

**TOWNSHIP OF ESSA
CONSENT AGENDA
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17, 2024**

A – ITEMS RECEIVED AS INFORMATION

- p. 1 1. Essa Public Library Annual Report 2023.
- p. 6 2. Essa Building Department Report – March 2024.
- p. 7 3. Correspondence from the County of Simcoe:
- p. 8 a) April 4, 2024 – Advisory – Spring Bi-Weekly Leaf and Yard Waste Collection Returns April 8.
- p. 8 b) April 5, 2024 – County Council Highlights – Council Meeting (March 26, 2024) / Committee of the Whole Meeting (March 12, 2024)
- p. 14 c) April 8, 2024 – Media Release – County Launches 2024 Bursary Program to Support Local Students and Families.
- p. 16 d) April 9, 2024 – Media Release – County Awards 2024 Tourism, Culture and Sport Enhancement Funding.
- p. 17 e) April 10, 2024 – Advisory – Simcoe County Tri-Service Public Safety Communications Awards Return.
- p. 19 4. Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority Board Meeting Highlights – March 2024.
- p. 22 5. Correspondence from the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO):
- p. 24 a) April 5, 2024 – AMO President’s Board Update April 2024.
- p. 27 b) April 8, 2024 – Policy Update – New Federal Infrastructure and Housing Items in Upcoming 2024 Budget.
- p. 27 c) April 10, 2024 – Policy Update – Bill 185, Cutting Red Tape to Build More Homes Act, 2024.
- p. 30 6. Correspondence from the Township of Warwick dated March 15, 2024, re: Securing Access to Natural Gas for Rural Communities.
- p. 33 7. Correspondence from Clearview Township dated March 27, 2024, re: Endorsement of Bill C-63 in the House of Commons.
- p. 35 8. Correspondence from the City of Brantford dated March 28, 2024, re: Resolution 12.6.13 – Home Heating Sustainability.
- p. 38 9. Correspondence from Prince Edward County dated March 28, 2024, re: Resolution 2024-151 – Support for A Call to Action to Meet Deadline of an Accessible Ontario by 2025.
- p. 40 10. Correspondence from WSP dated April 3, 2024, re: Notice of Study of Commencement-Highway 89 and 5th Line Essa – Detailed Design and Class Environmental Assessment Study (GWP 2022-22-00).
- p. 42 11. Correspondence from the Town of Lincoln dated April 3, 2024, re: Resolution – Extension of Bill 23 Timelines Regarding Heritage Registry Lists.

- p. 44 12. Correspondence from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) dated April 2, 2024, re: FCM Voice: Canada Housing Infrastructure Fund / 2024 Sustainable Communities Awards / AC2024 / and More.
- p. 49 13. Correspondence from the City of Guelph dated April 4, 2024, re: Guelph City Council Resolution to Support the Decision of the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) to End the Subsidization of Fossil Gas.
- p. 52 14. News Release from the Ministry for Senior and Accessibility dated April 9, 2024, re: Ontario Building More Inclusive Communities – Applications Now Open for 2024-25 Inclusive Community Grants.
- p. 54 15. Correspondence from the Town of Goderich:
- p. 57 a) April 8, 2024 – Resolution – Legislative Amendments to improve Municipal Code of Conduct.
- p. 60 b) April 10, 2024 – Resolution – Review of the Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Program Financial Assistance Rates.
- p. 62 c) April 10, 2024 – Recommended Phase-Out of Free Well Water Testing the 2023 Auditor General’s Report.
- p. 62 16. Bulletin from Nottawasaga Futures - South Simcoe Streams Network Programs re: 2024 Trees for Streams – Volunteer Recruitment for Spring Planting Events.
- p. 63 17. Correspondence from the Treasury Board Secretariat re: Ontario’s First Annual Report on the *Provincial Emergency Management Strategy and Action Plan*.
- p. 65 18. Email from the County of Simcoe dated April 11, 2024 re: Bill 185 and Provincial Planning Statement Resources 2024.
- p. 66 19. Correspondence from Watson & Associates dated April 11, 2024 re: Assessments of Bill 185, *Cutting Red Tape to Build More Homes Act, 2024*.

B – ITEMS RECEIVED AND REFERRED TO SERVICE AREA FOR ACTION

None.

C – ITEMS RECEIVED AND REFERRED TO SERVICE AREA FOR REVIEW AND REPORT TO COUNCIL

None.

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ESSA PUBLIC LIBRARY

A place to imagine, discover, and connect.

ANNUAL REPORT 2023



Message from the Library Board Chair

The most essential aspect of Essa Public Library (EPL) services and spaces is to create vibrant possibilities for our community to Imagine, Discover and Connect. EPL invites the public into our modern and welcoming spaces with technology for everyone to use and a collection that is managed thoughtfully with our patrons in mind.

Many connections and friendships grow out of EPL programs tailored for children, teens, adults, and seniors. Numerous non-library sponsored groups and events take place here – private books clubs, tutoring, homeschooling, and birthday parties for example. South Simcoe Arts create rotating displays at Angus Branch to highlight local artist works.

There have been challenges in 2023. Times are changing. Censorship in library collections and programming is being demanded in many places and there are some people who are angry and loud in support of it. Fortunately, we have seen little of this in Essa so far, but this is a real issue in neighbouring communities, and that is NOT in the interest of a vibrant, diverse community. Public Libraries in general, and our Essa Public Library branches in particular, must be a place where ALL members of the community can access the resources that are of interest to them. EPL has been and will continue to run programs that are welcoming to as many people as possible.

EPL was challenged in 2023 to do more with less. Our budget was tight and the staff were very resourceful and successful when accessing grants. In a year where costs were escalating everywhere, EPL continued to offer fine-free borrowing and free or minimal cost programming. EPL also offers one free meeting space per month to our local community groups, such as the Lions Club. In a time of high inflation where so many people are struggling, Essa Public Library is one of the last places where the public can access books, DVDs, games, social activities, and many other programs at no charge.

It isn't an accident that Essa Public Library exists in its present form. It is hard work requiring imagination, initiative and continual nurturing of a welcoming service culture. As Board Chair, I am extremely grateful for the leadership of management, the oversight of the Board members, the support of Council, and staff that perform to a high standard of customer service each and every day.

Judith Hunter
Chair, Library Board of Directors

By the Numbers



3,134

Total active members



1,174

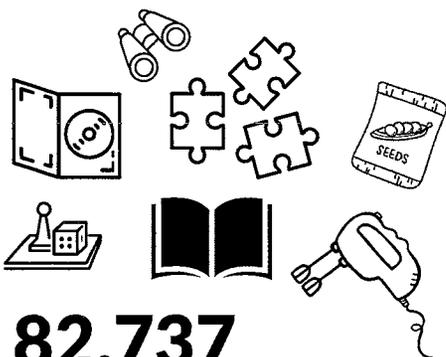
Total new members

2

Number of branches

82

Total weekly hours of operation



82,737

Total items circulated



\$1.5 million

Cost savings for our community
(value of items borrowed)

With a population served of 22, 970, this means the average family of four in our community borrowed approximately 15 items and saved \$261.

Having returned fully to in-person programming, attendance more than doubled compared to 2022.

Programs offered catered to a variety of community interests, with a focus on fostering connections.



12, 218

Attended programs

52% increase from 2022



649

Programs offered

Library Year in Review



- The annual Family Fun Night had the largest turnout to date with 600 attendees, and was made possible thanks to the support of 12 Community Partners.
- \$7,809.76 donated from the Tim Hortons Smile Cookie Campaign contributed to the ongoing refresh project at the Thornton Branch.
- Essa Public Library partnered once again with libraries across Simcoe County for the annual Simcoe Reads event. The live debate was hosted in Angus, with a record turnout.

Essa Public Library Staff

Sincere thanks to our valued volunteers who contribute to the success of Essa Public Library.

Public Engagement Representatives:

Ann-Marie Crackle, Roberta Miller, Victoria Murgante, Lewis Sabo, Christine Simone, and Patti Worden.

Dawn Travers Public Engagement Technician

PJ Hughes Library Technician

Karly Bruce Bilingual Coordinator of Family Engagement

Holly Elliott Coordinator of Family Engagement

Emily Nakeff Coordinator of Public Engagement

Angie Wishart Coordinator of Facility and Support Services (Retired, June)

Glenda Newbatt Manager of Library Services

Laura Wark CEO

Essa Public Library Board

Judith Hunter Chair

Carol Cryer Vice-Chair

Jennett Bushey Chair of Finance Committee

Liana Maltby Council Representative

Sydney Hyatt

Rachael Tracey

Township of Essa Council

Sandie Macdonald Mayor

Michael Smith Deputy Mayor

Pieter Kiezebrink Councillor Ward 1

Henry Sander Councillor Ward 2

Liana Maltby Councillor Ward 3



The Township of Essa is responsible for the majority of library funding.

Additional contributors include: County of Simcoe, Government of Canada - Canada Summer Jobs and New Horizons for Seniors, International Dyslexia Association Ontario, Province of Ontario, RBC Retired Volunteer Program, Starbucks Foundation Neighbourhood Grants, TD Summer Reading Program, Tim Hortons Smile Cookie Campaign (Thornton), and the Township of Essa Fire Department.

Mar-24

Current

| Permits Issued | # Permits Issued | # Permits Issued YTD | Monthly Construction Value of Permits Issued | Construction Value of Permits Issued YTD | Monthly Building Permit Fees | Building Permit Fees YTD |
|------------------|------------------|----------------------|--|--|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Residential | 9 | 53 | \$2,482,800.00 | \$13,179,909.00 | \$15,494.40 | \$143,525.05 |
| Commercial | | 5 | | \$450,400.00 | | \$6,552.00 |
| Industrial | | 1 | | \$4,000,000.00 | | \$9,473.00 |
| Institutional | | 1 | | \$20,000.00 | | \$200.00 |
| Public Utilities | | 0 | | \$0.00 | | \$0.00 |
| Agricultural | 1 | 2 | \$44,000.00 | \$444,000.00 | \$640.00 | \$3,300.00 |
| TOTAL | 10 | 62 | \$2,526,800.00 | \$18,094,309.00 | \$16,134.40 | \$163,050.05 |

| | | | | | | | |
|--------|----|----|----------------|----------------|-------------|--------------|---------------|
| Y.O.Y. | 22 | 53 | \$3,507,440.00 | \$9,144,662.00 | \$58,425.41 | \$115,473.83 | 41.20% |
|--------|----|----|----------------|----------------|-------------|--------------|---------------|

NEW SFD CONSTRUCTION

Dwelling Units Created

| Type | Current Month | YTD | Dwelling Const. Value | Dwelling Const. Value YTD |
|--|---------------|-----------|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| SFD/SEMI/ROW | 2 | 23 | \$1,789,800.00 | \$10,876,409.00 |
| Mult Res Bldgs | | 0 | | \$0.00 |
| Accessory Apt within Existing Res Bldg | | 0 | | \$0.00 |
| TOTAL | 2 | 23 | \$1,789,800.00 | \$10,876,409.00 |

Reviewed by CBO Pedro Granes



| | | | | |
|--------|--------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|
| Y.O.Y. | 8 | 17 | \$2,513,440.00 | \$5,299,577.00 |
| | 0.00% | 35.29% | 0.00% | 105.23% |

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Advisory

County of Simcoe, Office of the Warden and CAO
1110 Highway 26, Midhurst, Ontario L9X 1N6
simcoe.ca

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Spring Bi-weekly Leaf and Yard Waste Collection returns April 8

Midhurst/April 4, 2024 – The County of Simcoe’s popular bi-weekly curbside Leaf and Yard Waste Collection program returns April 8 (in Zone One) and will run until the end of May 2024. To determine your collection zone, please refer to the 2024 Waste Management Calendar, simcoe.ca or the Simcoe County Collects App, which is free to download from the App Store or Google Play.

The program includes collection of leaves, grass, branches (sized and bundled appropriately), and garden waste. Residents are reminded to use kraft paper yard waste bags, cardboard boxes, or open-ended rigid containers to place out for collection.

Bi-weekly collections coincide with garbage collection weeks in each zone. Materials for collection should be placed curbside by 7 a.m. on Monday of the collection week for each zone. Collection will occur during the week, not necessarily on residents’ regular collection day. Spring 2024 leaf and yard waste will be collected throughout the week in each zone as follows:

Zone One

- April 8, 2024
- April 22, 2024
- May 6, 2024
- May 20, 2024

Zone Two

- April 15, 2024
- April 29, 2024
- May 13, 2024
- May 27, 2024

Additional leaf and yard waste collections will occur in July and during the fall program, which starts in October.

**This schedule and program does not apply to the cities of Barrie and Orillia.*

The County of Simcoe is composed of sixteen member municipalities and provides crucial public services to County residents in addition to providing paramedic and social services to the separated cities of Barrie and Orillia. Visit our website at simcoe.ca.

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Lisa Lehr

From: County Of Simcoe Communications <Communications@simcoe.ca>
Sent: Friday, April 5, 2024 2:53 PM
To: Lisa Lehr
Subject: County Council Highlights - Meeting Held March 26, 2024



Council Highlights are intended to provide a summary of Council proceedings only. The information contained within the Highlights is based on approved material from within the associated agenda packages, linked at the bottom. These reports were part of the agendas from the **Council Meeting on March 26, 2024** and the **Committee of the Whole Meeting on March 12, 2024**. For more information on any item covered in the Highlights, each article is hyperlinked to the appropriate report, which can be accessed by clicking on the title. Images are also linked to relevant resources.

A recording of these sessions is also available for public viewing on the [County's YouTube channel](#).

- Service Simcoe



Community Paramedicine Home Visit Program Update

Starting in the fiscal year 2020, Paramedic Services received temporary funding to March 31, 2024. In a letter dated June 16, 2023, the Ministry of Long-Term Care declared their commitment to continue to extend the funding for the program until March 31, 2026. On March 6, 2024, the County was presented with the funding letter for a total of \$4,661,400 for these two (2) funding years.

This funding supports keeping individuals who are on or eligible for a Long-Term Care (LTC) waitlist, at home safe and stable. Community Paramedicine (CP) provides preventative health measures and exacerbation care which includes home visits, phone call appointments and remote patient monitoring.

Community Paramedics provide comprehensive in-home health assessments, including monitoring vital signs, conducting bloodwork, providing vaccinations, and health education.

They work in collaboration with local health services providers and consult with the patient's physician or nurse practitioner in real time, facilitating changes to medications and treatment plans at home. Patients enrolled in the program have direct telephone access to Community Paramedics when they experience increased or worsening symptoms often preventing a 911 call and the need to go to the hospital.



SIMCOE **STRONG** VOLUNTEER

During Council on March 26th, Warden Basil Clarke [proclaimed that April 14-20, 2024 will be recognized as National Volunteer Week](#) across the region to celebrate the dedication of volunteers. Following Council, during Committee of the Whole, Council received a presentation on the Simcoe Strong Volunteer Program.

Simcoe Strong Volunteer Program

(Committee of the Whole presentation on March 26, 2024)

The County of Simcoe provides a broad range of services to residents living throughout this region delivered by an employee workforce of over 2000 staff. Complimenting this dedicated workforce, we have developed incredible partnerships with many devoted individuals from our communities who volunteer their gift of time to support those we serve. In particular, we are grateful to the over 180 volunteers for their dedication to our long-term care homes, seniors services, and adult day programs. Simcoe Strong volunteers collectively contributed over 6,900 hours in 2023. This number has significantly increased by 39% since 2022. The Simcoe County Museum had 51 volunteers in 2023 who contributed 1,960 hours.

It is a privilege to celebrate and show appreciation to these precious volunteers during Canada's National Volunteer week. This year's national theme is "Every Moment Matters". According to Volunteer Canada, "this highlights the importance of every volunteer and each contribution they make at a moment when we need support more than ever. The sharing of time, skills, empathy, and creativity is vital to the inclusivity, strength, and well-being of our communities."

Volunteering is the most fundamental act of citizenship and generosity in our society. The goal of the Simcoe Strong Volunteer program is to provide meaningful impression to volunteers and the residents across the County's four (4) Long-Term Care Homes and Seniors Services (LTCSS) sites and guests of the Simcoe County Museum.

Summary of Findings from Public Consultations on Affordable Housing

Committee of the Whole reviewed notes from the Affordable Housing Advisory Committee Meeting held on March 5, 2024, including the Summary of Findings from Public Consultations on Affordable Housing. This report summarized what the County heard in its public and stakeholder surveys about the need for affordable housing across the region. To view both summaries, visit one of the links below.

The document [What We Heard: Community Partner Interviews](#) outlines responses from nearly 80 community partners representing multi-sector interests, lived experience and vulnerable population perspectives. The community partner interviews aimed to gather feedback to evaluate and improve the current Our Community 10-Year Affordable Housing and Homelessness Prevention Strategy, seek suggestions for a new 10-year plan and understand challenges and opportunities in housing from various perspectives.

The document [What We Heard: Online Public Survey](#) includes qualitative and quantitative data from over 8,000 online survey responses. The online survey sought information from a wide range of participants on current local housing needs, attitudes towards housing targets and resource allocation, and perceived barriers to housing and cost-of-living challenges to enable better integration of human services.



The feedback from both reports has been thoroughly reviewed and is being used to pursue focused inquiries to build a comprehensive policy response.

The community consultation and any ancillary findings will be posted online at www.simcoe.ca/housing, where participants will have an opportunity to provide additional comments. County staff will bring a draft strategy, developed under the leadership of the Affordable Housing Advisory Committee (AHAC), to County Council in November for approval.

Staff were asked to report back on how the County can advocate for more efficiency at the Landlord & Tenant Board to encourage and facilitate the growth of rental units in the region.



County of Simcoe Transit – 2023 Status Update

In 2023, LINX Transit completed its fifth year, in which it experienced consistent ridership growth and improvements in conventional and specialized transit services. Both conventional and specialized routes recorded a significant increase in ridership (23% and 33% respectively), with a noted surge in specialized transit applications over the previous year. Additionally, LINX Transit had a strong safety performance and high service reliability which were also notable achievements for 2023.

LINX Transit strategic plan includes developing new routes, increasing service, and introducing initiatives to render transit services more efficient, reliable, and responsive to the evolving needs of the County of Simcoe ridership in the coming years.

Conventional Transit Ridership

The year-over-year ridership for the conventional transit routes displayed an increase of 23.35%. The quarterly and total ridership numbers exceeded

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expectations, with all routes showcasing a consistent upward trend throughout the year.

- Route 1 (Barrie to Penetanguishene): 39,918 riders
- Route 2 (Barrie to Wasaga Beach): 42,949 riders
- Route 3 (Barrie to Orillia): 50,209 riders
- Route 4 (Collingwood to Wasaga Beach): 82,617 riders
- Route 5 (Alliston to Bradford): 20,851 riders
- Route 6 (Midland to Orillia): 22,404 riders
- **Total Conventional Transit Ridership: 258,948 riders**

Committee of the Whole Meeting Agenda - March 12, 2024

Council Meeting Agenda - March 26, 2024

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[EXTERNAL]



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

County launches 2024 Bursary Program to support local students and families

Midhurst / April 8, 2024 – The County of Simcoe is committed to working with member municipalities to support the pursuit of higher education. Through the County’s long-standing Education Bursary Program, 21 \$3,000 bursaries are available to County of Simcoe students attending a post-secondary institution in Canada. One bursary is guaranteed for a resident of each of the County of Simcoe’s 16 member municipalities.

Bursaries are available to full time and part time Simcoe County students entering any year of a post-secondary education in Canada.

“The County is pleased to once again support students and families across the County through our popular bursary program,” said Warden Basil Clarke. “Through this program, combined with our post-secondary education funding streams, County Council is committed to helping our local residents access higher education and skills. With the support of all 16 of our member municipalities and Georgian College, we look forward to helping students across Simcoe County.”

The Bursary Program provides those residents accepted into the program with financial assistance to access post-secondary education and training. This program is consistent with the County of Simcoe’s commitment to education, as well as encouraging community involvement and civic responsibility.

For the third straight year, the County is partnering with Georgian College to offer local students additional financial support. Georgian College is offering an additional \$1,500 for up to five students attending their institution who receive a student bursary through the County of Simcoe.

Eligible applicants must reside in Simcoe County, and:

- Be a resident of a [participating Simcoe County municipality](#) and a Canadian citizen or permanent resident
- Have graduated, or be eligible for graduation in the year of application, with an Ontario Secondary School Diploma in Simcoe County*
- In the year of application, be enrolled and commencing studies in an undergraduate program at a Canadian university or college as a full-time or part-time student
- Demonstrate interest in, and contribution to, their community through active participation in extracurricular activities at their school and/or in community organizations

Eligible applicants are invited to complete an [online application](#), which includes the submission of a 750-word essay on a pre-determined topic. Applicants must also provide a copy of their Grade 12 or most recent post-secondary transcript, or other proof of high school graduation and proof of enrollment at an Ontario University or College in an undergraduate program. Applicants must submit their online

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application by July 31, 2024. For more information about the program, visit simcoe.ca/studentbursary.

** Diploma must be through an accredited institution. Includes some home-schooling programs, such as the Independent Learning Centre or the Virtual Learning Centre.*

About the County of Simcoe

County of Simcoe is composed of sixteen member municipalities and provides crucial public services to County residents in addition to providing paramedic and social services to the separated cities of Barrie and Orillia. Visit our website at simcoe.ca.

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Release

County of Simcoe, Office of the Warden and CAO
1110 Highway 26, Midhurst, Ontario L9X 1N6
simcoe.ca

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

County awards 2024 Tourism, Culture and Sport Enhancement Funding

Midhurst/April 9, 2024 – The County of Simcoe has approved 62 successful applications totalling \$400,000 through the 2024 Tourism, Culture and Sport Enhancement Fund. The program aims to build up existing tourism, culture and sport projects throughout the County.

“We’re committed to building up tourism, culture and sport as they play a huge role in our economy and labour market,” said Warden Basil Clarke. “We thank all the organizations that applied to the funding stream, and we look forward to being a part of these exciting projects throughout Simcoe County.”

In 2024, the County received 67 applications requesting more than \$600,000 in financial support for the \$400,000 fund.

Through this funding, the County is building up supporting and enhancing tourism, culture, and sport in Simcoe County by:

- Investing in initiatives that promote awareness, access, participation and appreciation of the diverse tourism, culture, and sport offerings within the County of Simcoe
- Encouraging industry collaboration and partnerships
- Enhancing the visitor experience by supporting innovative and accessible programming
- Building organizational capacity in tourism, culture, and sport organizations
- Contributing to the County of Simcoe’s overall economic health and sense of place

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Advisory



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Simcoe County Tri-Service Public Safety Communications Awards Return

To be held April 16, 2024, at the Simcoe County Museum

Midhurst/April 10, 2024 - The Simcoe County Tri-Service Public Safety Communications Awards ceremony returns April 16, 2024, celebrating honourees from both 2019 and 2023.

This ceremony recognizes the exceptional work of the vital call-takers, dispatchers, and supervisors in our emergency response system. These individuals provide a vital link to callers in distress and provide a communications safety net to emergency responders on scene.

"It is truly an honour to recognize the outstanding efforts of this group of unsung heroes for the work they do each and every day, often under difficult conditions," said Warden Basil Clarke. "On behalf of County Council, our residents and visitors, congratulations to all the recipients and thank you for your dedication, strength and resilience."

Award Recipient Stories

Note: We are celebrating 2019 and 2023 award recipients as the 2020 ceremony cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The program was paused during 2020-2022.

2019 Winners

Marc Sparrow, a Communications Operator from the OPP Provincial Communication Centre in Orillia, is the recipient of the **2019 Simcoe County Public Safety Communicator-of-the-Year Award**. Described as a "professional and natural leader" by his colleagues, Mark was recognized for the example he sets for his peers. A member of the Innovation Committee, Marc helps to bring new ideas forward, working to ensure his co-workers are engaged and prepared for changes in operations and policy when they happen.

The **2019 Simcoe County Public Safety Communications Team Award** will be presented to Karleigh Horan, Joanna Baker, Caroline Graham, and Angie Elliott from Barrie Police Services. On a busy day in August 2019, this team received a call involving a person in distress with a weapon. In addition to the continued influx of normal 9-1-1 calls, these four operators coordinated a complex, multi-agency response, utilizing dedicated radio channels, while still maintaining service elsewhere in the city. Further complicating communications was two brief radio outages attributed to preplanned radio maintenance. Through professionalism and effective communication, these communicators worked as a team, providing effective support for everyone involved in the incident.

Connor Disson from the City of Barrie will be recognized as the **2019 Youth Award**. Then 11 years old Connor called 911 after a family member fell down the stairs and was unable to speak properly. Concerned about a possible head injury or stroke, Connor made the decision to call 911 and was calmly and clearly able to relay the information to the EMS dispatcher. Connor stayed on the line with the dispatcher, providing care to his family member until help arrived.

2023 Winners

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Kirstie Duke, a Communications Operator from the OPP Provincial Communication Centre in Orillia, is the recipient of the **2023 Simcoe County Public Safety Communicator-of-the-Year Award**. During her three years in the role, Kirstie has committed more than 1,000 hours helping to coach and support other staff. Described as an exceptional employee who leads by example, her professionalism and knowledge inspire those around her. Her efforts in training and coaching have also led to the success of others.

The **2023 Simcoe County Public Safety Communications Team Award** is presented Barrie Police Service staff members Sherri Heenan, Jayme Morrison, Melissa Nadeau, Karleigh Horan, Taylor Bolam, Kelly Van Schubert, Sara Bullied, Chantelle Gerry, Dana Forrest, Sharon Taylor, Hailey Richardson, Mikyla Matthews, Sarah Kenwright, and Sarah Winzar. In late 2023, this team coordinated the response to a delicate and potentially dangerous situation involving a person in distress. Working with multiple agencies, including groups outside of traditional emergency services, this team's professionalism, and dedication over a 24-hour period helped to ensure the successful and safe resolution of the incident.

EVENT:

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| What | 13th Simcoe County 9-1-1 Management Board Public Safety Communications Awards |
| Where | Simcoe County Museum 1151 Highway 26, Minesing |
| When | April 16, 2024 1 p.m. |
| Photo and video | Ceremony and interviews with recipients |

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- 30 -

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4

NVCA March 2024 Board Meeting Highlights

Next Meeting: March 22, 2024, held virtually

For the full meeting agenda including documents and reports, visit [NVCA's website](#).

Legislative and regulatory proposals affecting Conservation Authorities

Ben Krul, Manager, Development Planning & Permits, and Tyler Mulhall, Planner, gave a presentation on the new O. Reg 41/24.

On February 16, 2024, a new Minister's regulation (Ontario Regulation 41/24: Prohibited Activities, Exemptions and Permits) under the *Conservation Authorities Act* was approved by the Province. This regulation will replace NVCA's existing individual "Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses" regulation (172/06).

The regulation's effective date is April 1, 2024.

Key changes to NVCA's permit review process include:

- The activity in NVCA's regulated areas is not likely to:
 - Affect the control of flooding, erosion, dynamic beaches or unstable soil or bedrock;
 - Create conditions or circumstance 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.

Other requirements prescribed by the regulations are met

- Pollution and conservation of land will no longer be considered when reviewing permit applications
- New definition of a watercourse
- The regulated area around wetlands will be consistent at 30 m, including around

provincially significant wetlands (PSW). The current buffer is 30 m from wetlands, and 120 m from PSWs

- NVCA shall review and update maps at least once annually
- New exceptions for certain low-risk activities that meet specific requirements have been identified
- NVCA must confirm application completion within 21 days, and must give notice of decision for all applications within 90 days. NVCA may not request additional information from applicant once the application is deemed complete.
- Enhanced Minister Orders and Powers.
- Enhanced conservation authority enforcement powers, including entering properties, issuing stop work orders and enhanced penalties.
- Additional review and appeal mechanisms

Next Steps

NVCA will be completing the following steps to adopt the new regulations:

- Prepare communications for municipal partners, stakeholders and the public.
- Adopt interim policies until existing policy and procedure manuals are updated.
- Adopt a transition plan to ensure permits and new applications are subjected to the appropriate procedures and guidelines.
- Accommodate efficient timelines for permit review / issuance, administration reviews, permit cancellations, holding of hearings.
- Appointment of officers under a new class designation will be required. Provide new requirements for mapping updates.
- Update regulatory and legislative references on applications, maps, website, etc.

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Delegation of Powers and Appointment of Officers under the Conservation Authorities Act

As per the update of the *Conservation Authorities Act*, NVCA will appoint officers to enforce the provisions of Sections 28 and 29 of the Act. The Board of Directors have appointed the following staff as officers:

- Ben Krul, Manager, Development Planning and Permits
- Meagan Kieferle, Senior Regulations Officer
- Tyler Mulhall, Planner
- Kyra Howes, Director, Conservation Services
- Mike Bacon, Manager, Lands and Operations
- Clint Collis, Lands and Operation Technician
- Spencer Macdonald, Lands and Operation Technician

Agricultural Committee Terms of Reference

The Board of Directors approved the updated terms of reference for the Agricultural Committee.

NVCA Climate Change Action Plan: 2023 progress and 2024 goals

Staff provided the Board of Directors a summary of climate related actions from 2023 and outlined the anticipated 2024 goals.

Appointment of Risk Management Official and Risk Management Inspectors

The Board of Directors appointed Ian Ockenden as an alternate Risk Management Official and as a Risk Management Inspector.

Flood Structures Workplan

NVCA is responsible for managing a total of six flood structures within the watershed. Safety Reviews have been completed for New Lowell Dam in 2019, and Tottenham Dam in 2021. The reviews provided prioritized recommendations for addressing structural and public safety deficiencies relating to the dams.

To begin addressing the high priority recommendations only, NVCA staff will be applying for funding through the provincial Water Erosion Control Infrastructure (WECI) Program, which provides a 50% match for locally-funded projects pertaining to flood and erosion structures. Staff will plan to contribute the remaining 50% through the funding from NVCA's Asset Management Plan.

In the near future, engineering staff will develop a sustainable funding plan for NVCA's flood structures.

The recommended repairs for the Tottenham Dam would cost \$414,700, while recommended repairs for the New Lowell would cost \$765,000. It is important for NVCA to consider the lifecycle costs of maintaining each flood structure that does not serve a direct flood-related function, and weigh those against the costs of decommissioning these structures.

Update for MOU Cost Apportioning Agreement Programs and Services

Most of NVCA's municipal partners are supportive of either an MOU or a Cost Apportionment Agreement between the municipality and the NVCA.

Municipalities that have executed and signed MOUs

- Township of Adjala-Tosorontio
- Municipality of Grey Highland
- Town of Mono
- Township of Amaranth
- Town of Shelburne
- Township of Melancthon
- Town of New Tecumseth
- Town of Innisfil
- Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury
- Town of Collingwood
- Town of Wasaga Beach
- Township of Essa
- Township of Mulmur
- City of Barrie

- Town of Blue Mountains
- Clearview Cost Apportionment Agreement approved with Clerk to be signed
- Oro-Medonte to indicate support on MOUs in a future council meeting
- Springwater indicated support to date; before Council March 20, 2024

Upcoming Events

Spring Tonic Maple Syrup Festival

Hosted in partnership with the Rotary Club of Barrie, the Spring Tonic Maple Syrup Festival is hosted at the Tiffin Conservation Area. This event is a tradition spanning more than three decades.

Visitors will take a trip back in time to explore how maple syrup was made in the past. After that, they will return to current times and see how maple syrup is made today! End your tour with a pancake and sausage breakfast with fresh maple syrup. Prices for most activities are included in the admission fees.

Date: April 6 – 7, 2024

Location: Tiffin Centre for Conservation

Learn to Fly fish like a biologist

Learn to fly fish like a biologist so you can make the most of your fishing season! The event is hosted by Fred Dobbs, Manager, Stewardship Services, in partnership with Cabela’s Barrie.

Date: April 6, 2024

Location: Cabela’s Barrie, 50 Concert Way, Barrie, ON L4N 6N5

Tiffin Nature Program (for preschoolers)

Tiffin Nature Program helps preschoolers gain knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the natural world and our amazing planet. Children learn about risky play, and develop a better understanding of their relationship with the land.

Half Day Dates: Tuesdays March 19, 2024 – June 4, 2024

Full Day Dates: Thursdays March 21, 2024 – June 6, 2024

Location: Tiffin Centre for Conservation

PA/PD Day Camp Tiffin

Camp Tiffin encourages outdoor exploration, guided excursions in the forest fueled by student interest. Every day will be guided by student inquiry, seasonal changes, and weather and program availability. Camp Programming for April 8th will safely feature the solar eclipse!

Date: Friday, April 8, 2024 from 9:00 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Location: Tiffin Centre for Conservation

Lisa Lehr

From: AMO Communications <communicate@amo.on.ca>
Sent: Friday, April 5, 2024 2:00 PM
To: Lisa Lehr
Subject: AMO President's Board Update - April 2024



AMO President's Update - April 2024

The AMO Board last met on March 21 and 22 to discuss a variety of municipal issues and organizational matters. Please visit the [Board Elections FAQ](#), if you are considering putting your name forward for the August Board election.

As part of its Committee of the Whole meeting, the Board heard from outgoing Emergency Services Steering Committee (ESSC) Chair, Norm Gale, who provided a presentation to the board regarding the increasing costs to deliver of emergency services.

Renewal of the Canada Community-Building Fund

The Board authorized AMO to execute a new 10-year [Canada Community-Building Fund \(CCBF\)](#) funding agreement between Canada, Ontario, AMO, and the City of Toronto. The renewed agreement will cover the 2024-2033 period and enable AMO to administer nearly \$8 billion over this period for municipal infrastructure projects. Funding allocations will continue to be distributed according to the existing model and asset management will continue to guide infrastructure investments.

The federal government committed to tie future infrastructure funding to actions that increase housing supply and municipalities will be expected to use CCBF funds to alleviate housing pressures where it makes sense to do so. There will be some new housing reporting requirements for municipalities with 30,000 or more residents, but AMO has worked to ensure that new reporting requirements do not impact those municipalities under 30,000 population that do not have housing pressures.

All parties are expected to seek final approval in April. Once signed, AMO will prepare agreements with each municipality for signing prior to the first round of payments. AMO will provide more information on the new agreement to all municipalities once the agreement is signed and finalized.

The Board heard an update of AMO's expanded education offerings. AMO now offers an advanced Councillor Training series to continue the learning of New Councillor Training that many members enroll in following municipal elections. AMO is also offering upcoming sessions and workshops that help Councillors understand and address anti-Semitism and Islamophobia and issues such as cybersecurity.

LAS Feasibility Study for Water and Wastewater Utility

LAS Board is investigating the feasibility of creating a water and wastewater utility. The feasibility study will take a business case perspective on creating one or more water and wastewater utility using the joint municipal services corporation provision within the *Municipal Act*. The feasibility study will include considerations of governance, investments required and already planned, the financing and pricing related to Ontario's water and wastewater systems as well as exploring what degree of change that might be required (e.g., utility would need to operate in a regulated environment). The feasibility study is to be completed by December 2024.

Approach to Homeless Encampments

The Board approved an advocacy approach to the federal and provincial governments and to undertake member education about homeless encampments. On February 13, the Federal Housing Advocate released a final report, which recommended the establishment of a National Encampments Response Plan by August 31, 2024, among other recommendations. The federal government is required to respond within 120 days.

AMO will produce an advocacy and guidance paper that reiterates municipalities' commitments to address encampments within the context of ending homelessness, while firmly calling on the federal and provincial governments to meet their human rights obligations and support municipalities and District Social Service Administration Boards to address the root causes of encampments as a symptom of homelessness.

Other Policy & Advocacy Matters

At this meeting, the AMO Board also:

- Approved that AMO prepare an affidavit in support of the proposed class action on behalf of Canadian municipalities against companies responsible for manufacturing, marketing, and distributing opioids in Canada.
- Endorsed an advocacy approach in response to *Bill 165, Keeping Energy Costs Down Act*, highlighting the critical importance of reliable, affordable and sustainable energy sources as Ontario moves towards decarbonization.
- Heard an update on AMO's advocacy regarding environmental assessment modernization.
- Endorsed a refreshed advocacy approach on provincial offences, including a recommendation that the province conduct a third-party review.

Lisa Lehr

From: AMO Communications <communicate@amo.on.ca>
Sent: Monday, April 8, 2024 1:14 PM
To: Lisa Lehr
Subject: AMO Policy Update – New Federal Infrastructure & Housing Items in Upcoming 2024 Budget



AMO
Policy



Policy Update – New Federal Infrastructure & Housing Items in Upcoming 2024 Budget

Recently, the Federal Government announced new investments in [infrastructure](#), changes to increase construction of [rental apartments](#), and actions to protect and increase [affordable housing](#) that will be coming forth in Canada's 2024 Budget.

New Infrastructure Investments

A new Canada Housing Infrastructure Fund will provide:

- \$1 billion directly to municipalities to support urgent infrastructure needs
- \$5 billion for agreements with provinces and territories for longer-term priorities.

Agreements with provinces and territories will require commitment to housing-related conditions, for example:

- Adoption of four units as-of-right
- Implementation of measures from the Home Buyers' Bill of Rights and Renters' Bill of Rights

A5b

- A three-year freeze on increasing development charges for municipalities with a population greater than 300,000

In addition, the announcements noted a **top-up to the Housing Accelerator Fund** with an additional \$400 million, and signaled criteria to access the federal government's forthcoming public transit fund.

These much-needed investments to municipal infrastructure required for growth can help to offset the almost \$100 billion in growth-related infrastructure that Ontario's municipalities are planning for over the next 10 years. Significant questions remain regarding funding eligibility, including accessibility for regional municipal governments and the scope of eligible investments, as well as the potential impact of key conditions – most notably the three-year freeze on development charges.

AMO is working with municipal staff to unpack potential implications to help inform next steps with provincial and federal partners.

Measures to Improve Housing Affordability and Rent

Investments and changes to the Canada Construction Loan Program, including:

- An additional \$15 billion investment in the program
- Modifications to conditions (e.g., extending loan terms, extending access to financing to include housing for students and seniors)
- A partnership program to help support provincial and territorial housing plans

The new funding can help get more residential rentals built, including affordable units and is consistent with recommendations in AMO's [Blueprint for Action: An Integrated Approach to Address the Ontario Housing Crisis](#).

At the same time, the federal government also announced a series of actions to support rental tenants with housing affordability, including:

- Launching a new \$15 million Tenant Protection Fund
- Creating a new Canadian Renters' Bill of Rights, to be developed and implemented in partnership with provinces and territories
- Making sure renters get credit for on-time rent payments

AMO looks forward to additional details on the Home Buyers' Bill of Rights and Renters' Bills of Rights in the federal Budget.

Measures to Protect and Create New Affordable Housing Apartments

The federal government will be launching a new \$1.5 billion Canada Rental Protection Fund intended to protect affordable housing and create thousands of new affordable apartments.

The fund will provide \$1 billion in loans and \$470 million in contributions to non-profit organizations and other partners so they can acquire units and preserve rent prices in the long term.

These measures are responsive to AMO advocacy dating back to 2022.

Additional Announcements

The Federal Government also announced funding for a [National School Food Program](#), investing \$1 billion over 5 years to provide meals to 400,000 more kids every year, beyond those served by existing school food programs. [AMO wrote to Minister Freeland](#) in March expressing our support for the implementation of a national school food program and we are pleased to see it will be included in the 2024 Budget.

A [\\$2.4 billion investment](#) in Artificial Intelligence measures were also announced.

*Disclaimer: The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) is unable to provide any warranty regarding the accuracy or completeness of third-party submissions. Distribution of these items does not imply an endorsement of the views, information or services mentioned.

Bill 185, Cutting Red Tape to Build More Homes Act, 2024

- April 10, 2024
-

Today the Government introduced Bill 185, the *Cutting Red Tape to Build More Homes Act*. This omnibus bill includes changes to a range of legislation including changes to development charges and Ontario's land-use planning framework with the stated intent of removing barriers to building 1.5 million homes by 2031.

Changes to Development Charges

In response to AMO advocacy, Bill 125 would make significant steps towards restoring municipalities' ability to fund growth-related infrastructure by:

- repealing the five-year phase-in of development charges introduced under Bill 23, and
- restoring studies as eligible development charge costs.

The bill moves forward with development charge exemptions for affordable units, with a commitment to release a bulletin by June providing necessary implementation information. AMO has supported these exemptions following the inclusion of income criteria in the definition of affordable.

AMO will continue to highlight the need to reinstate both housing services and the cost of land as eligible DC costs. Together, these changes are costing municipalities around

\$4 billion over a 10-year period and will have a material impact on municipalities' ability to invest in community housing.

AMO recognizes that that these changes are the result of a renewed approach to collaboration between the province and municipalities. The proposed changes make progress in walking back elements of Bill 23 that significantly undermined municipalities' ability to support housing. They do not, however, replace the need for a comprehensive conversation to update the provincial-municipal fiscal framework to support sustainability, affordability and economic prosperity.

Minister's Zoning Orders

Bill 185 would replace the Community Infrastructure and Housing Accelerator (CHIA) tool with a new Minister's Zoning Order (MZO) framework that requires:

- Demonstration of how infrastructure servicing will be addressed;
- Anticipated timelines for downstream approvals and project completion;
- Evidence that they deliver on a provincial priority or are supported by a single-tier or lower-tier municipality.

The new MZO framework takes steps towards improving transparency, but fall short of AMO's recommendations that the government:

- use MZOs only in collaboration with municipalities
- use MZOs only in situations of extraordinary urgency, and
- enshrine this requirement in legislation

Land-Use Planning Changes

Bill 185 includes a number of changes intended to streamline planning processes and speed up housing development, including:

- Allowing municipalities to reallocate infrastructure servicing allocations from stalled developments to ready-to-build ones in order to better support growth
- Removing the planning application fee refund framework introduced through 2022's Bill 109
- Exempting public universities from planning approvals to facilitate faster construction of student residences.
- Limiting third-party appeals for approved Official Plans and Zoning By-laws

- Authorities needed to move forward with removing planning authorities from seven upper-tier municipalities

Along with these measures, the government is introducing the next edition of the Building Code and will be sharing an updated draft of the next Provincial Planning Statement (PPS) for a 30-day consultation.

AMO calls on the province to support effective implementation of measures by limiting future changes to the land-use planning process and restoring stability and certainty to the system.

Other Items

Bill 185 also proposes to streamline the anti-bonusing exemptions process by providing the Lieutenant Governor in Council the authority to allow municipalities to grant direct or indirect assistance to specific types of businesses, subject to certain conditions.

Bill 185 makes changes to the *Hazel McCallion Act (Peel Dissolution)* which would require the transition board to provide recommendations on the transfer of powers, responsibility or jurisdiction from Peel Region with respect to land use planning, water and wastewater, storm water, highways and waste management. AMO will continue to monitor the work of the Peel Transition Board to identify any policy recommendations that may impact municipalities in the future.

Contact:

Policy

policy@amo.on.ca

T 416.971.9856

Share this article:



TOWNSHIP OF WARWICK

"A Community in Action"

5280 Nauvoo Road | P.O. Box 10 | Watford, ON N0M 2S0

Township Office: (226) 848-3926
 Watford Arena: (519) 876-2808
 Website: www.warwicktownship.ca

Works Department: (519) 849-3923
 Fax: (226) 848-6136
 E-mail: info@warwicktownship.ca

BY EMAIL ONLY

March 15, 2024

Bob Bailey
 MPP, Sarnia-Lambton
 c/o bob.baileyco@pc.ola.org

Re: Securing access to natural gas for our community and Ontario

I am writing today to express support for the quick action being taken by the government to overturn the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) rate rebasing decision from December 21, 2023. The impact of this decision will be felt by millions of Ontarians, including those in my community.

Ontario is growing, and access to affordable energy to support this growth for homes and businesses is crucial. Energy infrastructure is vital to manufacturing, agriculture, and consumer goods industries in Ontario. The impacts of this decision, which conveys a strong bias against natural gas, will stifle economic growth, and put housing and energy affordability at risk – these are issues that matter the most to Ontarians and our municipality.

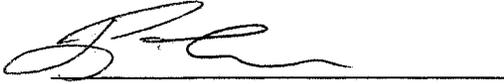
We are supportive of a measured approach to Ontario's energy transition. Leveraging pipeline infrastructure to deliver lower carbon fuels (such as renewable natural gas and hydrogen), alongside low carbon hybrid heating technologies (such as heat pumps) and carbon capture and sequestration will help Ontario achieve its climate goals – and we want to be part of this solution.

We recognize that there is simply not enough electricity available to replace the energy provided by natural gas and meet the increased demand from electrification. Your comments indicated that natural gas will continue to play an integral role in meeting the energy needs of this province. We need to work together to evolve Ontario's energy system – one that leverages pipes and wires.

A6

We support the response of the Government of Ontario to introduce a legislative vehicle to reverse the OEB's rate rebasing decision. We applaud the work your government has done to date, including the Electrification and Energy Transition Panel and the Natural Gas Expansion Program and appreciate your advocacy and support for securing Ontario's access to affordable energy.

Best regards,



Mayor – Todd Case

CC: Colin Best, President of AMO
Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
Hon. Todd Smith, Minister of Energy
Ontario municipalities
registrar@oeb.ca
municipalaffairs@enbridge.com

RESOLUTION

DATE: MARCH 4, 2024

MOVED BY: T. CASE

SECONDED BY: W. MORRIS

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;

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 Warwick;

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.

NOW THEREBE IT RESOLVED:

1. THAT the Corporation of the Township of Warwick supports a measured approach to Ontario's energy transition;

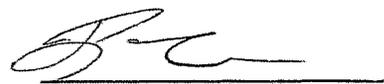
AND THAT the Corporation of the Township of Warwick recognizes that there may not be enough electricity available to replace the energy provided by natural gas and meet the increased demand from electrification.

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

3. THAT the Corporation of the Township of Warwick 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, Member of Provincial Parliament for Sarnia-Lambton, all regional municipalities and submitted to municipalaffairs@enbridge.com.

- Carried.



MAYOR – TODD CASE



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,

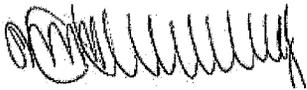
Whereas online tech companies and social media platforms need to be held accountable to keep platforms safe from predators targeting children and other vulnerable Canadians and to protect them from bullying, hate, extremism, violence, discrimination, self harm, exploitation and sexual extortion that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

A8



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

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

A9



The County
PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY • ONTARIO

From the Office of the Clerk
The Corporation of the County of Prince Edward
T: 613.476.2148 x 1021 | F: 613.476.5727
clerks@pecounty.on.ca | www.thecounty.ca

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

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A10



April 3, 2024

Mr. Michael Mikael
Interim Chief Administrative Officer
Essa Township
5786 Simcoe County Road 21
Utopia, Ontario L0M 1T0

**Re: Notice of Study Commencement
Highway 89 and Essa 5th Line
Detail Design and Class Environmental Assessment Study
(G.W.P. 2022-22-00)**

Dear Mr. Mikael:

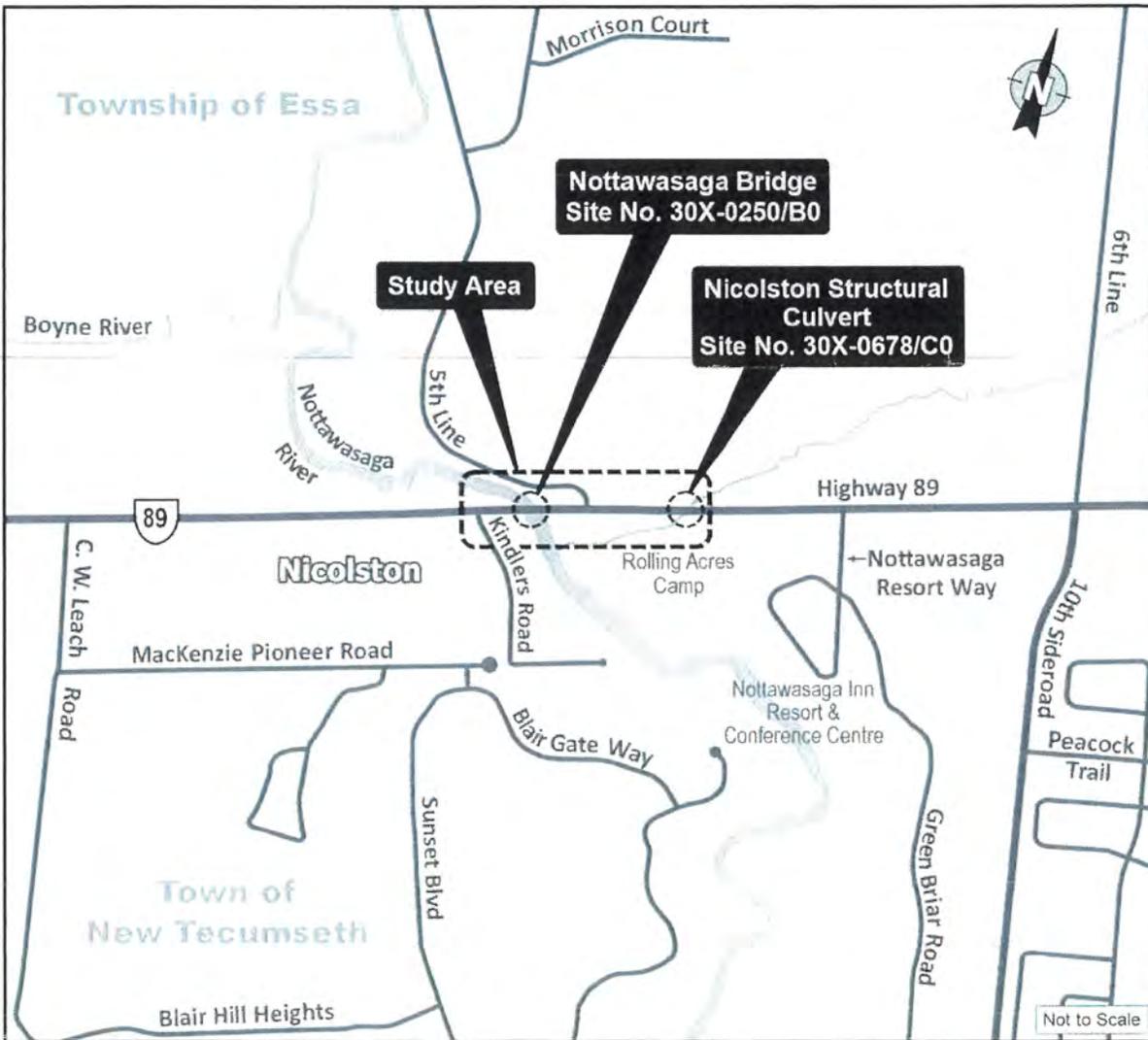
The Ontario Ministry of Transportation (MTO) has retained WSP Canada Inc. (WSP) to undertake the Detail Design and Class Environmental Assessment (Class EA) study to construct an eastbound left turn lane and westbound right turn lane from Highway 89 onto Essa 5th Line in the Township of Essa and Town of New Tecumseth in the County of Simcoe. The scope will require pavement widening as well as widening of Nottawasaga bridge and also includes the rehabilitation or replacement of the Nicolston structural culvert crossing on Highway 89 approximately 145 m east of Essa 5th Line. The location of the work is shown on the attached Key Plan.

The study will follow the approved environmental planning process for Group 'C' projects under the MTO's *Class Environmental Assessment for Provincial Transportation Facilities (amended 2000)*. Upon completion of the study, an Environmental Screening Document (ESD) will be prepared to document the project, its potential impacts and proposed mitigation measures.

The purpose of this letter is to inform you about the commencement of this project and to obtain any comments or information you may wish to provide regarding the proposed works. Please assist us in identifying issues and available background information by providing initial comments in a separate letter or email. We would appreciate your **comments by May 3, 2024.**

Comments and information regarding this project are being collected to assist MTO in meeting the requirements of the Ontario *Environmental Assessment Act*. All comments and information will be collected in accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. With the exception of personal information, all comments will become part of the public record.

Key Plan:



All



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.

All

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.

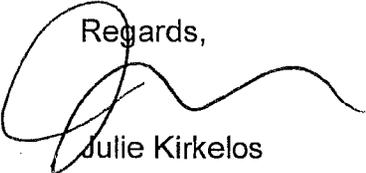
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Town of Lincoln authorize the Mayor to promptly send a letter to Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, and Michael Ford, Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism, requesting that Subsection 27(16) of the *Ontario Heritage Act* be amended to extend the 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

A12

Lisa Lehr

From: Michael Mikael
Sent: Wednesday, April 3, 2024 9:21 AM
To: Lisa Lehr; Sarah Corbett
Subject: FW: FCM Voice: Canada Housing Infrastructure Fund | 2024 Sustainable Communities Awards | AC2024 | and more

For consent please. Thank you

Michael Mikael, P.Eng
Chief Administrative Officer/ Manager of PublicWorks
Township of Essa
mmikael@essatownship.on.ca
705-424-9917 ext. 135

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From: FCM Communique <communique@fcm.ca>
Sent: Tuesday, April 2, 2024 4:45 PM
To: Michael Mikael <mmikael@essatownship.on.ca>
Subject: FCM Voice: Canada Housing Infrastructure Fund | 2024 Sustainable Communities Awards | AC2024 | and more

[View email in browser](#)

FCM

April 2, 2024



FCM VOICE
Canada's voice of local government

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New \$6-billion Canada Housing Infrastructure Fund, \$400 M top-up for Housing Accelerator Fund

A new \$6-billion Canada Housing Infrastructure Fund was announced today by the federal government, in a response to long-standing advocacy by FCM for significant investment in infrastructure amid record population growth.

This new funding, which includes \$1 billion in funding for urgent municipal infrastructure funding needs including water and wastewater management signals the federal government is responding to FCM's calls for more investments in community infrastructure to increase housing supply.

FCM looks forward to collaborating with the federal government and our partners in provincial and territorial associations to fully analyze the details of the newly announced infrastructure fund and ensure its success.

In addition, a significant \$400 million top-up was announced for the Housing Accelerator Fund, which will further facilitate the construction of new homes in communities from coast to coast to coast. Once the specifics and details of this top-up are confirmed, we will communicate directly with FCM members.

» [READ OUR STATEMENT IN FULL](#)

NEWS

The start of a new FCM Sustainable Communities Awards season

This webinar marks the beginning of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' 2024 Sustainable Communities Awards (SCAs) call for applications. The SCAs honour the most innovative and environmental initiatives in Canadian cities and communities of all sizes. Join us on April 25 at 2 p.m. ET to discover the benefits of winning an SCA and to better understand the application process. You will also hear from past SCA winners, who will share their experiences with a successful sustainability project and the SCA process.

» [REGISTER FOR THE WEBINAR TODAY](#)

EVENTS

AC2024: What's new and exciting this year

Excitement is building for FCM's AC2024 in Calgary (June 6-9) as we're introducing new features to enhance wellness, provide networking opportunities and spark innovation in your communities. Our new AC2024 programming includes ParticipACTION's Allons-y Wellness Challenge, CSA's FCM Collective Luncheon, YMCA's Wellness Moments and FCM's Municipal Den, alongside our regular schedule of workshops, plenaries, study tours, Trade Show and more. Register before April 19 to enjoy early bird pricing.

» [EXPLORE AC2024](#)

Webinar: Make your sustainability project stand out with 'multi-solving'

GMF is looking to fund top examples of multi-solving projects – initiatives that solve multiple challenges with one investment. Interested in learning how to build this concept into your future GMF funding applications? Join our free multi-solving webinar on April 11 from 2 – 3 p.m. ET to understand how multi-solving can make your sustainability projects more impactful, learn how to implement best practices in each of the multi-solving areas, and discover how integrating these principles can help you score higher in GMF's funding application process.

» [SIGN UP TODAY](#)

Discover low-carbon energy solutions for municipalities

Take a free, online and self-paced course to help you plan for district energy systems and renewable energy generation systems. The *Tackling energy use in municipal and community buildings* e-learning series has four courses on different topics for you to explore.

When you're done, you can apply what you learned in projects that are eligible for support via GMF's Community Energy Systems funding offers.

» [LEARN MORE AND SIGN UP FOR THE COURSE](#)

RESOURCES

Resources to help you make sustainable land use decisions

Are you interested in developing a land use plan to accommodate, service and support new residents and businesses? Our new resources can help you make informed decisions that save you money, reduce local GHG emissions and preserve natural climate resilience.

You'll find a tool that estimates the financial and climate implications of potential projects and a guide that provides tips, strategies and a high-level understanding of how land use decisions can impact a municipality's climate and fiscal sustainability.

» GET STARTED TODAY

LOCAL DATA

Do you want to know more about the diversity of people living in your municipality?

Statistics Canada announces the launch of the **Municipal diversity dashboard** on the **Centre for Municipal and Local Data** portal.

This interactive dashboard allows users to examine diversity indicators for Canadian municipalities such as language spoken, visible minority or immigrant status. It presents the latest data from the Census of Population for census subdivisions and allows users to view a profile of a municipality, compare two municipalities, or compare multiple municipalities.

FCM TWEETS

Mar 26: Welcome news from @cib_en. The new Infrastructure for Housing Initiative will be another tool for #CDNMuni to help address infrastructure needs associated with complete communities. New housing units are critical for Canada's growth, and so is the infrastructure required to sustain them.

It's critical that this new financing is in addition to new federal infrastructure funding. Ahead of #Budget2024, we're calling on the federal government to step up and solidify its commitment to new housing by investing in supporting infrastructure.

The current infrastructure gap is exacerbated by the outdated funding models to

Mar 28: Canada is experiencing historic growth – and that's a good thing. But there's a critical need to invest not only in new housing units, but in the infrastructure that supports them – like water, wastewater, public transit and community services.

FCM and #CDNMuni are calling for the federal government to step up in #Budget2024 to solidify its commitment to new housing by investing in support infrastructure.

Learn more:
<http://fcm.ca/growth>

#FCMUpdateRequired

April 2: INITIAL REACTION | FCM welcomes today's federal announcement of a new \$6 billion Canada Housing Infrastructure Fund to accelerate housing construction, including \$1 billion in direct funding to municipalities for urgent infrastructure needs like water and wastewater management.

This response to FCM's advocacy is an important recognition of the critical need for investment in the infrastructure necessary to increase housing supply and safeguard residents' quality of life as Canada experiences record growth. Infrastructure investment is essential to increase housing supply across Canada.

A12

which municipalities are constrained. FCM is also calling for all orders of government to convene and negotiate a new Municipal Growth Framework that empowers #CDNMuni with revenue tools that grow with Canada's national and economic population.

Full statement to follow.

[#CDNMuni](#) [#cdnpoli](#)

[» MORE](#)



24 Clarence Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1N 5P3
[fcm.ca](#)
T. 613-241-5221

info@fcm.ca
[Privacy Policy](#)

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[Unsubscribe here.](#)
24 Clarence Street | Ottawa, ON K1N 5P3 CA

[EXTERNAL]

48₅

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;

City Hall
1 Carden St
Guelph, ON
Canada
N1H 3A1

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

guelph.ca

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

A13



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

Lisa Lehr

From: Ontario News <newsroom@ontario.ca>
Sent: Tuesday, April 9, 2024 2:33 PM
To: Lisa Lehr
Subject: Ontario Building More Inclusive Communities



NEWS RELEASE

Ontario Building More Inclusive Communities

Applications now open for 2024-25 Inclusive Community Grants

April 09, 2024

[Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility](#)

TORONTO — The Ontario government is investing \$750,000 this year to help communities across the province become more age-friendly and accessible for people of all ages and abilities.

Applications for the 2024-25 cycle of [Inclusive Community Grants](#) opened today. These grants provide municipalities, non-profit organizations, and Indigenous communities with up to \$60,000 for local projects that will help older adults and people with disabilities participate in community life.

“We know that everyone benefits from inclusive communities that support independent, active living and help reduce social isolation by removing barriers,” said Raymond Cho, Minister for Seniors and Accessibility. “That’s why I’m proud to announce the launch of the latest round of funding for Inclusive Community Grants, which will help enable older adults and people with disabilities to contribute to all aspects of community life.”

Since the Inclusive Community Grants Program was created in 2020, the Ontario government has provided up to \$4.5 million to support 87 projects in communities across Ontario. Last year, the funding supported important projects such as:

- Haliburton’s Abbey Gardens Community Trust to establish an accessible recreational trail system for people of all abilities.
- The City of Kenora’s third phase of their Norman Park Accessibility project that will build the only fully accessible park with lake/beach access in the area.
- Madawaska Valley to install new fully accessible, wheelchair-friendly, all-weather picnic tables in seven municipal parks.
- Sault Ste. Marie’s Pointe Des Chenes Day Park and Beach to update paths, adding Mobi mats for beach access, and making bathroom and change rooms more wheelchair friendly.

- Tay Valley Township to introduce new accessible, age-friendly sports and recreation activities and programs for 300 local residents in eight rural communities.

This year, Ontario is prioritizing projects focused on increasing access to outdoor spaces and promoting and increasing accessible housing and transportation. Applications for Inclusive Community Grants are available at Ontario.ca/GetFunding. Eligible organizations have until May 22, 2024 to submit their applications.

Quick Facts

- Inclusive and Age-Friendly communities work to promote accessibility, safety and active living for people of all ages and abilities.
- Eligible organizations must apply for an Inclusive Community Grant through [Transfer Payment Ontario](#).

Additional Resources

- [Creating a more inclusive Ontario: age-friendly community planning guide for municipalities and community organizations](#)
- [Accessibility in Ontario](#)
- [Programs and services to support Ontario's seniors](#).

Media Contacts

Wallace Pidgeon

Minister's Office

Wallace.Pidgeon@ontario.ca

Media Desk

Communications Branch

Msa.Media@ontario.ca

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[EXTERNAL]

A15a

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



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

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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

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57 West Street
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519-524-8344
townhall@goderich.ca
www.goderich.ca



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);

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The Town of Goderich
57 West Street
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townhall@goderich.ca
www.goderich.ca



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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrea Fisher".

Andrea Fisher

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

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

AISC

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57 West Street
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519-524-8344
townhall@goderich.ca
www.goderich.ca



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

60

A15c

The Town of Goderich
57 West Street
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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

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2024 Trees for Streams Bulletin

Shout-Out for Volunteers—Recruiting for Spring Planting Events

Come join one of our South Simcoe Streams tree planting events! To register follow the link below. Make sure you indicate which event you are volunteering for. The package includes a waiver form and volunteer check-list.

Map of General Area of Community Planting Events



Community Tree Planting Events

- Saturday, April 27th: East Beeton Creek just off Mill St East in Tottenham 1pm– 4pm
- Saturday, May 4th: Fraser Creek Tributary at Henderson Park in Bradford W. Gwillimbury 9am–noon
- Saturday, May 11th: Sheldon Creek southwest of Alliston in Adjala–Tosorontio 9am—noon
- Tuesday, May 14th: Nottawasaga River south west of Alliston, off County Road 50 9am–noon
- Saturday, May 25th: Nottawasaga River at Bob Geddes Park in Essa—Angus 9am—noon

- Friendly Atmosphere
- Environmental Engagement
- Site & Safety Orientation
- Activity Demo
- Community Service Hours

TO REGISTER GO TO:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MNZ8H7D>
 Or Scan the QR Code

INQUIRIES: theresa@nottawasaga.com
 Phone/Text 705 440-9129





Community Events are made possible in part with funding from Dufferin-Simcoe Land Stewardship Network - County of Simcoe Tree Program, Somerville Nurseries Inc., Town of New Tecumseth, Township of Essa, Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury, and support from Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority, Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority, municipalities, landowners, industries, and volunteers like you!

Treasury Board Secretariat Secrétariat du Conseil du Trésor

Office of the President Bureau de la présidente

Whitney Block, Room 4320 Édifice Whitney, bureau 4320
 99 Wellesley Street West 99, rue Wellesley Ouest
 Toronto ON M7A 1W3 Toronto ON M7A 1W3
 Tel.: 416 327-2333 Tél. : 416 327-2333



Dear Head of Council:

Today I am proud to release Ontario's [first annual report on the Provincial Emergency Management Strategy and Action Plan](#), reporting on progress made to move emergency management forward in collaboration with our partners.

The report highlights key actions the province is taking in collaboration with partners to ensure that communities across Ontario are as safe and prepared as possible before, during and after emergencies. It also sets out future priorities that will guide our work moving forward to keep Ontarians safe.

We have made substantial investments, created new grant programs and expanded training opportunities to ensure that emergency management partners across Ontario have the resources and tools necessary to prepare for, and respond to, emergencies such as floods, wildland fires and cyber attacks.

The province collaborated with municipal and Indigenous partners to highlight the progress we have made since releasing our plan in 2023. Those accomplishments include:

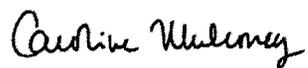
- Launching the [Community Emergency Preparedness Grant](#) to help communities and organizations purchase critical emergency equipment and supplies.
- Leading and participating in 85 emergency exercises and drills with government and non-governmental partners to strengthen emergency practice and preparedness.
- Launching the Provincial Exercise Program, a multi-year plan to exercise, test and strengthen multi-sector emergency plans and whole-of-government emergency response.
- Providing municipalities and provincial partners with resources to help them plan, set up and coordinate emergency exercises on their own.

The report demonstrates Ontario's leadership as the first jurisdiction in Canada to require annual and public reporting on progress made towards emergency management goals.

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We are grateful for your valued partnership and look forward to continuing to work together to move emergency management forward.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Caroline Mulroney in cursive script.

The Honourable Caroline Mulroney
President of the Treasury Board
Minister responsible for Emergency Management

c: Bernie Derible, Deputy Minister and Commissioner of Emergency Management,
Treasury Board Secretariat

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Sarah Corbett

Subject: FW: Bill 185 & PPS 2024 Resources

From: Westendorp, Nathan <Nathan.Westendorp@simcoe.ca>

Sent: Thursday, April 11, 2024 9:00 AM

Subject: Bill 185 & PPS 2024 Resources

Good morning everyone,

As most of you know, the Province made some key announcements yesterday that affect the Planning world (again!). The changes come via Bill 185 (omnibus bill) and a refreshed draft version of the Provincial Planning Statement.

While we're all digesting the proposed legislative and policy changes, here are some links you may find helpful to understand what effect it may have on your municipality, your policies, and your operations.

- Provincial Announcement (Bill 185) includes summary [Cutting Red Tape to Build More Homes | Ontario Newsroom](#)
- Bill 185 [Bill 185, Cutting Red Tape to Build More Homes Act, 2024 - Legislative Assembly of Ontario \(ola.org\)](#)
- Bill 185 Blackline version (compliments of Osler, Hoskin & Harcourt LLP) [Microsoft Word - Planning Act Bill 185 first reading\(85722534.1\).docx \(osler.com\)](#)
- ERO Posting for proposed PPS 2024 [Review of proposed policies for a new provincial planning policy instrument. | Environmental Registry of Ontario](#)
- Proposed PPS 2024 [Proposed Provincial Planning Statement, April 10, 2024 - EN \(2\).pdf \(prod-environmental-registry.s3.amazonaws.com\)](#)
- Proposed PPS 2024 blackline version (coming soon!)

At this point, we have scheduled a Simcoe Area Planner's meeting next Friday to discuss the changes and any next steps we are taking, either individually or collectively. Please let me know if you are unable to attend and unable send a delegate on your behalf. If needed, we are happy to schedule a second discussion session.

If we hear of new or updated information that may add clarity on things, we will do our best to share.

Thanks very much and happy reading!

Cheers,

Nathan Westendorp, MCIP RPP
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simcoe.ca

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April 11, 2024

To Our Municipal Clients:

Re: Assessment of Bill 185, Cutting Red Tape to Build More Homes Act, 2024

On behalf of our many municipal clients, we are writing to inform you of the Ontario Legislature's proposed changes to the *Development Charges Act* (D.C.A.) under Bill 185 (*Cutting Red Tape to Build More Homes Act*) and to Ontario Regulation 82/98 under the D.C.A. These proposed changes are with respect to:

- The definition of eligible capital costs (to include certain studies);
- The removal of the mandatory phase-in of charges;
- The process for minor amendments to development charge (D.C.) by-laws;
- A reduction of time for the D.C. rate freeze related to site plan and zoning by-law amendment planning applications;
- Modernizing public notice requirements; and
- Implementation of the Affordable Residential Unit exemptions.

Further details with respect to these proposed changes are provided below.

With respect to changes to the *Planning Act* arising from Bill 185, Watson will be preparing a subsequent letter summarizing the changes.

1. Revised Definition of Capital Costs

On November 28, 2022, the Province enacted Bill 23, *More Homes Built Faster Act*, which included a number of discounts, exemptions, and reductions to D.C.s. As part of this legislation, the definition of capital costs (subsection 5 (3) of the D.C.A.) was amended to remove studies, including D.C. background studies.

Bill 185 proposes to reverse the capital cost amendments of the *More Homes Built Faster Act* (Bill 23) by reinstating studies as an eligible capital cost. The following paragraphs are proposed to be added to subsection 5 (3) of the D.C.A.:

5. *Costs to undertake studies in connection with any of the matters referred to in paragraphs 1 to 4.*
6. *Costs of the development charge background study required under section 10.*



The proposed amendment will allow municipalities to fund studies, consistent with by-laws passed prior to the *More Homes Built Faster Act* (Bill 23). This will allow for the funding of master plans, D.C. background studies, and similar studies that inform the capital costs of the D.C. background study.

2. Removal of the Mandatory Phase-in

The *More Homes Built Faster Act* (Bill 23) required the phase-in of charges imposed in a D.C. by-law over a five-year term. D.C. by-laws passed after January 1, 2022, were required to phase-in the calculated charges as follows:

- Year 1 of the by-law – 80% of the charges could be imposed;
- Year 2 of the by-law – 85% of the charges could be imposed;
- Year 3 of the by-law – 90% of the charges could be imposed;
- Year 4 of the by-law – 95% of the charges could be imposed; and
- Years 5 to 10 of the by-law – 100% of the charges could be imposed.

Bill 185 proposes to remove the mandatory phase-in of the charges. It is proposed that this change would be effective for D.C. by-laws passed after Bill 185 comes into effect.

For site plan and zoning by-law amendment applications that were made prior to Bill 185 receiving Royal Assent, the charges payable will be the charges that were in place on the day the planning application was made (i.e., including the applicable mandatory phase-in).

Note, the Bill also proposes to allow minor amendments to D.C. by-laws that include these phase-in provisions. As provided in further detail below, these amendments would not require the preparation of a D.C. background study or undertake the statutory public process, and the amendments would not be subject to Ontario Land Tribunal appeal. This provision will only be available for a period of six months after Bill 185 takes effect.

3. Process for Minor Amendments to D.C. By-laws

Section 19 of the D.C.A. requires that a municipality must follow sections 10 through 18 of the D.C.A. (with necessary modifications) when amending D.C. by-laws. Sections 10 through 18 of the D.C.A. generally require the following:

- Completion of a D.C. background study, including the requirement to post the background study 60 days prior to passage of the D.C. by-law;
- Passage of a D.C. by-law within one year of the completion of the D.C. background study;
- A public meeting, including notice requirements; and
- The ability to appeal the by-law to the Ontario Land Tribunal.



Bill 185 proposes to allow municipalities to undertake minor amendments to D.C. by-laws for the following purposes without adherence to the requirements noted above (with the exception of the notice requirements):

1. To repeal a provision of the D.C. by-law specifying the date the by-law expires or to amend the provision to extend the expiry date (subject to the 10-year limitations provided in the D.C.A.);
2. To impose D.C.s for studies, including the D.C. background study; and
3. To remove the provisions related to the mandatory phase-in of D.C.s as discussed in section 2 of this letter.

Minor amendments related to items 2 and 3 noted above may be undertaken only if the D.C. by-law being amended was passed after November 28, 2022, and before Bill 185 takes effect. Moreover, the amending by-law must be passed within six months of Bill 185 taking effect.

Notice requirements for these minor amending by-laws are similar to the typical notice requirements, with the exception of the requirement to identify the last day for appealing the by-law (as these provisions do not apply).

4. Reduction of D.C. Rate Freeze Timeframe

Bill 108, *More Homes, More Choices Act, 2019*, which received Royal Assent on June 6, 2019, provided several changes to the D.C.A. including the requirement to freeze the D.C.s imposed on certain developments. This applied to developments that were subject to a site plan and/or a zoning by-law amendment application. The D.C. rate for these developments is “frozen” at the rates that were in effect at the time the site plan and/or a zoning by-law amendment application was submitted (subject to applicable interest). Once the application is approved by the municipality, if the date the D.C. is payable^[1] is more than two years from the approval date, the D.C. rate freeze would no longer apply.

Bill 185 proposes to reduce the two-year timeframe to 18 months and move this timeframe from being identified in O. Reg. 82/98 to being identified in the D.C.A. Transition provisions are included that require the two-year D.C. “freeze” for site plan and zoning by-law amendment applications that were approved prior to Bill 185 receiving Royal Assent to remain in effect.

^[1] In the case of Rental Housing and Institutional development, once the application is approved by the municipality, if the date the first building permit is issued is more than two years after the date of approval, the D.C. rate freeze would no longer apply.



Note that the streamlined process for minor amending by-laws does not appear to include the ability to amend D.C. by-laws to meet this legislative change.

5. Other Proposed Changes

Along with the proposed legislative changes outlined in Bill 185, the Province has identified related proposed regulatory changes regarding modernization of the public notice requirements. In addition, the Province has noted that implementation of the Affordable Residential Unit exemption will occur on June 1, 2024.

5.1 Modernizing Public Notice Requirements

The D.C.A. sets out the requirements for municipalities to give notice of public meetings and of by-law passage. These requirements are prescribed in sections 9 and 10 of O. Reg. 82/98 and include giving notice in a newspaper of sufficiently general circulation in the area to which the by-law would apply. The proposed regulatory changes would modernize public notice requirements by allowing municipalities to provide notice on a municipal website if a local newspaper is not available.

5.2 Implementing the Affordable Residential Unit Exemption

The More Homes Built Faster Act (Bill 23) identified an exemption for Affordable Residential Units. This exemption was subsequently revised through Bill 134, *Affordable Homes and Good Jobs Act, 2023*, which received Royal Assent on December 4, 2023. The exemption is summarized as follows:

- Affordable Rental: Where the rent is no greater than the lesser of the income based affordable rent^[1] set out in the Affordable Residential Units Bulletin and the average market rent identified in the Affordable Residential Units Bulletin.
- Affordable Owned Unit: Where the price of the residential unit is no greater than the lesser of the income-based affordable purchase price^[2] set out in the Affordable Residential Units Bulletin and 90% of the average purchase price identified in the Affordable Residential Units Bulletin.

[1] Based on the 60th percentile of gross annual incomes for renter households in the applicable local municipality and where the rent is equal to 30% of the income of the household.

[2] Based on the 60th percentile of gross annual incomes for households in the applicable local municipality and where the purchase price would result in annual accommodation costs equal to 30 per cent of the income of the household.

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The Provincial Backgrounder has indicated that this exemption will come into force on June 1, 2024, and that the Affordable Residential Units Bulletin will be posted on Ontario.ca.

Note, no commentary has been provided on the Attainable Unit exemption at this time.

6. Summary Comments on the Proposed Amendments

Many of these changes to the D.C.A. appear positive for municipalities by assisting in ensuring that growth pays for growth to the extent possible. This is achieved by allowing for the inclusion of growth-related studies that will allow municipalities to appropriately plan for additional development. Furthermore, the removal of the mandatory phase-in provisions ensures discounts to D.C.s are not provided to development and redevelopment that municipalities do not aim to incentivize. The reduction in the D.C. rate freeze timeline helps to ensure development that is not proceeding quickly does not receive D.C. discounts. Additionally, the ability to make minor amendments to D.C. by-laws to align with the legislative changes without onerous administrative requirements will assist municipalities in aligning policies with the amended legislation quickly. Modernizing the public notice requirements further assists municipalities in areas where there is no local newspaper.

With respect to the implementation of the Affordable Residential Unit exemption on June 1, 2024, as stated in previous correspondence, while it is an admirable goal to create additional affordable housing units, further D.C., community benefits charge, and parkland exemptions will continue to provide further financial burdens on municipalities to fund these exemptions.

Watson will be providing a submission through the Environmental Registry of Ontario on these legislative changes. Watson will also be seeking an opportunity to speak as a delegation to the Standing Committee, if possible, to provide our comments on behalf of our municipal clients. We will continue to monitor the progress of Bill 185 through the legislature and will continue to keep our clients informed of any changes. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours very truly,

WATSON & ASSOCIATES ECONOMISTS LTD.

- Daryl Abbs, MBE, PLE, Managing Partner
- Andrew Grunda, MBA, CPA, CMA, Principal
- Jamie Cook, MCIP, RPP, PLE, Managing Partner
- Peter Simcisko, BA (Hons), MBE, Managing Partner
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