (2018/19–2022/23)
Base operations¹	152,703	156,151	250,480	252,612	205,324	94
Base funding	152,703	153,114	148,563	151,282	150,683	60²
COVID-19 one-time funding ³	n/a	3,037	101,917	101,331	54,641	34²
Amortization of deferred capital asset contributions	6,547	5,464	7,428	11,655	12,539	4
Other grants	1,781	2,207	1,377	1,867	2,003	1
Miscellaneous recoveries	1,214	946	1,326	1,897	2,113	1
Total	162,245	164,768	260,611	268,031⁴	221,979	100

1. Increased revenue from 2019/20 to 2021/22 corresponds to increased operating expenditures due to Public Health Ontario's increased services to respond to COVID-19.
2. Covers fiscal years 2020/21 to 2022/23 only, as this represents the most significant time period for COVID-19 expenses, and represents three-year base funding and COVID-19 one-time funding as a percentage of base operations expenditures.
3. Public Health Ontario recognized COVID-19 revenue in its accounting records as related expenses were incurred.
4. Numbers do not add up due to rounding.

Canada, while similar to Public Health Ontario, is not governed by a board but rather overseen by the federal Minister of Health. **Appendix 3** shows a comparison of mandates and reporting relationships among these agencies.

3.0 Audit Objective and Scope

Our audit objective was to assess whether Public Health Ontario has effective systems and procedures in place to:

- deliver its mandate as set out in the *Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion Act, 2007*, which includes providing scientific and technical advice and support to identified clients, including the Ministry of Health and other relevant ministries and agencies, public health units, and health-care providers; delivering public health laboratory services; undertaking public health research; and advancing and disseminating knowledge, best practices and research, with the goal of protecting and promoting the health of the people in Ontario and reducing health inequities; and

- measure and publicly report on the quality and effectiveness of these activities.

In planning for our work, we identified the audit criteria (see **Appendix 4**) we would use to address our audit objective. These criteria were established based on a review of applicable legislation, policies and procedures, internal and external studies, previous reports from our Office, and best practices. Senior management at Public Health Ontario reviewed and agreed with the suitability of our objectives and associated criteria.

We conducted our audit between January 2023 and August 2023. We obtained written representation from Public Health Ontario management that, effective November 10, 2023, it had provided us with all the information it was aware of that could significantly affect the findings or the conclusion of this report.

At Public Health Ontario, we:

- reviewed applicable legislation and regulations as well as documents consisting mainly of financial information, contracts and agreements, policy and procedure manuals, annual business plans, annual reports, strategic plans and meeting minutes;
- interviewed senior management and program staff responsible for all program areas, selected former agency management staff, as well as the Board Chair;
- obtained and analyzed financial and operational data from Public Health Ontario systems; and
- observed laboratory operations and met with staff at four of the 11 public health laboratory sites, located in London, Orillia, Sudbury and Toronto.

At the Ministry of Health, we conducted the majority of our work at the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health, where we interviewed staff and senior management, and reviewed documents consisting mainly of briefing notes, agreements, funding letters and external review reports of Public Health Ontario conducted since 2016.

We interviewed medical officers of health or their delegates from eight of the province's 34 public health units, consisting of Eastern Ontario; Grey Bruce;

Kingston, Frontenac and Lennox & Addington; Niagara; Peel; Sudbury; Timiskaming; and Toronto, to better understand local interactions with and perspectives on Public Health Ontario. We selected these public health units based on their size, geographic location and issues identified through our research. We reached out to 18 public health units to obtain more information on their courier routes for laboratory samples and specimens that would be delivered to Public Health Ontario, of which 16 responded. We selected these public health units based on factors including their geographic location and whether they used the agency's or their own couriers. We also reviewed public-facing websites for all 34 public health units to identify locally developed knowledge products.

To assess the cybersecurity risks to Public Health Ontario, we met with and obtained data from the Cyber Security Division of the Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery, which provides certain services to the agency.

To gain familiarity with emerging public health issues, we attended The Ontario Public Health Convention in March 2023. This conference was organized by Public Health Ontario for public health professionals.

In addition, we researched similar organizations in British Columbia and Quebec to identify best practices for public health agencies.

We conducted our work and reported on the results of our examination in accordance with the applicable Canadian Standards on Assurance Engagements—Direct Engagements issued by the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board of the Chartered Professional Accountants of Canada. This included obtaining a reasonable level of assurance.

The Office of the Auditor General of Ontario applies Canadian Standards on Quality Management and, as a result, maintains a comprehensive system of quality management that includes documented policies and procedures with respect to compliance with rules of professional conduct, professional standards and applicable legal and regulatory requirements.

We have complied with the independence and other ethical requirements of the Code of Professional Conduct of the Chartered Professional Accountants of

Ontario, which are founded on fundamental principles of integrity, objectivity, professional competence and due care, confidentiality and professional behaviour.

4.0 Detailed Audit Observations

4.1 Ministry of Health Has Not Leveraged Public Health Ontario Effectively to Achieve Its Full Intended Capacity and Potential to Improve the Health of Ontarians

4.1.1 Public Health Ontario Has Been Left Out of the Province's Decision-Making with Major Public Health Implications

Despite the mandate of Public Health Ontario to provide scientific and technical advice and support to clients working in government, public health, health care and related sectors, the agency was not consulted when the government made some of its decisions affecting public health, such as those relating to increased access to alcohol and gambling. As well, upon observing recent government decisions on increased access to alcohol and gambling, Public Health Ontario has not conducted independent research in these areas.

Increased Access to Alcohol and Gambling

The government's decision to increase access to alcohol in various settings, such as grocery stores and convenience stores, was first announced in 2015 and saw expansion in 2019 and 2023. In addition, the new legal Internet gaming market in Ontario has grown by an average of more than 50% in total wagers and gaming revenue each quarter since its launch in April 2022. According to iGaming Ontario, a total of 1.65 million player accounts were active over the course of the 2022/23 fiscal year; these players on average spent about \$70 per month.

Public Health Ontario representatives confirmed with us that government decision-makers have not consulted them on the health impacts of either of these decisions, which have implications on addictions and

mental health on a population level. We asked the Ministry of Health (Ministry) why it did not consult Public Health Ontario, and Ministry representatives explained that the Ministry of Finance made both of these decisions. It did not seek an assessment of the impacts on public health from the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health, which also did not conduct a health impact assessment on increased access to alcohol and gambling. The Ministry informed us that, instead, the Ministry of Finance, working with other partner ministries, engaged and consulted stakeholders, for example, the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, to understand the potential impacts.

In these cases, the government did not fully leverage Public Health Ontario to provide expert advice on the potential population health impacts of policy decisions made. One of the legislated responsibilities of Public Health Ontario according to the *Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion Act, 2007* (Act) that created it, is “to inform and contribute to policy development processes across sectors of the health care system and within the Government of Ontario through advice and impact analysis of public health issues.” Our 2017 audit on Public Health: Chronic Disease Prevention highlighted the Health in All Policies approach, defined by the World Health Organization as an approach that considers how government decisions affect population health so that more accountability is placed on policy-makers. Our 2017 report recommended that the Ministry develop a process to integrate this approach into policy settings where appropriate, but this had not yet been fully implemented as of the time of this audit.

While these provincial policy changes affecting public health were occurring, Public Health Ontario did not prioritize publishing the state of the evidence in these areas. To illustrate, in relation to alcohol, a public health unit in October 2018 requested Public Health Ontario to answer a research question on the impact of increasing alcohol availability. However, instead of publishing an independently researched knowledge product that could establish Public Health Ontario's position on the state of the evidence, the agency compiled a list of existing journal articles and sent the

completed list directly to the public health unit in May 2019.

Similarly, we found that Public Health Ontario has not published any research on the health impact of problem gambling. In 2012, the agency published a knowledge product on the burden of mental illness and addictions in Ontario, but that product did not discuss problem gambling. We researched whether public health units had to independently develop knowledge products on problem gambling and found that six public health units—North Bay and Parry Sound, Ottawa, Peterborough, Sudbury, Toronto, and Windsor—had developed such research independently. Toronto Public Health explained in its report that studies have suggested an increase in problem or pathological gambling rates after gambling expansion, such as in Niagara where the rate increased from 2.2% to 4.4% one year after a casino opening. It also went on to note a consistent social impact from problem gambling, such as suicide and personal bankruptcy rates, with direct or indirect impacts on individuals and families.

We found that, unlike Public Health Ontario, other provinces have centrally developed knowledge products on problem gambling. For example, Quebec has made available centrally developed resources and knowledge products on the population health impact of problem gambling. Specifically, the Institut national de santé publique du Québec has on its website an interactive map that allows the public to quantify and visualize exposure and vulnerability to gambling in Quebec, and to support development of preventive initiatives and interventions to address these issues. Similarly, we found that British Columbia's Centre for Disease Control had included problem gambling on its website on substance use, indicating that a report was forthcoming.

Decisions Made During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Public Health Ontario was also not consistently consulted by the Province to provide scientific and technical advice in certain key decisions related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

According to the Act, one of the roles of Public Health Ontario is to provide scientific and technical advice, and operational support, to any person or entity in an emergency or outbreak situation that has health implications, as directed by the Chief Medical Officer of Health.

Our 2020 audit on COVID-19 preparedness and management, Outbreak Planning and Decision-Making, noted that Public Health Ontario played a diminished role in the COVID-19 pandemic, despite the agency being created in response to the SARS outbreak in 2003. Even when Public Health Ontario provided advice, such as on the recommended indicators and threshold triggers for lockdown, the Ministry of Health either did not fully follow this advice, or implemented the agency's advice much later than suggested.

Similarly, our 2022 audit on the COVID-19 Vaccination Program noted that Public Health Ontario was not represented on the COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Task Force, where it felt that it could have contributed more scientific or technical expertise and support on vaccine distribution decisions.

4.1.2 Public Health Ontario's Role Has Continued to Diminish in the Public Health System, with Increased Reliance on One-Time Annual Funding

Public Health Ontario Could Not Fully Deliver Its Mandate, Citing Capacity and Funding Constraints

As noted in **Section 2.4**, in 2019/20, the Ministry reduced Public Health Ontario's base funding, replacing it with one-time annual funding. This was done because the Ministry at that time had assumed that its laboratory modernization plan would be implemented and that Public Health Ontario would be consolidated as part of Ontario Health. One-time funding makes it challenging for Public Health Ontario to plan for activities, as such funding is susceptible to being withdrawn. While the Ministry has increased base funding since 2020/21, it has still not restored it to pre-pandemic levels.

We found that, while the Ministry reduced Public Health Ontario's base funding assuming implementation of the laboratory modernization plan, the Ministry has not yet implemented this plan. We discuss this plan in greater detail in **Section 4.2.1**.

The Ministry also eventually did not consolidate Public Health Ontario into Ontario Health, as it had assumed it would. The government announced in 2019 that it would consolidate multiple health-care agencies and organizations, including Cancer Care Ontario, Trillium Gift of Life Network and all 14 Local Health Integrated Networks, within a single agency, known as Ontario Health. Ontario Health is responsible for planning and funding the health-care system, primarily in clinical settings, and ensuring health service providers have the tools and information to deliver quality care.

Despite both of these assumptions resulting in reduced base funding for Public Health Ontario, the Ministry has still not restored the agency's base funding to pre-pandemic levels, even though neither assumption was realized.

Our 2020 audit on COVID-19 preparedness and management, Outbreak Planning and Decision-Making, noted that, due to resource constraints, Ontario Health performed some tasks that were outlined in the Ontario Health Plan for an Influenza Pandemic as the responsibility of Public Health Ontario. These included co-ordinating laboratory testing for COVID-19 and analyzing provincial surveillance data.

Public Health Ontario explained to us that its budget has been flatlined for over 10 years, and has repeatedly raised this concern in its annual business plan, which it has submitted to the Ministry. While the Ministry provided Public Health Ontario with one-time COVID-19 funding between 2019/20 and 2022/23, this was strictly for use in the laboratory for COVID-19 testing, and little was added to fund the rest of the agency's mandate to support its growth, such as in environmental health, health promotion, and chronic disease and injury prevention.

As explained in **Section 2.3.2**, the relationship between Public Health Ontario and the Ministry is governed by provincial legislation and directives, but also

by a memorandum of understanding (MOU) that has not been updated since 2015. The Ministry and Public Health Ontario have continued to affirm the existing MOU since 2015 when new Board chairs and ministers have taken office. They informed us at the time of our audit that they were working on refreshing the MOU, with expected completion by the end of 2023.

Lack of Consistent Funding Puts the Continuation of Advisory Committee for Public Health Emergencies at Risk

In July 2020, the Province created the COVID-19 Science Advisory Table to provide emerging evidence and advice to the Ministry of Health to inform Ontario's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Part of the impetus for this Table was that Public Health Ontario could not fully support the Province in providing synthesized evidence relating to the COVID-19 pandemic due to capacity constraints. The Table was external to Public Health Ontario, though one of the then vice-presidents of the agency was a co-chair. In July 2022, following direction from the Ministry of Health, Public Health Ontario became the permanent home of this Table. In September 2022, Public Health Ontario, building on the work of the Table, announced the establishment of the Ontario Public Health Emergencies Science Advisory Committee, an external advisory committee whose mandate is to enhance provincial capacity to respond to public health emergencies with the best available evidence.

The Ministry provided one-time funding of \$1.2 million in 2022/23 to the agency to establish and oversee this committee, but did not continue this funding in 2023/24. Public Health Ontario informed us that, as a result of the Ministry no longer providing funding, it was exploring options to scale back or dismantle the operations of this committee.

RECOMMENDATION 1

To enhance the clarity, relevance and value of Public Health Ontario's role in Ontario's public health system, we recommend that Public Health Ontario work with the Ministry of Health (Ministry) to:

- develop and implement a process to include Public Health Ontario's review of evidence when developing provincial policy decisions that impact public health; and
- clarify the agency's roles and responsibilities in the memorandum of understanding between the agency and the Ministry, especially with respect to Public Health Ontario's role in relation to Ontario Health's role.

PUBLIC HEALTH ONTARIO RESPONSE

Public Health Ontario accepts the recommendation, and will work with the Ministry of Health to enhance and clarify our role within the public health system. While there are existing mechanisms in place for the Ministry to request support and advice from Public Health Ontario as needed, we recognize that there may be opportunity for improvement by formalizing a process specific to supporting provincial policy decisions. We also recognize the importance of clarifying the agency's roles and responsibilities in the memorandum of understanding between Public Health Ontario and the Ministry, which, as noted in the report, is currently in the process of being refreshed.

RECOMMENDATION 2

To ensure that Public Health Ontario has sustainable resources required to deliver on the agency's mandate effectively, we recommend that Public Health Ontario work with the Ministry of Health to develop a business case that addresses reallocation of one-time annual funding to base funding.

PUBLIC HEALTH ONTARIO RESPONSE

Public Health Ontario accepts the recommendation to work with the Ministry of Health to reallocate its one-time annual funding to base funding for the agency.

4.1.3 Lack of Information Sharing on Priority Areas of Public Health Units Limits Public Health Ontario's Ability to Centralize and Co-ordinate Work

Public Health Ontario obtains input from the Ministry and public health units, often through regular meetings, to inform its work. However, it does not have established information-sharing processes on what Ontario's 34 public health units plan to do in terms of their program priorities and what research they would require that is best done centrally. Public health units report planned activities to the Ministry on an annual basis, but the Ministry does not share this information with Public Health Ontario. As a result, we found instances of fragmented responses to key public health issues and duplication of effort.

According to the *Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion Act, 2007*, the agency is tasked with the responsibility to "undertake, promote and coordinate public health research in cooperation with academic and research experts as well as the community." About half of the requests made to Public Health Ontario between 2018/19 and 2022/23 to conduct consultations, answer scientific questions and deliver presentations came from public health units, and the number of these requests ranged from 413 to 1,023 requests per year. Despite this, Public Health Ontario does not receive important summarized information on public health units' planned program activities for the upcoming year so as to proactively prepare and direct its own efforts.

In contrast, every year, the Ministry of Health requires all 34 public health units to submit an annual service plan that outlines how each public health unit plans on satisfying the Ontario Public Health Standards, which we explain in **Section 2.1**. This includes planned activities, such as seasonal flu clinics, and the vaccine clinics in schools that public health units deliver as part of their programs. However, as the Ministry does not share the priorities in these annual service plans with Public Health Ontario, the agency

cannot synthesize information from these annual service plans to effectively identify areas where it can provide the most value across all public health units, such as co-ordinating research efforts and developing knowledge products, including evidence briefs and literature reviews. One of the purposes of these is to give users synthesized and easy-to-understand evidence to help them design programs and support advancing public health policy, knowledge and best practices in Ontario.

We found that public health units had duplicated efforts in producing resources on public health topics. For example, as noted in **Section 4.1.1**, six public health units individually developed resource materials on problem gambling, with Public Health Ontario not having published any such materials centrally. Similarly, between 2016 and 2020, eight public health units individually developed local resources on mental health and made these resources public. While five of these public health units referenced Public Health Ontario materials for either data or publications, the remaining three did not reference the agency at all. Public Health Ontario last conducted a full literature review on the burden of mental health problems and addictions in 2012, over 10 years ago.

With respect to the agency-developed resource on mental health from 2012, we further found that Public Health Ontario's research did not cover some important areas that public health units needed and therefore had to produce on their own. This led to public health units duplicating efforts amongst themselves, a missed opportunity to have Public Health Ontario prepare one central report covering all these common topics. Specifically, public health units individually compiled data on the use of mental health services, suicide rates, emergency department visits, and community belongingness in the context of their own regions, while comparing these to the provincial scale. Public Health Ontario's knowledge products on mental health did not discuss any of these topics for public health units to reference and adapt to their communities.

A successful example of this type of centralization has been seen in the topic of alcohol consumption. Seven public health units created knowledge products

on low-risk alcohol consumption guidelines, and six out of the seven referenced the agency for either data or publications. In this instance, the majority of data references were taken from Public Health Ontario's snapshot of self-reported rates of exceeding the low-risk consumption guidelines, where individual public health units pulled the centralized data and informational pieces for use in their local context.

Nevertheless, Public Health Ontario has demonstrated the ability to partner with public health units and other stakeholders to produce knowledge products:

- In 2013, one year after its literature review on mental health, Public Health Ontario released a report in partnership with Toronto Public Health and the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, which discussed how Ontario public health units were addressing child and youth mental health.
- Since 2012, Public Health Ontario has partnered with four public health units to become hub libraries, which provide library services to 22, or 65%, of the province's 34 public health units. Public health units may use the services of a hub library to promote knowledge exchange, which may be used for a variety of purposes, including to search for peer-reviewed journal articles and research done on a topic that a public health unit would want to build local resources on.

Agency representatives informed us that, as part of their strategic planning consultations in 2023, they heard feedback from some public health units that there is an interest in Public Health Ontario developing more centralized and shared services to avoid overlap and duplication of effort. Such services may include a repository of resources on topics of mutual interest. They added that the agency would be considering its role in this. In the meantime, librarians performing the search through this partnership are encouraged to check to see if any other librarians have done a similar search already. Neither Public Health Ontario nor the partnered libraries receive copies of completed health unit knowledge products, limiting the potential for information sharing and reduction of duplication of efforts.

RECOMMENDATION 3

To improve the cost-effectiveness and efficiency of generating public health research in Ontario, we recommend that Public Health Ontario work with the Ministry of Health and public health units to:

- evaluate the feasibility of a formal process to centralize public health research across all three pillars of the public health system in Ontario; and
- if the current process is kept, create a searchable research repository consisting of all public health journal articles and research products prepared by Public Health Ontario as well as individual public health units and share access to this repository with all public health units.

PUBLIC HEALTH ONTARIO RESPONSE

Public Health Ontario accepts the recommendation, and recognizes that there are opportunities to gain efficiencies through centralized public health research activities. While Public Health Ontario already routinely produces knowledge products, including scientific reports and research publications, on a variety of public health topics, we will engage with the Ministry of Health and public health units to evaluate the feasibility of further centralization. With respect to the potential creation of a central research repository, Public Health Ontario will also explore this idea with the Ministry and our public health unit clients to determine if this would be a valuable resource to support their work.

4.1.4 Multiple Recommendations of the Agency's 2016 Mandate Review Still Not Implemented

In 2016, the Ministry commissioned a review of Public Health Ontario's mandate, as is required for board-governed agencies every six years under the Agencies and Appointments Directive (Directive), described in

Section 2.3.2. However, we found that the Ministry never shared the final report of this mandate review with Public Health Ontario, despite some of the recommendations being directed to the agency; many of the recommendations are still outstanding seven years later. When we asked the Ministry why it has withheld the final report, it informed us that it is common practice to not share final mandate review reports with provincial agencies. The Ministry noted that the recommendations in the final report directed toward Public Health Ontario were shared through other mechanisms and processes, including through the issuing of mandate letters. However, this did not give Public Health Ontario an opportunity to provide input into the mandate review process or address specific recommendations from this review.

The mandate review noted areas for improvement that spanned different areas including revising Public Health Ontario's mandate and refining the agency's activities and operations. Notably, the review recommended the following, which remain outstanding more than seven years later:

- the Ministry to update the MOU to incorporate the respective roles, responsibilities and accountabilities of Public Health Ontario with Ministry communications with the public;
- the Ministry to decide whether or not to amend the *Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion Act, 2007* or develop a new regulation to clarify how the agency's services will be directed; and
- Public Health Ontario and the Ministry to confirm alignment of the agency's functions for supporting Ministry priorities and programs for health promotion and reducing health inequities.

Furthermore, as per the Directive, Public Health Ontario should have undergone another mandate review in 2022. However, the Ministry indicated to us that this was put on hold due to the COVID-19 pandemic, with no expected date for completion.

Mandate Letters Either Provided Late or Not Provided at All to Public Health Ontario, Contrary to Government Directive Requirement

Every year for the last six years (2018/19–2023/24), the Ministry has not complied with the Agencies and Appointments Directive requirement to provide Public Health Ontario with a mandate letter 180 days before the start of its fiscal year. The mandate letter is issued by the Minister of Health, and lays out the focus, priorities, objectives, opportunities and challenges that the Minister has set for the agency for the coming year. The Ministry transmitted Public Health Ontario's mandate letters as late as six days before the start of the next fiscal year in 2021/22, making it difficult for the agency to set priorities for its annual business and strategic plans, and not providing sufficient time to plan activities prior to the start of the fiscal year. When we asked the Ministry why it had not complied with this requirement, the Ministry acknowledged that the timing to issue mandate letters to Public Health Ontario had not always met the 180-day requirement due to competing public health demands and priorities. The Ministry also indicated that the Chief Medical Officer of Health routinely shares Ministry priorities with Public Health Ontario through Board and committee meetings to help inform the agency's development of its annual business plan.

As well, the Ministry did not provide a mandate letter to Public Health Ontario in 2019/20 or 2020/21. The Ministry's explanation was that it was planning for public health modernization (explained in **Section 2.1.1**), and the public health system could have potentially changed.

RECOMMENDATION 4

To allow Public Health Ontario to more effectively plan its activities, we recommend that the Ministry of Health:

- share any review reports with Public Health Ontario and follow up on the implementation of any outstanding recommendation at least on an annual basis; and

- provide annual mandate letters to the agency on a timely basis in accordance with the Agencies and Appointments Directive.

MINISTRY RESPONSE

The Ministry of Health agrees with this recommendation and will continue to work closely with Public Health Ontario to ensure that agency goals, objectives and strategic directions align with government's priorities and direction. This includes, but is not limited to, providing annual mandate letters to the agency in accordance with the Agencies and Appointments Directive and sharing any relevant review recommendations with Public Health Ontario and following up on the implementation on any outstanding recommendations on a timely basis.

4.2 Public Health Ontario Laboratory Not Operating Efficiently

4.2.1 Streamlining of 11 Public Health Ontario Laboratory Sites Not Yet Implemented

In addition to its main Toronto laboratory, Public Health Ontario has 10 regional laboratory sites across Ontario to provide regional coverage for public health units and hospitals. However, we found that some regional laboratory sites are unable to perform a large proportion of the tests on the samples and specimens they receive. The agency provided the Ministry with the recommendation to consolidate some of these laboratory sites, in 2017 and again in early 2023, based on factors that included test volume and productivity, stating that the consolidation can save \$6 million in its budget. Although a 2020 consultant report had reached similar conclusions, the Ministry had not approved the consolidation of these sites at the completion of our audit.

According to an internal agency document, from September 2021 to September 2022, three public health laboratory sites transferred out more than 90% of the non-COVID-19 tests they received. We expanded this analysis to include all laboratory tests, including

COVID-19, that Public Health Ontario laboratory sites received and performed from 2018/19 to 2022/23. As shown in **Figure 10**, we found that:

- regional laboratory sites were completing wide ranges of between 9% and 80% of the tests they received and transferring the remainder to other laboratory sites;
- three laboratory sites—Peterborough, Sault Ste. Marie and Sudbury—transferred between 80% and 91% of all tests to other sites; and
- Toronto was the largest receiver of these transfers, receiving about 19 million tests from regional laboratory sites, with the London site receiving the next most tests, at over four million tests.

The three laboratory sites that transferred between 80% and 91% of the tests they received each had operating costs ranging from \$5 million to \$10 million over the last five years.

Public Health Ontario explained to us that the reasons for these transfers could include capacity issues, lack of expertise or sufficient volume to maintain competency of laboratory personnel in a specific test, lack of equipment to conduct certain tests, or

efficiencies to achieve economy of scale. For example, only one of the 11 public health laboratory sites has the equipment necessary to test for *H. pylori*, a bacterium that affects the stomach.

In 2017, Public Health Ontario proposed a joint modernization plan to update its public health laboratory, collaboratively with Ministry staff at the request of the Deputy Minister, that would have resulted in:

- gradually closing six of its 11 public health laboratory sites (Hamilton, Kingston, Orillia, Peterborough, Sault Ste. Marie and Timmins), while maintaining coverage across the province through five geographic areas; and
- changing the types of tests offered at the Public Health Ontario laboratory that would remove 20 tests and restrict eligibility for 12 additional tests, as well as the gradual discontinuation of private drinking water testing.

According to the agency, this plan was needed to mitigate rising costs of repairs and upgrades in existing laboratory sites, and would result in a more efficient operating model to address issues such as sites needing to reroute the majority of samples and specimens they receive to other sites.

Figure 10: Number of Tests Received, Completed and Transferred Out by Public Health Ontario Laboratory Sites, 2018/19–2022/23

Source of data: Public Health Ontario

Laboratory Site	# Received ¹	# Completed	# Transferred Out	% Transferred Out
Sudbury	670,052	57,935	612,994	91
Sault Ste. Marie	251,953	87,116	223,915	89
Peterborough	839,389	192,579	668,436	80
Ottawa	3,163,981	1,578,148	2,034,978	64
Timmins	415,938	276,814	203,773	49
Hamilton	2,769,143	1,484,913	1,301,497	47
Thunder Bay	1,027,948	603,753	433,203	42
London	4,211,543	3,224,316	1,199,701	28
Kingston	1,695,958	3,240,155 ²	366,121	22
Orillia	1,044,555	1,599,189 ²	213,330	20
Toronto	19,040,243	22,785,785 ²	233,173	1

1. Refers to the laboratory location that originally logged the sample or specimen in the laboratory information system; includes those tests that hospital and community laboratories and public health units send to this location.

2. Number of laboratory tests completed is greater than number of laboratory tests received mainly due to additional tests that other regional laboratory sites transferred to these laboratory sites.

The most recent iteration of this modernization plan, presented by Public Health Ontario to the Ministry in January 2023, included the same plan to consolidate sites, but instead focused on discontinuing its testing for *H. pylori*, which is not a disease of public health significance, and again recommended the gradual discontinuation of private drinking water testing. This updated plan also showed that current test volumes per full-time-equivalent staff ranged widely between all 11 existing sites, from 775 in Timmins to 13,523 in Hamilton.

A 2020 laboratory facilities report by a private-sector consultant commissioned by the Ministry of Government and Consumer Services (now the Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery) and Infrastructure Ontario had findings consistent with Public Health Ontario's proposed plan, and made identical recommendations with respect to Public Health Ontario laboratory sites. Our 2020 audit on COVID-19 preparedness and management, Laboratory Testing, Case Management and Contact Tracing, recommended that the Ministry of Health immediately review Public Health Ontario's laboratory modernization plan, and consult with the agency to determine and provide the level of base funding that would allow the agency to fulfill its mandate.

Despite this, at the time of our audit, the Ministry of Health was still in the process of obtaining necessary internal approvals for the plan. We asked the Ministry why the plan was not yet implemented; it informed us that in the 2019 Ontario Budget, the government committed to modernize Ontario's public health laboratory system by developing a regional strategy. However, implementation of this plan was put on hold due to the construction of the new London public health laboratory, as well as increased capacity required from all Public Health Ontario laboratory sites for COVID-19.

RECOMMENDATION 5

To more efficiently deliver public health laboratory services, we recommend that Public Health Ontario, in conjunction with the Ministry of Health, update and implement a plan within 12 months to streamline public health laboratory operations.

PUBLIC HEALTH ONTARIO RESPONSE

Public Health Ontario accepts the recommendation, and will continue to work in conjunction with the Ministry of Health to update the plan to streamline and modernize the agency's laboratory operations. Upon receipt of Ministry approval to proceed, Public Health Ontario will commence the phased implementation of the plan. We will work closely with our stakeholders throughout the implementation process to communicate changes in service delivery and minimize service disruptions.

4.2.2 Courier Services That Deliver Samples and Specimens Do Not Cover All Regions of the Province

Primary-care clinicians, hospitals and public health units are just some examples of places that send specimens (such as blood, phlegm and stool) to Public Health Ontario laboratory sites across the province for testing. Private citizens also send samples (such as well water) to these sites. Public Health Ontario co-ordinates courier services that pick up and deliver samples and specimens, most of which are sensitive to time and temperature during transit, to and from these locations as well as among its own network of 11 public health laboratory sites. For example, in the five-year period between 2018/19 and 2022/23, 21% of the tests received by public health laboratory sites were transported to other public health laboratory locations for testing.

Over the last five years, Public Health Ontario has relied on a roster of up to 18 courier companies to transport samples and specimens, and has established formal contracts with four of them. Currently, there are two contracted couriers providing the majority of these services to the agency. One company covers the Greater Toronto Area, southwestern Ontario and eastern Ontario; the other company focuses on Northern Ontario. Public Health Ontario engaged the other courier companies on its roster only when needed, such as to supplement any shortfalls of the two contracted courier companies.

Public Health Ontario's spending on courier services has increased by \$1.6 million, or 99%, in the last five years. The majority of this increase is attributable to the change in market pricing for this specialized service, and the remainder is attributable to an 8% increase in overall test volumes over the same period. In 2022/23, Public Health Ontario spent about \$3.8 million on courier services for samples and specimens, up from \$1.9 million in 2018/19, as shown in **Figure 11**.

We could not determine whether Public Health Ontario's courier services fully cover all primary-care clinician offices and hospitals that send samples and specimens to the public health laboratory, because the total number of these collection sites is not readily available. We found, however, that Public Health Ontario does not provide courier services to nine, or 26%, of the 34 public health units. We surveyed these nine public health units, and another random sample of nine geographically dispersed public health units that use Public Health Ontario's contracted courier, of which seven responded. We noted the following:

- Five of the nine public health units that do not use Public Health Ontario's courier were not even aware that this service exists; these public health units therefore had to co-ordinate their

own couriers to send samples and specimens to the public health laboratory.

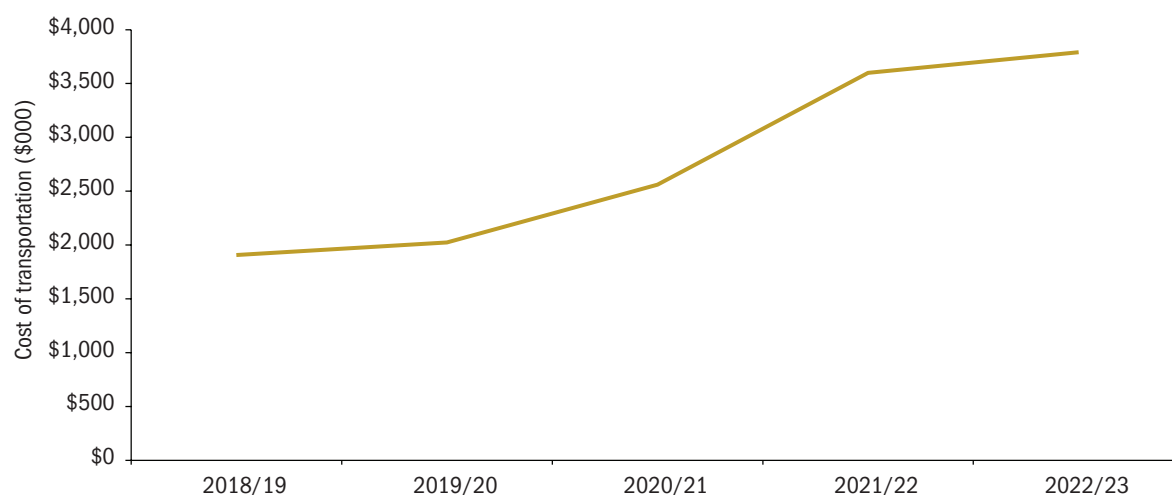
- Of the public health units that use the agency's courier, some cited challenges with the courier services including delayed, missed and/or infrequent pickups; this can sometimes result in samples and specimens being rejected by the public health laboratory as they did not arrive within the time frame required for testing. Public Health Ontario and some public health units also have had to use external couriers to cover the shortfalls of the current courier routes so that samples and specimens can be delivered on time to be suitable for testing.

RECOMMENDATION 6

To achieve better value for money for the province's use of couriers for the public health laboratory, we recommend that Public Health Ontario, in conjunction with the Ministry of Health, consult with all public health units to determine whether centrally procured courier services for laboratory samples and specimens would be beneficial, and make centrally co-ordinated courier services available to all public health units.

Figure 11: Public Health Ontario Courier Expenses for Transportation of Laboratory Samples and Specimens, 2018/19-2022/23

Source of data: Public Health Ontario



PUBLIC HEALTH ONTARIO RESPONSE

Public Health Ontario accepts the recommendation, and recognizes the importance of better value for money with respect to laboratory courier services across the public health sector. We will work with the Ministry of Health, public health units and other partners, including the Ontario Laboratory Medicine Program, to determine the feasibility of making centrally co-ordinated courier services available to all public health units, including a collaborative procurement approach.

4.2.3 Some Laboratory Tests for Diseases of Public Health Significance Not Offered at the Public Health Laboratory

Public Health Ontario provides surveillance of communicable diseases based on data it collects through its laboratory or obtains from other sources. It provides over 270 tests, and is often the only laboratory in Ontario to test for certain diseases, for example, HIV. Providing comprehensive laboratory tests to detect and identify diseases of public health significance in its role as the provincial public health laboratory is therefore critical to effectively protect the health of Ontarians. We compared testing menus from Public Health Ontario to those of other provincial health agencies, and found some examples of tests not done through public health laboratories for diseases of public health significance, such as certain types of testing for latent tuberculosis, and wastewater testing that can identify COVID-19 transmission in geographic areas.

Interferon Gamma Radiation Assay for Latent Tuberculosis

One of Public Health Ontario's legislated responsibilities is "to provide scientific and technical advice and support to the health care system and the Government of Ontario in order to protect and promote the health of Ontarians and reduce health inequities." Despite this, we found that the Public Health Ontario laboratory does not offer a test that is specifically beneficial for the

detection of latent tuberculosis in at-risk populations such as Indigenous communities and foreign-born populations.

Latent tuberculosis is a dormant form of tuberculosis, meaning the person does not feel sick or have symptoms, but has the potential to progress to active tuberculosis later in life due to weakened or compromised immune systems. Approximately 15% of people with latent tuberculosis progress to the active disease, which is preventable, as latent tuberculosis can be treated with antibiotics, through shared decision-making between the health-care providers and patients. Statistics from the Government of Canada showed that in 2020, there were 1,772 cases of active tuberculosis in Canada, with more than 80% of these cases found in foreign-born individuals and Indigenous people.

In Ontario, the only publicly funded test to detect latent tuberculosis is a skin test, which public health units and other health-care clinics conduct. Another testing method—interferon gamma release assay (IGRA)—involves blood testing done by laboratories. The last Ministry guidelines on tuberculosis, from 2018, stated that Ontario was assessing the use of IGRA in select communities. However, at the time of our audit, this test was still not publicly funded across Ontario. IGRA is currently available in Ontario at one children's hospital under specific eligibility, as well as selected private laboratories at a cost of around \$90 per test to the patient. Public Health Ontario's laboratory currently does not perform any laboratory tests to detect latent tuberculosis.

Public Health Ontario published a report in 2019 that looked at testing for tuberculosis infection using IGRA as compared to the conventional skin testing method. The report did not look into the estimated costs of delivering IGRA versus the skin test method, but noted the pros and cons of each method as follows:

- The conventional skin test method requires a second clinic visit 48 to 72 hours after the first, which may result in patients, especially those living in rural and northern communities, not making that follow-up visit.

- IGRA is more specific to obtain the right diagnosis but also costlier due to the need for new equipment, training and processing time.
- IGRA requires specimens to be processed within a specific window of time after collection; Public Health Ontario's laboratory does not have co-located facilities to support timely blood specimen collection and submission for assay testing, though one commercially available test can be processed up to 53 hours after specimen collection.

The agency has not more recently analyzed the full costs and benefits of IGRA versus the skin test to detect latent tuberculosis, and does not have plans to do so in the near future. Such an analysis could include the potential impact of not diagnosing and treating someone with latent tuberculosis. For instance, a recent study, using data obtained at a treatment centre in Ontario as well as two other centres in Canada, found that the median cost to treat patients with tuberculosis infection was \$804 for the most easily treatable varieties and ranged as high as \$119,014 for highly drug-resistant tuberculosis infections.

In contrast, the British Columbia Centre for Disease Control has co-ordinated with hospitals to offer IGRA for the diagnosis of latent tuberculosis. It controlled for some of the limitations of this test, such as time from sample collection to processing, by co-ordinating sample collection times with lab availability, to ensure that samples will be tested before spoiling.

Wastewater Testing

Public Health Ontario does not perform wastewater testing in Ontario, which can identify COVID-19 transmission in geographic areas and supplement other clinical data sources. Currently, wastewater testing is led by the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, through its Wastewater Surveillance Initiative. Through this initiative, laboratory tests are conducted through 13 different Ontario universities, as well as the Public Health Agency of Canada's National Microbiology Laboratory.

In contrast, the British Columbia Centre for Disease Control collects samples two to three times a week for testing from wastewater treatment plants in urban

regions across British Columbia, to identify respiratory pathogens such as influenza and COVID-19. At the time of our audit, the Ministry of Health informed us that it was working collaboratively with Public Health Ontario to develop a proposal for a public health model for wastewater surveillance in Ontario.

RECOMMENDATION 7

To help ensure the public health laboratory in Ontario applies current and best practices to conduct surveillance on diseases of public health significance, we recommend that Public Health Ontario, together with the Ministry of Health:

- perform a jurisdictional scan to compare public health laboratory test menus;
- conduct a cost/benefit analysis on the tests not conducted by the public health laboratory in Ontario to determine whether the alternative tests would yield more accurate and timely results; and
- develop a plan to incorporate new tests into the Ontario public health laboratory test menu.

PUBLIC HEALTH ONTARIO RESPONSE

Public Health Ontario accepts the recommendation, and will work with the Ministry of Health to ensure that our test menu supports the evolving public health needs and ensures fiscal responsibility. We will continue our work to finalize the public health laboratory test menu for Ontario, which will be informed by a jurisdictional scan of other public health laboratory test menus in Canada and the findings of test cost/benefit analyses.

4.3 Weaknesses in Corporate Procurement Policy and Lack of Enforcement, Resulting in Poor Procurement Governance

The Ontario Public Service Procurement Directive (Directive), developed by the Management Board of Cabinet in March 2019, sets out the responsibilities of organizations throughout the procurement process. The purpose of the Directive is to ensure that goods

and services are acquired through an open, fair and transparent process, to reduce purchasing costs, and to ensure consistency in the management of procurement. Public Health Ontario's internal corporate procurement policy, originally drafted in July 2010 and last updated in November 2022, is based on this Directive.

During our audit, we reviewed details of procurement projects that were active as of May 31, 2023, and examined a sample of them. We found that Public Health Ontario did not always follow its own corporate procurement policy, which contributed to weaknesses in procurement governance and could have prevented the agency from achieving value for money. From 2018/19 to 2022/23, Public Health Ontario spent, on average, \$207 million per year in goods and services to operate its laboratory and deliver its science and public health programs.

4.3.1 Agency Staff Purchased Goods and Services from Vendors Using Purchasing Cards Rather than Procuring Them Competitively

We found that Public Health Ontario's laboratory staff were using purchasing cards (P Cards) in ways that are contrary to their intended purposes. As a result, we found instances where the agency did not acquire goods or services through an open, fair and transparent process.

According to the agency's procurement policy, P Cards are "primarily used for low value purchases" and may only be used for individual purchases valued under \$5,000 (or \$10,000 for senior staff) that are "not recurring transactions with a single vendor." The policy further clarifies that "a series of reasonably related transactions shall be considered as a single transaction for purposes of determining the required approval and authority levels." At the time of our audit, the agency had issued P Cards to 126 of its staff, 68 of whom were responsible for laboratory operations.

The corporate procurement policy further states that program areas are required to work with the procurement team "to assist in the planning and coordination of all procurement activities." However, the agency has not been enforcing this requirement. In fact, laboratory staff at Public Health Ontario can

procure goods and services on their own without having to go through the procurement team.

We found that staff from various laboratory sites at Public Health Ontario were using their P Cards to make recurring purchases of laboratory and health-care supplies from the same vendor between 2018/19 and 2022/23. Although the individual purchases were under \$5,000, the cumulative value of the recurring transactions exceeded \$25,000—the amount above which purchases must be procured competitively according to procurement policies. As shown in **Figure 12**, we found that from 2018/19 to 2022/23, Public Health Ontario staff made almost 17,000 transactions on their P Cards with 30 different vendors, for a combined purchase value of over \$11 million over five years. Over \$4 million of this amount related to purchases from two vendors. According to Public Health Ontario, the use of P Cards is required for purchases below \$5,000 in the User Guide for the Vendor of Record arrangement with the top vendor. The User Guide was prepared by the then Ministry of Government and Consumer Services (now Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery), Ontario Shared Services and Supply Chain Ontario. As a result, its staff have to follow this User Guide, resulting in recurring transactions using their P Cards. Regarding the second vendor, agency staff told us that, until recently, it accepted only P Cards as payment. Excluding the top two vendors, annual transaction values ranged from \$25,133 to \$222,283. Agency staff purchased laboratory equipment and supplies on a recurring basis from these vendors using their P Cards, when they should have instead procured these supplies and equipment competitively.

Our review of the individual transactions found that this practice, although limited to the agency's laboratory operations, was widespread across several laboratory sites. For example, in 2022/23, 35 staff across various laboratory sites cumulatively made 1,339 recurring purchases of medical laboratory and health-care supplies from a single vendor totalling over \$554,000. This is equivalent to an average of 39 recurring transactions per staff member for that year alone. According to Public Health Ontario, these recurring P Card transactions were done in accordance

Figure 12: Top 10 Vendors by Total Value of Recurring Transactions Charged to Purchasing Cards (P Cards) and Totals for All 30 Vendors, 2018/19–2022/23

Source of data: Public Health Ontario

Vendor #	# of Years with P Card Charges >\$25,000	Value of Charges (\$)		# of Charges	
		Total	Avg. per Year	Total	Avg. per Year
Top 10 Vendors					
1	5	2,789,087	557,817	6,669	1,334
2	3	1,381,694	460,565	1,349	450
3	5	1,037,100	207,420	1,955	391
4	3	666,848	222,283	882	294
5	5	622,895	124,579	1,350	270
6	5	485,805	97,161	294	59
7	5	475,601	95,120	963	193
8	4	408,235	102,059	523	131
9	4	360,486	90,121	387	97
10	5	352,095	70,419	479	96
All 30 Vendors					
1-30	1-5	11,104,934	3,286,409	16,961	4,111

with the User Guide for the agency's arrangement with this vendor. We noted that the agency's P Card guidelines state that they are used to acquire goods and services that are not required frequently. According to Public Health Ontario, it has to follow this User Guide as opposed to its own procurement policy. This practice was also not limited to a single year. As shown in **Figure 12**, recurring P Card purchases exceeded \$25,000 in all the five years we analyzed.

The agency's finance team explained that for low-dollar and low-risk routine purchases, laboratory operations used P Cards instead of going through competitive procurement in these circumstances either because they needed to acquire the goods urgently, or, in cases where a contract existed between the agency and the vendor, because the contract did not cover the goods they needed. Additionally, they used P Cards for low-dollar and low-risk routine purchases when they needed to source from an alternative vendor if there were unforeseen supply shortages with the existing vendor. The dollar value of these recurring purchases, whether taken per year or cumulatively over the five years, should have required staff to

procure the goods and services competitively, either by soliciting quotes from at least three vendors or requesting bids from vendors. In either process, the procurement would have resulted in formal contracts with the chosen vendors, stipulating deliverables, payments and performance monitoring. However, because these transactions were made through P Cards, the agency's procurement team was not involved in these procurements, even though the team is responsible for monitoring the agency's compliance with both internal and public-sector procurement policies. At the time of our audit, the finance team did not periodically review P Card use across the agency to identify recurring transactions for which central procurement might be used without the need to use P Cards.

Our review of individual P Card limits noted that six of the cards have spending limits that range from \$35,000 to \$60,000, and one card has a limit of \$200,000 specifically for urgent COVID-19 pandemic-related purchases. According to Public Health Ontario, these exceptions were granted to meet operational needs resulting from the pandemic.

4.3.2 Vendor Progress and Performance Not Measured or Monitored

We found that Public Health Ontario does not have a formal process to track vendor performance and non-compliance, and does not always evaluate whether vendors have accomplished deliverables before it makes payment. As a result, procurement staff cannot easily verify, as part of their responsibilities to manage contracts, whether the vendor's work has been completed satisfactorily and whether the vendor met agreed upon terms before making payments.

Public Health Ontario's corporate procurement policy does not outline how to periodically monitor vendor performance and how to resolve matters of poor performance or non-compliance, even though the Directive outlines that vendor performance must be managed and documented, and any performance issues must be addressed.

Nonetheless, over half of the contracts we reviewed included requirements for the vendor to submit mandatory quarterly activity reports to Public Health Ontario that reflect all activities pertaining to the provision of goods and services. We requested copies of these reports submitted to Public Health Ontario for all contracts we reviewed, but the agency could not provide these reports for any contracts in our sample.

We also found that over half of the contracts we reviewed required the creation of a Contract Management Committee with representatives from Public Health Ontario and the vendor. The contract terms require the committee to meet regularly and conduct quarterly or semi-annual reviews of the vendors' fulfillment of the deliverables. We requested minutes of committee meetings; the agency informed us that the committees, though mentioned in the contracts, were never struck or acted upon. As a result, these reviews had not been completed at the time of our audit.

The procurement team told us that they regularly met with program staff to review contracts and discuss procurement issues, and that they had not identified performance issues with any of the vendors in our sample. However, they could not provide us with supporting documentation for 35% of our sample. In all

cases where the agency provided us with documentation, the communication between procurement staff and program area staff centred around clarification about contract terms and renewal options, with no discussion of the vendor's performance.

We noted that, as of May 31, 2023, 43 vendors had between two and seven active contracts with Public Health Ontario, with one vendor accounting for \$32 million in contracts. The value of the contracts with just these 43 vendors totalled \$108 million, which comprised 78% of the total value of all active contracts at the time. The multiple contracts with certain vendors highlight the importance of having a system in place to monitor and document vendor performance across different contracts.

The consequences of not monitoring vendor performance were evident in 2022 when Public Health Ontario paid a consulting firm almost \$50,000 to conduct a survey of staff to assess burnout, and recommend policies and practices to address agency staff burnout resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. At the conclusion of the contract, the vendor recommended that Public Health Ontario develop initiatives to help staff become involved with self-help activities such as exercise and meditation. The vendor also recommended that the agency implement policies that would provide staff with sufficient time off to allow meaningful recovery from work stress. However, the agency already had these initiatives and policies in place at the time; it had provided the consultant with its existing initiatives and policies, but the consultants still made these recommendations. With proper vendor performance monitoring, this lapse would have been identified earlier, thereby preventing the redundant recommendations.

The lack of vendor performance tracking also hinders Public Health Ontario's ability to review its history with vendors to help inform its decision-making process when engaging a vendor for a new project. In our review of a sample of contracts, we noted that in 73% of cases, there was no discussion of the vendors' historical performance with the agency or evidence of reference checks to inquire about other organizations' past experience with the vendors. For example, four

of the contracts we reviewed, with a combined value of over \$32 million, were awarded to one vendor. The contracts had effective dates between March 2020 and April 2022 for terms of three to over six years. None of the documentation for any of the four contracts discussed the vendor's historical performance.

RECOMMENDATION 8

To help ensure that Public Health Ontario is using taxpayer money to procure goods and services in an open and transparent manner and is receiving value for money, we recommend that Public Health Ontario:

- review the use of purchasing cards at least on an annual basis to identify recurring transactions with vendors, and take corrective actions as necessary;
- monitor that payments to vendors are made only when goods and services have been satisfactorily delivered and within the contract ceiling price;
- evaluate vendor progress and performance in accordance with contract terms; and
- develop and implement a process to include evaluation results in the consideration of vendor selection in future projects.

PUBLIC HEALTH ONTARIO RESPONSE

Public Health Ontario accepts the recommendation. Prior to the pandemic, we had initiated a purchasing card (P Card) project to reduce P Card usage in Laboratory Operations. The project, which was paused during the COVID-19 pandemic, was restarted in April 2023 and is now expected to be completed by February 2024. Public Health Ontario also plans to augment our procurement practices to ensure that processes are in place to evaluate vendor progress and performance. We will develop and implement a risk-based vendor performance framework to support these processes.

4.4 Public Health Ontario Has No Succession Plan in Place for Specialized Management Roles

Public Health Ontario does not have a formal succession plan in place to identify when key roles may need to be filled, such as in the case of retirement. This leaves Public Health Ontario at risk of being without senior leadership and/or key specialized roles for long periods before the positions are filled, potentially affecting its ability to appropriately respond to public health risks, especially during times of emergency.

The agency employs a wide variety of specialized roles, such as medical laboratory technologists, public health physicians, epidemiologists, clinical microbiologists, scientists and more. The scientific and technical advice Public Health Ontario provides to its clients is dependent on having a skilled workforce and anticipating any changes in these highly specialized roles, so that the agency can continue to carry out its mandate without any setbacks.

The impact of not having a succession plan was felt during the COVID-19 pandemic, when between April 2020 and September 2021, Public Health Ontario lost its President and CEO, Chief Health Protection Officer, and Chief of Microbiology and Laboratory Science all in the span of 17 months. Except for the President and CEO role, which was filled temporarily by an existing executive, these positions were filled by promoting internal senior leaders at a time when Public Health Ontario was looked to for leadership. The position of President and CEO was filled in July 2022, more than two years after its temporary holder took on the role.

In its 2017/18 annual business plan, Public Health Ontario outlined a strategic direction to continue to improve employee engagement, which included piloting a succession planning process for senior leadership positions. Work on this had begun in 2019 prior to the pandemic, specifically with the laboratory, such as developing guiding documents to support the succession planning process. More recently, in its 2020/23 strategic plan, Public Health Ontario outlined a

goal to build leadership capacity, by developing and implementing a proactive approach to workforce and succession planning that enhances diversity and inclusion and improves continuity and consistency of services. At the time of our audit, Public Health Ontario had not fully realized this goal.

Public Health Ontario also does not track which senior leadership or specialized positions have had a successor identified internally, and has not set a target for when a successor should be identified before an anticipated departure. Further, the agency does not have a formal process to identify which staff, including those in senior leadership or specialized positions, are about to retire and therefore would leave a position vacant or without effective leadership. During our audit, in June 2023 the agency's new Chief of Health Promotion and Environmental Health Officer assumed the full responsibilities of the position only after a transition period that had begun with her predecessor's retirement in January 2023. The predecessor's retirement was known from May 2022, at which point a formal public recruitment began. However, this role required an experienced public health physician executive, and there was a limited pool of qualified candidates. Although the successful candidate accepted the position in March 2023, the responsibilities of the position were still being covered by agency executives for an additional three months, during which the successful candidate was transitioning to her new role.

Other jurisdictions have targeted goals in their strategic plans and annual reports for the proportion of prioritized positions they want to have a successor identified for internally. For example, Quebec's Institut national de santé publique has a stated objective to anticipate the retirement of staff members whose expertise plays a key role in the pursuit of the institute's mission, and to develop succession plans to offset the impact of such departures by focusing on the full potential of its personnel. The Quebec institute targeted 60% of its prioritized positions to have an internal successor identified in 2020/21.

RECOMMENDATION 9

To better prepare Public Health Ontario in continuing to deliver its mandate with the support of skilled staff and management, we recommend that Public Health Ontario:

- conduct an analysis to determine when senior positions and specialized roles are expected to become vacant;
- identify and develop potential talent from within the organization, or identify the need to recruit;
- develop and track key performance indicators that support succession planning; and
- develop and implement a succession plan for senior leadership and specialized roles.

PUBLIC HEALTH ONTARIO RESPONSE

Public Health Ontario accepts the recommendation. We are currently in the process of developing a new human resources strategy, which will include a focus on succession planning for the organization and will incorporate the elements described in the recommendation.

4.5 Continuous Improvement Efforts Needed to Collect Better Data on Performance Indicators

4.5.1 Public Health Ontario's Performance Indicators Mostly Measure Output Volume Instead of Client Satisfaction or Service Quality

Public Health Ontario establishes performance indicators as well as targets in its annual business plans; however, these indicators mostly focus on quantifying the output of the agency's operational activities rather than client satisfaction and actual performance of its core activities, making it difficult for the agency to demonstrate that it has been effective in meeting the needs of its clients.

As early as 2018/19, Public Health Ontario acknowledged in its annual report that the performance of public health organizations is often difficult to assess quantitatively. The agency noted that it continued to explore new approaches to performance measurement to incorporate additional impact, value and outcome considerations. Its 2018 peer review also recommended that the current performance indicators could be reoriented to capture service quality rather than focusing largely on volume of services delivered. However, the agency has made little progress on this. It stated in its 2021/22 annual report that it did not advance this work substantively due to focusing on requirements relating to the COVID-19 pandemic.

At the time of our audit, Public Health Ontario was tracking performance indicators that are mostly volumetric. These include the number of knowledge products published on the agency's website, the number of visits to the agency's online data and analytic tools, and the number of scientific and technical support activities and data requests completed in response to clients and stakeholders.

With respect to measuring client satisfaction, the only performance indicator where satisfaction is directly measured is the percentage of professional development sessions achieving a client/stakeholder rating of at least 3.5 out of 5. The agency noted that it also measures the quality of its core activities and services through indicators of the percentage of laboratory tests completed within the target turnaround time that it has established, and the percentage of multi-jurisdictional outbreaks of diseases of public health significance that it assesses for further investigation within one day of being notified. In our view, these are indirect measures of client satisfaction. Public Health Ontario also noted that it frequently receives client feedback; however, these results are not shared publicly.

The agency informed us that, historically, it has conducted client satisfaction surveys via third-party marketing firms on a two-year cycle, with its last survey completed in 2016. Since then, the agency has

not sought these services due to government-imposed expenditure constraints.

In contrast, the Institut national de santé publique du Québec reported on more client-focused performance indicators such as clients' satisfaction with the usefulness of the institute's scientific productions to support them in their work, and satisfaction with its support for intervention with public health departments in the event of a public health threat (for more examples of these indicators, see **Appendix 5**).

Public Health Ontario informed us that it last fully reviewed its performance indicators during the development of its 2014–19 strategic plan. At that time, the agency reframed the performance scorecard reported in its annual reports to better align with its strategic direction. While it continues to review them on an annual basis, it plans to conduct its next full review of organizational performance measurement when it develops its next strategic plan, covering 2024–29.

4.5.2 Public Health Ontario Does Not Track or Report on Performance of Several Key Functions or Programs

Public Health Ontario's suite of performance indicators do not cover all its key functions, for example, the performance of its research ethics committee, environmental and occupational health program consults, or the agency's Locally Driven Collaborative Projects, explained in **Section 2.2.5**.

Public Health Ontario has contracts with 26 public health units to perform ethics reviews for local research these health units plan and conduct. According to the World Health Organization's Tool for Benchmarking Ethics Oversight of Health-Related Research with Human Participants, among the criteria research ethics committees should select to evaluate is time from a project application's submission to its approval. Public Health Ontario confirmed with us that it had not established clear definitions for the submission date of a project application for the purposes of tracking turnaround time.

We reviewed ethics reviews conducted by Public Health Ontario's research ethics committee for public health units from 2017/18 to 2022/23 using the date of receipt or, in lieu of that, the earliest indicated date, and found that on average it completed the reviews in seven weeks, ranging from one week to 18 weeks. When asked why this was not reported as a performance indicator, the agency informed us that it was still in the process of determining an appropriate performance indicator for ethics reviews, as the time it takes to grant approval may vary due to the quality of the application, including missing information or necessary follow-up with the applicants.

We looked to other public health agencies, and found that the joint ethics review board for Health Canada and the Public Health Agency of Canada reported on its review board turnaround time, citing an average of 42 days (six weeks) in 2021/22 from time of application submission to approval, and this was reported in its ethics review board's annual report. Tracking this metric and publicly reporting on it may allow Public Health Ontario to identify education opportunities for the agency to train public health units on best practices relating to the development of project applications, and a demonstrated record of efficiency will help as the agency works toward bringing the remaining public health units into agreements for its services.

4.5.3 Public Health Ontario Does Not Track or Report Uptake of Its Services by Public Health Issue

Between 2020/21 and 2022/23, Public Health Ontario on average received about 1,630 requests annually from all clients, including public health units, which represent about 50% of those requests. The agency internally tracks the number of requests by the responsible lead program areas that handle them, but not by public health issue. Tracking and reporting on incoming requests by public health issue, such as alcohol, cannabis, dental health, food safety and healthy eating, could help the agency better inform and advise the Ministry on the most topical issues on which public health units require assistance from Public Health Ontario throughout the year, which would in turn provide the Ministry with a more complete picture of public health events that require intervention throughout the year across all three pillars of the public health system.

As shown in **Figure 13**, between 2020/21 and 2022/23, Public Health Ontario's "health protection" was assigned as the lead program area for most of these requests, which includes communicable diseases, emergency preparedness and response. The high volume of requests in this program area likely corresponded with the COVID-19 pandemic and can

Figure 13: Lead Program Areas Where Public Health Ontario Received Requests from All Clients, 2020/21-2022/23

Source of data: Public Health Ontario

Lead Program Area	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Health Protection ¹	1,540	1,441	980
Environmental and Occupational Health	216	120	122
Health Promotion, Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention	77	35	57
Laboratory ²	126	115	49
Other ³	11	7	14
Total	1,970	1,718	1,222

1. Includes communicable diseases, emergency preparedness and response, infection prevention and control and antimicrobial stewardship.

2. Reflects the requests made primarily by public health units and the Ministry of Health; separate from support requests to the laboratory customer support centre.

3. Includes knowledge exchange and communications, strategy stakeholder relations, and legal and privacy.

be readily linked to that public health issue. However, program areas such as “environmental and occupational health” and “health promotion, chronic disease and injury prevention” cover a wide range of potential public health issues and yield less specific information to inform the full scope of issues raised by requestors. Public Health Ontario noted that the title and description of the request can be filtered for key words. However, this is not done regularly, and can result in inconsistency.

In addition, the agency reports publicly only on total volume of outputs but does not break down the total into program areas. For example, one of its performance indicators is “responses to client and stakeholder requests,” which includes all program areas.

RECOMMENDATION 10

To increase its value and impact on public health units and other clients, we recommend that Public Health Ontario:

- conduct a jurisdictional scan of key performance indicators used by other public health agencies, focusing on those that measure client satisfaction;
- establish and collect data on key performance indicators that are focused on client satisfaction and outcomes;
- update the request tracking database to categorize requests according to public health issue, and report on this in its annual report; and
- publicly report on key performance indicators, including those that relate to client and stakeholder requests, broken down by program areas.

PUBLIC HEALTH ONTARIO RESPONSE

Public Health Ontario accepts the recommendation. As described in the report, we intend to complete a fundamental review of organization-wide performance measurement as part of the implementation of our new Strategic Plan for 2024–29. We will use that review as an opportunity to introduce additional performance indicators that are focused on client satisfaction and outcomes, informed by a jurisdictional scan of performance indicators used by other public health agencies. We also plan to make updates to our request tracking database at the start of the next fiscal year, which will enable reporting on client request performance indicators broken down by the lead program area and public health issue.

4.6 IT Governance and Operations of Public Health Ontario

We examined Public Health Ontario’s information technology (IT) controls and processes related to user account management, cybersecurity and software management. Due to the nature of these findings and so as to minimize the risk of exposure for Public Health Ontario, we provided relevant details of our findings and recommendations directly to Public Health Ontario. Public Health Ontario agreed with the recommendations and committed to implementing them.

Appendix 1: Diseases of Public Health Significance under the *Health Protection and Promotion Act*

Prepared by the Office of the Auditor General of Ontario

Disease	Communicable ¹	Virulent ²
Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS)	✓	
Acute flaccid paralysis		
Amebiasis	✓	
Anaplasmosis		
Anthrax	✓	
Babesiosis		
Blastomycosis	✓	
Botulism	✓	
Brucellosis	✓	
<i>Campylobacter</i> enteritis	✓	
Carbapenemase-producing Enterobacteriaceae infection or colonization	✓	
Chancroid	✓	
Chickenpox (varicella)	✓	
<i>Chlamydia trachomatis</i> infections	✓	
Cholera	✓	✓
<i>Clostridium difficile</i> infection outbreaks in public hospitals	✓	
Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, all types	✓	
Cryptosporidiosis	✓	
Cyclosporiasis	✓	
Diphtheria	✓	✓
Diseases caused by a novel coronavirus, including severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS) and coronavirus disease (COVID-19)	✓	
<i>Echinococcus multilocularis</i> infection	✓	
Encephalitis, primary, viral	✓	
Encephalitis, post-infectious, vaccine-related, subacute sclerosing panencephalitis, unspecified		
Food poisoning, all causes	✓	
Gastroenteritis, outbreaks in institutions and public hospitals	✓	
Gonorrhea	✓	✓
Group A streptococcal disease, invasive	✓	
Group B streptococcal disease, neonatal		
<i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> disease, all types, invasive	✓	
Hantavirus pulmonary syndrome	✓	
Hemorrhagic fevers, including Ebola virus disease, Marburg virus disease, Lassa fever, and other viral causes	✓	✓
Hepatitis A, viral	✓	
Hepatitis B, viral	✓	
Hepatitis C, viral	✓	

Disease	Communicable ¹	Virulent ²
Influenza	✓	
Legionellosis	✓	
Leprosy	✓	✓
Listeriosis	✓	
Lyme disease		
Measles	✓	
Meningitis, acute, including bacterial, viral and other	✓	
Meningococcal disease, invasive	✓	
Mumps	✓	
Ophthalmia neonatorum		
Paralytic shellfish poisoning	✓	
Paratyphoid fever	✓	
Pertussis (whooping cough)	✓	
Plague	✓	✓
Pneumococcal disease, invasive	✓	
Poliomyelitis, acute	✓	
Powassan virus		
Psittacosis/ornithosis	✓	
Q fever	✓	
Rabies	✓	
Respiratory infection outbreaks in institutions and public hospitals	✓	
Rubella	✓	
Rubella, congenital syndrome	✓	
Salmonellosis	✓	
Shigellosis	✓	
Smallpox and other orthopoxviruses, including monkeypox	✓	✓
Syphilis	✓	✓
Tetanus	✓	
Trichinosis	✓	
Tuberculosis	✓	✓
Tularemia	✓	
Typhoid fever	✓	
Verotoxin-producing <i>E. coli</i> infection, including hemolytic uremic syndrome (HUS)	✓	
West Nile virus illness		
Yersiniosis	✓	

1. An illness caused by pathogenic microorganisms, such as bacteria, viruses, parasites or fungi; can spread from the environment or from one person to another.
2. A pathogen's or microorganism's ability to cause damage to a host, such as a human.

Appendix 2: Mandatory Requirements for Board-Governed Agencies per Agencies and Appointments Directive

Prepared by the Office of the Auditor General of Ontario

Requirement	Details
Directives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must comply with all Treasury Board/Management Board of Cabinet (TB/MBC) directives whose application and scope cover board-governed agencies, unless exempted
Mandate reviews	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Required once every six years
Mandate letter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provided to the agency in time to influence business plan, no later than 180 calendar days prior to the start of the agency's next fiscal year
Business plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must be submitted to Minister no later than one month before the start of the provincial agency's fiscal year Must be Minister approved Must be submitted to Chief Administrative Officer or executive lead three months prior to the beginning of the agency's fiscal year
Annual Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must be submitted to Minister: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> no later than 120 calendar days after the provincial agency's fiscal year-end, or where the Auditor General is the auditor of record, within 90 calendar days of the provincial agency's receipt of the audited financial statement Minister must approve within 60 calendar days of the Ministry's receipt of the report The Ministry must table an agency's annual report in the Legislative Assembly within 30 days of Minister's approval of the report
Compliance attestation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chairs of board-governed agencies must send a letter to the responsible Minister, at a date set by annual instructions, confirming their agency's compliance with legislation, directives and accounting and financial policies To support the Chair, Chief Executive Officers of provincial agencies should attest to the Chair that the provincial agency is in compliance with mandatory requirements
Public posting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MOU, business plan and annual report must be made available to the public on a government or provincial agency website within 30 calendar days of Minister's approval of each Agency mandate letter must be made available to the public on a government or provincial agency website at the same time as the agency's business plan Expense information for appointees and senior executives must be posted on a government or provincial agency website
Memorandum of understanding (MOU)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must have a current MOU signed by the Chair and Minister Upon a change in one of the parties, an MOU must be affirmed by all parties within six months
Risk assessment evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministries are required to complete risk assessment evaluations for each provincial agency Ministries must report high risks to TB/MBC on a quarterly basis
Financial audit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financial statements must be audited and reported based on meeting audit threshold criteria

Appendix 3: Jurisdictional Scan of Public Health Agencies in Canada

Prepared by the Office of the Auditor General of Ontario

	Canada: Public Health Agency of Canada	British Columbia: BC Centre for Disease Control	Quebec: Institut national de santé publique du Québec
Mandate and function	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contributes to disease and injury prevention and health promotion. • Enhances sharing of surveillance information and knowledge of disease and injury. • Provides federal leadership and accountability in managing public health events. • Strengthens intergovernmental collaboration and facilitates national approaches to public health policy and planning. • Serves as a central point for sharing public health expertise across Canada and with international partners, and for using this knowledge to inform and support Canada's public health priorities. 	Provides surveillance, detection, prevention, treatment, policy development, and health promotion programming to promote and protect the health of British Columbians.	Offers expertise and support to Quebec's Ministre de la Santé and the health sector.
Governing document(s)	<i>Public Health Agency of Canada Act, 2006</i> <i>Department of Health Act, 1996</i> <i>Quarantine Act, 2005</i> <i>Human Pathogens and Toxins Act, 2009</i>	<i>Societies Act, 2015</i> Provincial Health Services Authority (Authority) Constitution and By-Laws	<i>The Act respecting Institut national de santé publique du Québec, 1998</i>
Organization type	Agency	Non-profit/Agency	Agency
Governed by Board	No	Yes—part of the Authority	Yes

	Canada: Public Health Agency of Canada	British Columbia: BC Centre for Disease Control	Quebec: Institut national de santé publique du Québec
Reporting relationship	<p>The President is the deputy head of the agency and reports to the Minister of Health.</p> <p>As part of the agency, the Chief Public Health Officer provides the Minister of Health and the President of the agency with scientific public health advice.</p>	<p>The Vice President, Population and Public Health, is the lead for the agency and reports to the CEO of the Authority.</p> <p>The CEO of the Authority reports to the Authority's Board Chair.</p> <p>The Board Chair of the Authority is the interface between the CEO and the Minister.</p> <p>The Provincial Health Officer reports to the Ministry of Health and is external to the agency but works with it on disease control, health protection and population health.</p>	<p>All Board members, including the Président-directeur général and Chair of the Board, are appointed by the government.</p> <p>The Board reports to the Minister.</p> <p>The province's Directeur national de santé publique reports to the sous-ministre à la Santé et aux Services sociaux and is external to the agency.</p>
Board appointment process	Governor-in-Council appointment	Appointed by the government	Appointed by the government
# of full-time-equivalent employees	4,565	444	666

Appendix 4: Audit Criteria

Prepared by the Office of the Auditor General of Ontario

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1. Effective governance and accountability structures are in place and operating to ensure Public Health Ontario operates cost-effectively.
 2. Public Health Ontario's role in Ontario's public health system is clearly defined, and understood by its clients, stakeholders and the public.
 3. Public Health Ontario has access to and collects relevant data and provides timely and objective data analyses and advice to its clients that meet their needs.
 4. Public Health Ontario has effective processes in place to support public health units in developing programs and capacity to help deliver public health services locally, and seeks to identify opportunities for minimizing duplication of efforts in the public health system and achieving efficiencies in the laboratory system.
 5. Public Health Ontario has resources available to fulfill its mandate and allocates and uses them efficiently and effectively.
 6. Performance measures and targets are established, monitored and compared against actual results to ensure that the intended outcomes are achieved, and are publicly reported.
 7. Processes are in place to identify areas of improvement and to operate more efficiently and effectively, and changes are made on a timely basis.
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Appendix 5: Institut national de santé publique du Québec Examples of Strategic Objectives Performance Measures, 2021/22

Source of data: Institut national de santé publique du Québec

	Indicators	Target (%)
Participate in relevant legislative and governmental processes	Rate of participation in parliamentary committees and selected public consultations	80
Support public departments in their regional partnerships	Response rate to requests for support from public health departments in health impact assessment	90
Support public health actors in integrating knowledge into their practices	Client satisfaction rate on the usefulness of scientific productions to support clients in their work	95
Continuously capture the needs of regional partners	Satisfaction rate regarding support for intervention with public health departments in the event of a threat to the health of the population	90
Deliver scientific products in a timely manner for decision-makers	Rate of compliance with the deadlines set out in the charter of prioritized projects	80



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