



Council Information Package

Friday, June 19, 2026

	Page
1. COMMUNICATIONS	
1.1. General Manager of Development & Infrastructure correspondence dated June 17, 2026 regarding correspondence from the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit Regarding Cooling Towers and the Risks of Legionellosis. <u>General Manager of Development & Infrastructure correspondence dated June 17, 2026 regarding correspondence from the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit Regarding Cooling Towers and the Risks of Legionellosis.</u>	4 - 6
1.2. General Manager of Protective & Emergency Services/Fire Chief correspondence dated June 17, 2026 regarding Flooding Recovery Update. <u>General Manager of Protective & Emergency Services/Fire Chief correspondence dated June 17, 2026 regarding Flooding Recovery Update.</u>	7 - 8
1.3. Planner correspondence dated June 16, 2026 regarding Notice of Complete Application. <u>Planner correspondence dated June 16, 2026 regarding Notice of Complete Application.</u>	9 - 11
1.4. Planner correspondence dated June 16, 2026 regarding Notice of Open House for Zoning By-law Update. <u>Planner correspondence dated June 16, 2026 regarding Notice of Open House for Zoning By-law Update.</u>	12
1.5. Ramara Public Library Board adopted meeting minutes dated May 21, 2026. <u>Ramara Public Library Board adopted meeting minutes dated May 21, 2026.</u>	13 - 15
1.6. Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) correspondence dated June 17, 2026 regarding AMO Events - Special Conference Rates for AMO Education Workshops. <u>AMO correspondence dated June 17, 2026 regarding AMO Events: Special Conference Rates for AMO Education Workshops.</u>	16 - 17
1.7. Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) correspondence dated June 18, 2026 regarding AMO Policy Update. <u>AMO correspondence dated June 18, 2026 regarding AMO Policy Update.</u>	18 - 22

- 1.8. Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) correspondence dated June 18, 2026 regarding AMO Watchfile. 23 - 26
[AMO correspondence dated June 18, 2026 regarding AMO Watchfile.](#)
- 1.9. Ministry of Natural Resources correspondence dated June 15, 2026 regarding Updates to Certain Operational Policies Under the *Aggregates Resource Act*. 27
[Ministry of Natural Resources correspondence dated June 15, 2026 regarding Updates to Certain Operational Policies Under the Aggregates Resource Act.](#)
- 1.10. City of Burlington correspondence dated June 16, 2026 regarding Information on the new Development Charge Reduction Program. 28 - 30
[City of Burlington correspondence dated June 16, 2026 regarding Information on the new Development Charge Reduction Program.](#)
- 1.11. Municipality of Shuniah correspondence dated June 16, 2026 regarding support for the Township of Armour's resolution - Rest Stops and Service Areas on Highways 11 & 17. 31 - 33
[Municipality of Shuniah correspondence dated June 16, 2026 regarding support for the Township of Armour's resolution - Rest Stops and Service Areas on Highways 11 & 17.](#)
- 1.12. Municipality of Wawa correspondence dated June 16, 2026 regarding support for the Durham District School Board's resolution - School Board Governance. 34 - 35
[Municipality of Wawa correspondence dated June 16, 2026 regarding support for the Durham District School Board's resolution - School Board Governance.](#)
- 1.13. Prince Edward County correspondence dated June 17, 2026 regarding Extending the Deadline to Designate Listed Heritage Properties. 36 - 37
[Prince Edward County correspondence dated June 17, 2026 regarding Extending the Deadline to Designate Listed Heritage Properties.](#)
- 1.14. Rescue Lake Simcoe Coalition correspondence dated June 15, 2026 regarding Protect Our Plan - From Good Goals to Practical Progress. 38 - 74
[Rescue Lake Simcoe Coalition correspondence dated June 15, 2026 regarding Protect Our Plan: From Good Goals to Practical Progress.](#)
- 1.15. Town of New Tecumseth correspondence dated June 16, 2026 regarding Canada North Vehicles Initiative. 75 - 77
[Town of New Tecumseth correspondence dated June 16, 2026 regarding Canada North Vehicles Initiative.](#)
- 1.16. Town of Petawawa correspondence dated June 17, 2026 regarding Sustainable Provincial Grant Funding for Fire Services in Ontario. 78 - 80
[Town of Petawawa correspondence dated June 17, 2026 regarding Sustainable Provincial Grant Funding for Fire Services in Ontario.](#)
- 1.17. Town of Plympton-Wyoming correspondence dated June 15, 2026 regarding Canada-Ontario Development Charge Reduction Program. 81 - 82
[Town of Plympton-Wyoming correspondence dated June 15, 2026](#)

- [regarding Canada-Ontario Development Charge Reduction Program.](#)
- 1.18. Town of Smiths Falls correspondence dated June 17, 2026 regarding Sustainable Provincial Grant Funding for Fire Services in Ontario. 83 - 84
[Town of Smiths Falls correspondence dated June 17, 2026 regarding Sustainable Provincial Grant Funding for Fire Services in Ontario.](#)
- 1.19. Township of McGarry correspondence dated June 4, 2026 regarding support for the Federation of Northern Municipalities' resolution - Establishment of a Northern Ontario Policing Grant. 85 - 86
[Township of McGarry correspondence dated June 4, 2026 regarding support for the Federation of Northern Municipalities' resolution - Establishment of a Northern Ontario Policing Grant.](#)
- 1.20. Township of McGarry correspondence dated June 9, 2026 regarding OPP Municipal Policing Billing Model. 87 - 88
[Township of McGarry correspondence dated June 9, 2026 regarding OPP Municipal Policing Billing Model.](#)
- 1.21. Township of McGarry correspondence date June 9, 2026 regarding Rest Stops and Service Areas on Highways 11 & 17. 89 - 90
[Township of McGarry correspondence date June 9, 2026 regarding Rest Stops and Service Areas on Highways 11 & 17.](#)
- 1.22. Township of Terrace Bay correspondence dated June 17, 2026 regarding Sustainable Provincial Grant Funding for Fire Service. 91 - 93
[Township of Terrace Bay correspondence dated June 17, 2026 regarding Sustainable Provincial Grant Funding for Fire Service.](#)



Memo

TO: Mayor Clarke and Council

FROM: Laura Pye, General Manager, Development and Infrastructure

DATE: June 17, 2026

SUBJECT: Correspondence from the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit Regarding Cooling Towers and the Risks of Legionellosis

The purpose of this memo is to provide local context related to the correspondence dated June 16, 2026, from the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit regarding Cooling Towers and the Risks of Legionellosis.

A cooling tower is a piece of equipment used to remove heat from water. These systems are typically found in industrial settings to cool equipment and processes, as well as in large commercial buildings as part of air conditioning systems. As noted in the correspondence from the Health Unit, cooling towers are a known significant contributor to Legionella exposures, but the risk can be minimized by regular maintenance, cleaning, disinfection, and testing of cooling towers.

The Township of Ramara currently does not utilize cooling towers at any of the Township-owned facilities, including community centres, administrative buildings, recreation facilities, water and wastewater facilities, works yards, or fire halls.

At this time, the Township does not maintain a formal inventory of privately owned cooling towers. Staff have contacted property owners who may have cooling towers to share information provided by the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit.

Attached: Correspondence dated June 16, 2026, from the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit regarding Cooling Towers and the Risks of Legionellosis

Respectfully Submitted,

Laura Pye, General Manager of Development and Infrastructure



June 16, 2026

To the CAOs of the municipalities within the County of Simcoe, District of Muskoka and local First Nations communities:

Re: Cooling Towers and the Risks of Legionellosis

The Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU) is writing to advise you of an elevated *Legionella* risk environment in Ontario this spring. Public Health Ontario is currently monitoring two concurrent Legionella clusters in Hamilton and Toronto, representing an unusual early shift in *Legionella* season. While cases of legionellosis (a group of infections caused by *Legionella* bacteria) typically peak in July in Ontario, *Legionella* bacteria pose a year-round risk. In 2025, 75.7% of confirmed legionellosis cases required hospitalization and 7.3% resulted in a fatal outcome.

Cooling towers are a known significant contributor to *Legionella* exposures. Aerosolized *Legionella* bacteria from cooling towers can place those living and working in surrounding areas at risk. However, the risk of *Legionella* outbreaks can be minimized by regular maintenance, cleaning, disinfection, and testing of cooling towers in accordance with best practices.

In light of the current provincial situation and SMDHU's own local experience with *Legionella* outbreaks, I am requesting that the attached letter be shared with local building owners in your municipality that may use cooling towers as a cooling system. SMDHU does not have access to a comprehensive listing of such building owners. The attached letter outlines specific guidance for building owners on proactive water system management.

For additional information on [Legionellosis](#) and [cooling tower maintenance](#), please visit the SMDHU website at www.simcoemuskokahealth.org.

If you have questions regarding the above information, please do not hesitate to contact me at Lisa.Simon@smdhu.org or Matthew Ruf, Vice-President of the Environmental Health Department at Matthew.Ruf@smdhu.org.

Yours Sincerely,

ORIGINAL Signed By:

Lisa Simon, MD, MPH, CCFP, FRCPC
Medical Officer of Health and Chief Executive Officer
Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit

LS:KK:mn

Att. (1)

- Barrie:**
15 Sperling Dr.
P: 705-721-7520
F: 705-721-1495
- Barrie Clinic:**
403-80 Bradford St.
P: 705-721-7520
F: 705-721-7848
- Collingwood:**
280 Pretty River Pkwy.
P: 705-445-0804
F: 705-445-6498
- Cookstown:**
2-25 King St. South
P: 705-458-1103
F: 705-458-0105
- Gravenhurst:**
2-5 Pineridge Gate
P: 705-684-9090
F: 705-684-9887
- Huntsville:**
34 Chaffey St.
P: 705-789-8813
F: 705-789-7245
- Midland:**
A-925 Hugel Ave.
P: 705-526-9324
F: 705-526-1513
- Orillia:**
120-169 Front St. S.
P: 705-325-9585
F: 705-325-2091



June 16, 2026

To All Building Owners with Cooling Towers in Simcoe County, District of Muskoka and local First Nations Communities:

Re: Controlling Legionella in Cooling Towers

The Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU) is writing to remind building owners and cooling tower operators of the importance of proactive building water system management. Legionellosis is a group of infections that can result in mild to severe respiratory illness caused by *Legionella pneumophila* bacteria, which spread through inhalation of aerosolized water droplets. In 2025, 75.7% of confirmed legionellosis cases in Ontario required hospitalization and 7.3% resulted in a fatal outcome.

Cooling towers are a known significant contributor to *Legionella* exposures. Aerosolized bacteria from cooling towers can place those living and working in surrounding areas at risk. The risk of *Legionella* outbreaks can be substantially reduced through regular maintenance, cleaning, disinfection, and testing in accordance with established best practices.

To help reduce the risks associated with the operation of cooling towers, SMDHU strongly recommends the following:

- Maintain comprehensive water management programs by implementing control standards such as [ASHRAE Standard 188-2018 \(Risk Management for Building Water Systems\)](#) and [ASHRAE Guideline 12-2023 \(Managing the Risk of Legionellosis Associated with Building Water Systems\)](#) that include preventive maintenance, testing, monitoring, and corrective actions such as flushing, disinfection, and system adjustments when limits are exceeded.
- Consider the standard for federal buildings [Mechanical Design 15161-2013: Control of Legionella in Mechanical Systems](#) as additional guidance for water management planning.

For additional information on [Legionellosis](#) and [cooling tower maintenance](#), please visit the SMDHU website at www.simcoemuskokahealth.org.

If you have questions regarding the above information, please do not hesitate to contact the SMDHU Safe Water team at water@smdhu.org.

Thank you for your efforts to protect the health of the community.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL Signed By:

Lisa Simon, MD, MPH, CCFP, FRCPC
Medical Officer of Health and Chief Executive Officer
Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit

LS:KK:mn

<input type="checkbox"/> Barrie: 15 Sperling Dr. P: 705-721-7520 F: 705-721-1495	<input type="checkbox"/> Barrie Clinic: 403-80 Bradford St. P: 705-721-7520 F: 705-721-7848	<input type="checkbox"/> Collingwood: 280 Pretty River Pkwy. P: 705-445-0804 F: 705-445-6498	<input type="checkbox"/> Cookstown: 2-25 King St. South P: 705-458-1103 F: 705-458-0105	<input type="checkbox"/> Gravenhurst: 2-5 Pineridge Gate P: 705-684-9090 F: 705-684-9887	<input type="checkbox"/> Huntsville: 34 Chaffey St. P: 705-789-8813 F: 705-789-7245	<input type="checkbox"/> Midland: A-925 Hugel Ave. P: 705-526-9324 F: 705-526-1513	<input type="checkbox"/> Orillia: 120-169 Front St. S. P: 705-325-9585 F: 705-325-2091
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Memo

TO: Mayor and Council

**FROM: Tony Stong, General Manager, Protective & Emergency Services /
Fire Chief**

DATE: June 17, 2026

SUBJECT: Flooding Recovery Update

Purpose

The purpose of this memo is to provide Council with an update on ongoing recovery efforts in response to the 2026 spring freshet and subsequent flooding.

Background

In response to the impacts experienced by residents of Ramara from the 2026 spring flooding, the municipality has engaged the Province to consider affected properties for eligibility under the **Disaster Recovery Assistance for Ontarians (DRAO)** program.

On June 5, 2026, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) deployed a **Provincial Disaster Assessment Team (PDAT)** to the area. Municipal staff coordinated and accompanied the team to selected locations to support their assessment of impacts.

As a follow-up, the Ministry has requested a broader scope outlining all affected areas so that the Minister can make an informed decision on whether to activate the DRAO program locally.

Key Information

The Municipality will undertake an enhanced information gathering process to support the Ministry's assessment. This information will be communicated through the municipal website, social media platforms, and local media outlets.

These communications will also outline eligibility criteria and how residents can participate in the program.

Minimum eligibility requirements for potential DRAO assistance include:

- Primary residences (seasonal properties and cottages are not eligible)
- Small businesses
- Damage caused by river or creek overflow or overland flooding
- Damage to essential property components, such as furnaces, hot water tanks, and structural elements

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tony Stong', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Tony Stong
General Manager of Protective and Emergency Services / Fire Chief

Notice of Complete Application Official Plan and Zoning By-law Amendments

Take Notice that the Township of Ramara deemed the following applications to amend the Township's Official Plan (2025) and Zoning By-law 2005.85 as "Complete" applications under Sections 22 and 34 of the *Planning Act* on the June 8, 2026.

And Take Notice that the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Ramara will hold a Public Meeting regarding the application at a **future date to be determined**. The notice of which will be provided in accordance with the provisions of the *Planning Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c.P.13, as amended.

File Number:	OP-1/26 & Z-1/26	
Subject Property:	6059 Pearl Carrick Road	
Legal Description:	CON C PT LOT 9 PT LOT 10	
Owner:	Brand X Materials & Supply Inc.	
Agent:	MHBC Planning Urban Design & Landscape Architecture	
Application Type	Official Plan Amendment	Zoning By-law Amendment
Current	Greenlands	Rural (RU)
Proposed	Mineral Aggregate Extraction Area	Mineral Aggregate Extraction

Purpose and Effect:

Applications for an Official Plan Amendment and Zoning By-law Amendment have been submitted to permit the establishment of a proposed quarry operation. The proposed quarry would operate below the water table and require licencing under the *Aggregate Resources Act*. The total licenced area is approximately 43.3 hectares, with about 34.4 hectares designated for extraction activities. The operation is expected to produce up to 500,000 tonnes of aggregate annually, with truck traffic using the Concession Road B–C haul route.

The purpose of the Official Plan Amendment is to redesignate the lands on Schedule "A1" of the Township of Ramara Official Plan (2025) from "Greenlands" to "Mineral Aggregate Extraction Area." The amendment will also revise Schedule "D" – High Potential Mineral Aggregate Resource Areas to identify the lands for mineral aggregate extraction purposes.

In addition, the associated Zoning By-law Amendment proposes to rezone the lands from "Rural (RU)" to "Mineral Aggregate Extraction (MAE)" in Township of Ramara Zoning By-law No. 2005.85, as amended.

Related Applications:

There are no related applications under the Planning Act in process which apply to the property.

Information Available:

Additional Information relating to the proposed amendments is available for inspection upon request at the Municipal Office by contacting the Planning Department between 9:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., (705) 484-5374 or by email to planning@ramara.ca. To view a copy of this notice and the draft amendments, visit www.ramara.ca/planningnotices



Notification of Decision:

If you wish to be notified of Council’s decision regarding the proposed Official Plan and Zoning By-law Amendments, you must submit a written request to the Municipal Clerk using one of the methods above prior to Council rendering a decision.

Written submissions:

Any person may make a written submission either in support of, or in opposition to, the proposed Official Plan and Zoning By-law Amendments. Signed written submissions will be accepted by the Municipal Clerk prior to the meeting. **Submissions may be sent** electronically to clerks@ramara.ca, faxed to (705) 484-0441, deposited in the mail drop box at the Township Administration Office or mailed. (Address provided at the end of this notice)

Please ensure your name and address are included, as required for the public record.

Oral and written submissions – appeal:

If a person or public body would otherwise have an ability to appeal the decision of the Council of the Township or Ramara to the Ontario Land Tribunal (OLT), but the person or public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting or make written submissions to the Township of Ramara before the by-law is passed, the person or public body is not entitled to appeal the decision.

If a person or public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting, or make written submissions to the Township of Ramara before the by-law is passed, the person or public body may not be added as a party to the hearing of an appeal before the Ontario Land Tribunal (OLT) unless, in the opinion of the Tribunal, there are reasonable grounds to do so.

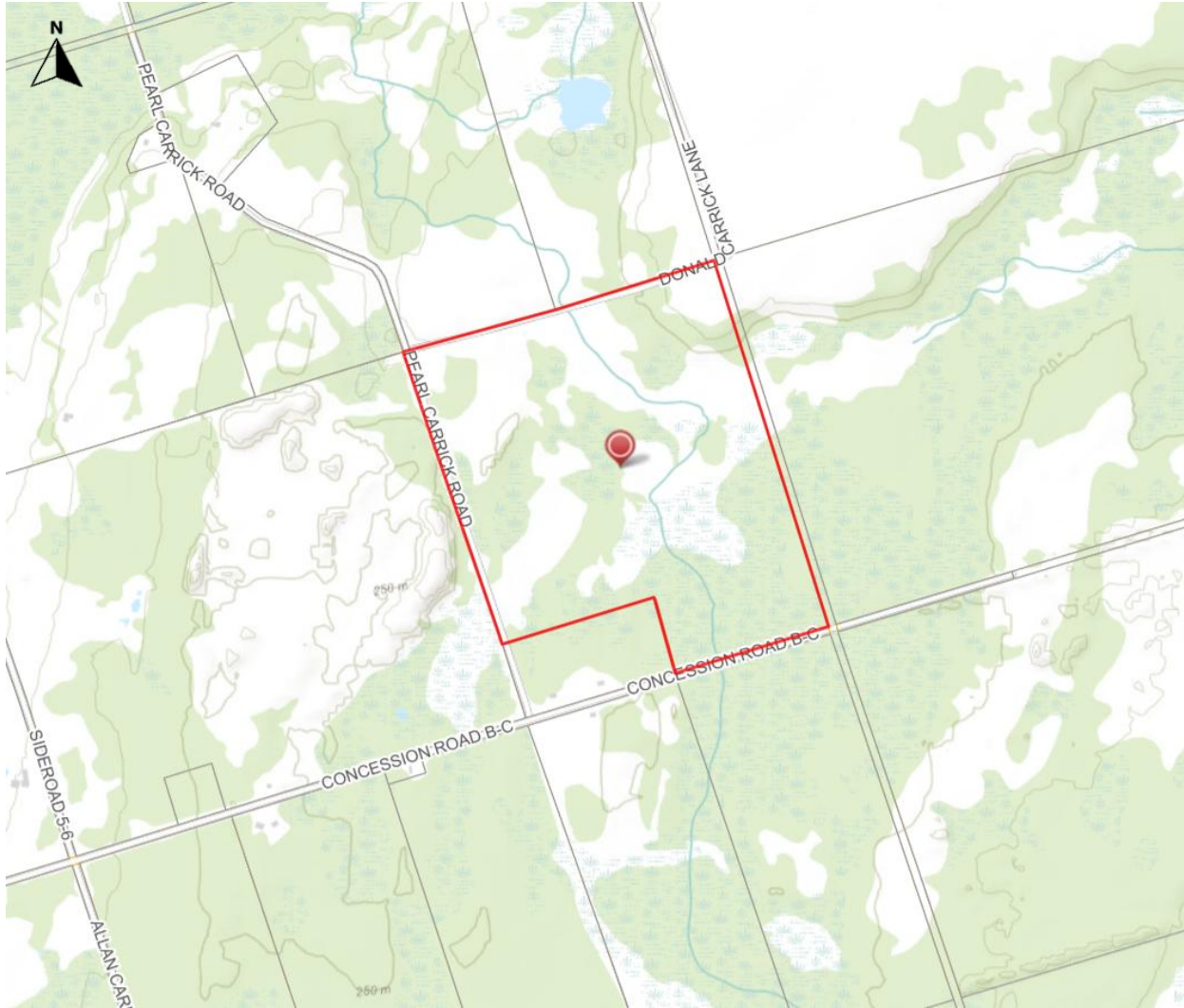
Individuals who make written submissions should be aware that their submission and any personal information in their correspondence will become part of the public record and made available to the Applicant and Council.

Dated at the Township of Ramara this 19th day of June 2026.

Clerks Department	Planning Department
P. 705-484-5374 ext. 261 E. Clerks@ramara.ca	P. 705-484-5374 ext. 251 E. Planning@ramara.ca
Township Administration Office Address: 2297 Highway 12, PO Box 130, Brechin ON, L0K 1B0	

See reverse for location map

Location Map Aerial:



OP-1/26 & Z-1/26 Notice of Complete Application



You're Invited to an Open House!

July 22, 2026 from 6 to 9 p.m.
Township Administration Building,
2297 Highway 12, Brechin

The Township of Ramara is updating its Zoning By-law, which guides how land can be used and developed in our community.

A new Zoning By-law is required to ensure it aligns with local, County, and Provincial policy, and implements the policies of the Township's new Official Plan, which was approved by the County of Simcoe on February 24, 2026.

The Township is hosting an in-person Open House to provide an opportunity to learn more about this project and gather your input.

What to Expect:

The Introductory Open House is the first engagement event and will provide an overview of the project. It will be an informal session featuring display boards with current zoning maps, current Zoning By-law and a summary of the Zoning By-law update project. Attendees will have the opportunity to speak directly with the project team, ask questions, raise concerns, and seek clarification about the Zoning By-law and the update process.

Feedback gathered during this engagement will help inform the background report for the Zoning By-law update, which will assist in shaping the first draft of the new Zoning By-law.

What if I can't attend?

If you are unable to attend the Open House, please visit the project page using the link below to learn more, view supporting documents, and review the project timeline and reports. If you would like to schedule a call or have any questions, please email ZoningUpdate@ramara.ca.

This is the first Open House and provides an introduction to the project. A second Open House will be held once the first draft of the new Zoning By-law is prepared to gather additional public input.

Please note that comments may not be responded to individually; however, all submissions will be collected and reviewed by Township staff and the Township's consultant, D.M. Wills Associates Ltd., for consideration in the final Comprehensive Zoning By-law and recommendations to Council. The content of submissions, including any personal information, will become part of the public record and may be included in Council agenda materials available to the public. **A Key Map is not provided as this update is applicable to all lands within Ramara Township.**



RAMARA PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD
Thursday, May 21, 2026 1:00 p.m., by ZOOM

Board members present: Jane Ste. Marie, Elise Bethune, Councilor Joe Gough, Heidi Stanley, Karen Whitehorn, Dayle Rochon, Colleen McKee, Adrienne Davies

Regrets: Donna Hewitt

Vision

Ramara Township Public Library enhances the quality of life in our rural township by providing public spaces, resources, and services to meet our community's changing needs.

1. Call to order: 1 p.m., Jane Ste. Marie, Chair

2. Consent agenda: none

3. Declaration of conflicts of interest: none

4. Approval of agenda:

Motion #2026-32 Moved by Dayle Rochon, seconded by Heidi Stanley that the agenda be approved as presented. Carried

5. In camera:

Motion #2026-33 Moved by Joe Gough, seconded by Colleen McKee that the meeting be taken *in camera*. Carried.

Motion #2026-34 Moved by Colleen McKee, seconded by Karen Whitehorn that the *in camera* minutes of April 26, 2026 be accepted. Carried.

Motion #2026-35 Moved by Heidi Stanley, seconded by Joe Gough that the *in camera* session be ended. Carried.

Motion #2026-36 Moved by Joe Gough, seconded by Colleen McKee that the three items be received as information. Carried.

6. Minutes of preceding meeting: April 16, 2026

Motion #2026-37 Moved by Dayle Rochon, seconded by Heidi Stanley that the minutes of March 26, 2026 are accepted. Carried.

7. Business arising from the minutes:

Strategic Plan, attached -The CEO will make a presentation to the Board and Council with media follow-up; the final structure will be presented to the public through E-blasts and messaging.

Motion #2026-38 Moved by Joe Gough, seconded by Dayle Rochon that the Board approve the public document with reporting in June and December. Carried.

Brechin location, attached – Discussion about ideals for a new location. Public input will be sought before a decision is made about location. CEO directed to work with the Township Communications Team.

Motion #2026-39 Moved by Heidi Stanley, seconded by Joe Gough that the Board approve the report as amended. Carried.

8. Correspondence: *none*

9. Chairperson's remarks: *Jane Ste. Marie*

Jane has had a few opportunities to represent the Board – namely, a cheque presentation, Chamber's AGM, and the cooking club at Brechin Legion. Elise' De-escalation Workshop was well-received.

10. Treasurer's report: *Elise Bethune for Manon Higgins/Carly Foster, attached*

Motion #2026-40 Moved by Joe Gough, seconded by Colleen McKee that the Treasurer's report be accepted. Carried.

11. CEO's report: *Elise Bethune, attached*

Full report was attached in package.

12. Council report: *Councilor Joe Gough*

Not all Councilors have entered their names in the upcoming election. Declared Violence against Women as an epidemic.

13. Committee reports: *none*

14. Advocacy reports: *Jane Ste. Marie*

Jane Ste Marie will be attending the Chamber of Commerce's AGM and the CFOA's AGM and award ceremony on the Library's behalf.

Thank-you to Board members who decorated, ordered, and delivered SMILE cookies during the recent campaign which raised over \$6,000.

15. Other business:

FN-03, Donation and Sponsorship Policy:

Motion #2026-41 Moved by Joe Gough, seconded by Colleen McKee that FN-03, Donation and Sponsorship Policy be accepted as amended. Carried.

FN-02, Procurement Policy, GO-09, Financial Control and Oversight:

Motion #2026-42 Moved by Colleen McKee, seconded by Joe Gough that FN-02, Procurement Policy, GO-09, Financial Control and Oversight be accepted as presented. Carried.

Direction to present to Council – opening a new reserve.

Motion #2026-43 Moved by Dayle Rochon, seconded by Joe Gough that Elise Bethune proceed as directed. Carried.

Board Assembly, Heidi Stanley: Heidi would like us to consider Bill 28 coming out of Alberta to do with AI and training available. Also, the workshop made her aware of emotional labour and how employers should be aware of the hidden costs to employees. Discussion about the Librarian viewing (movie).

16. Friends of the Library report: *Adrienne Davies, Heidi Stanley*

The SMILE cookie campaign, Brechin's Tim Hortons, April 27-May 3, raised \$6,321.69.

The May 30 Spring Sale (10 a.m. to 1 p.m.) – books, bags, incidentals and plants. Any books donated can be dropped off the day before.

Quilters will have raffle tickets for sale soon.

17. **Public comments:** *none*
18. **Date and location of next meeting:** Board meeting, Wednesday, June 18, 2026, 1 p.m.
via ZOOM.
19. **Adjournment:** 2:41 p.m..

Fw: Special Conference Rates for AMO Education Workshops

From Nate Harrington <NHarrington@ramara.ca>
Date Wed 2026-06-17 10:38 AM
To Nate Harrington <NHarrington@ramara.ca>

From: AMO Events <events@amo.on.ca>
Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2026 10:00 AM
To: ramara <ramara@ramara.ca>
Subject: Special Conference Rates for AMO Education Workshops



Special Conference Rates for AMO Education Workshops

Sunday, August 16 – City of Ottawa

Hi AMO Member,

As municipal leadership grows more complex, taking time to hone your skills can make all the difference

AMO's in-person education workshops offer a focused way to gain practical skills you can apply right away. This August, AMO is offering the opportunity to strengthen your approach to preventing escalated behaviours and build municipal-Indigenous relations to better your community in a smaller, more interactive setting.

You can **attend these Sunday workshops without registering for the full conference**, while taking advantage of the conference rate savings at **just \$200** per workshop. As these are delivered in person, spots are limited.

[Register Now](#)

AMO Education Workshops on Sunday at AMO 2026:

- **Preventing Escalated Behaviours: Practical Strategies for Safer Municipal Workplaces**
 - Creating environments where individuals feel safe, respected, and heard is essential to effective leadership. This educational session builds prevention-based awareness and helps de-escalate challenging behaviours in the workplace.
- **Building Better Communities Through Indigenous - Municipal Relations**
 - A collaborative, hands-on session exploring bias, governance, and reconciliation, including the TRC Calls to Action and their impact on municipalities.

These workshops are a focused, high-impact way to build your skills and connect with peers all in a single day.

If you're looking to expand your experience, you can also explore the full AMO 2026 Conference for additional learning, discussions, and networking opportunities.

More on AMO 2026

See you in Ottawa.

Remember - choose a caucus when registering.

When you register for the AMO Conference, the caucus you choose provides you access to vote for AMO Board members in that caucus, and to the Caucus lunch on Monday, August 17th.

Elected officials are asked to choose one caucus. All other delegates, including municipal staff, will be assigned to the "non-voting lunch".

The deadline to change caucus selection is July 31, 2026. Changes must be submitted in writing to events@amo.on.ca. Visit the conference page for more information on caucus selection.

Questions? Contact events@amo.on.ca.

*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.

Association of Municipalities of Ontario

To unsubscribe, please| [Opt Out](#)

155 University Ave Suite 800 | Toronto, ON M5H 3B7 CA

Fw: AMO Policy Update - AMO Calls for Bill 100 Reversal; Build Communities Strong: New Stream Launches; New IESO Process for Major Projects; and Various ERO Submissions

From Nate Harrington <NHarrington@ramara.ca>
Date Thu 2026-06-18 2:09 PM
To Nate Harrington <NHarrington@ramara.ca>

From: AMO Policy <policy@amo.on.ca>
Sent: Thursday, June 18, 2026 1:30 PM
To: ramara <ramara@ramara.ca>
Subject: AMO Policy Update - AMO Calls for Bill 100 Reversal; Build Communities Strong: New Stream Launches; New IESO Process for Major Projects; and Various ERO Submissions



**AMO Policy Update – AMO Calls for Bill 100 Reversal;
Build Communities Strong: New Stream Launches;
New IESO Process for Major Projects; and Various
ERO Submissions**

Top Insights
• AMO calls for the province to restore local voice and keep local governance accountable to the communities they serve by reversing the appointment of Regional Chairs through Bill 100, <i>Better Regional Governance Act</i>
• Federal government launches new Local Impact Stream providing up to \$1 million for community infrastructure projects
• IESO launches a new process to identify major projects and facilitate collaboration between stakeholders, including municipalities, to plan for future factual energy demand

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AMO welcomes the province’s proposed new framework for e-bike classification, which will help address public safety and municipal liability challenges
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The province has proposed changes to landfill requirements that reflect AMO advocacy calling for a balance between approvals speed and protections
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AMO has made recommendations to the province on its proposed regulatory framework for municipal consent of communal water and wastewater systems

AMO Opposes Appointment of Regional Chairs, Calls for Reversal of Bill 100

Bill 100, the *Better Regional Governance Act, 2026* was passed on May 7. AMO has sent a [letter to the province](#) opposing the government’s decision to move forward with the appointment of regional chairs, the Warden of Simcoe County, and the Chair of Muskoka District. Municipal leaders should be elected by, and accountable to local voters – not Queen’s Park. AMO calls on the province to restore the balance of local governance by reversing Bill 100 and maintaining the democratic election of heads of council.

The appointment of regional chairs with “strong chair” powers is fundamentally undemocratic. It erodes accountability to voters, undermines the ability of councils to represent the interests of their residents, move forward on local priorities, and deliver effective services. The selection of heads of council should be kept local. This is key to ensuring:

- Regional chairs have a strong, local mandate to deliver local priorities and drive growth
- Residents can hold elected officials to account and elect people who care about their priorities
- Unelected appointees cannot overturn decisions made by democratically-elected council members
- Regional chairs have a deep understanding of how municipal government works, and are able to build consensus, trust and buy-in at Council and in the community to advance shared local goals

Local Impact Stream of the Build Communities Strong Fund

The federal government has announced a new \$1 billion national Local Impact Stream allocating funding from the Build Communities Strong Fund towards community infrastructure. Municipalities can apply for up to \$1 million

to build or improve community infrastructure that is primarily for public use and/or benefit. This includes community buildings, recreation and sport facilities, parks, and cultural infrastructure.

The Local Impact Stream will be administered by Canada's regional development agencies – [FedDev](#) Ontario for Southern Ontario, and [FedNor](#) for Northern Ontario. Applications are now open for the first intake with an initial deadline of July 8 for Northern Ontario, and July 9 in Southern Ontario.

AMO is hosting a joint webinar with FedDev Ontario on June 24 explaining the eligibility criteria, funding details, and how to prepare a strong application. **Register now over [Zoom](#).**

IESO Launches new Major Project Identification Committee Process

The Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) has established a new [Major Projects Identification Committee \(MPIC\)](#) process intended to serve as an early warning system for identifying large projects that could drive significant new demand for electricity (e.g. manufacturing facilities, mines, housing developments, data centres). MPICs will not replace existing energy planning, grid connection or local development processes, but are intended to help identify major projects earlier, and facilitate planning between the IESO, municipalities, Indigenous communities, and stakeholders.

When projects are identified, municipalities will be invited to participate in a voluntary process along with relevant partners and authorities. The intent is to provide all stakeholders with a structured approach to coordinating growth and electricity demand planning. For more information about MPICs, please contact majorprojects@ieso.ca.

AMO Comments on Proposed E-Bike Framework

AMO submitted [comments](#) on the Ministry of Transportation's [proposal](#) to modernize Ontario's framework for power-assisted bicycles (e-bikes). AMO supports the province's proposed approach as a way to introduce more standardized safety and usage requirements for e-bikes across the province. AMO's submission emphasized that any new framework should preserve municipal authority to determine where different e-bike classes are permitted based on local infrastructure, transportation networks, and community safety needs.

The submission also highlighted the need for province-wide direction on enforcement roles, lithium-ion battery safety, public education, and compliance, including clear guidance for local police services, municipalities, manufacturers, retailers, and users. AMO welcomes the proposed 12-month

education and awareness period included as part of the proposed framework and looks forward to working with the province to implement a framework that balances innovation with public safety, municipal liability considerations, and local decision-making.

AMO Comments on Proposal to Streamline Landfill Requirements

AMO submitted [comments](#) to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks on the province's [proposal](#) to streamline approval requirements for changes to waste disposal site service areas and fill rates. AMO and the municipal sector are broadly supportive of the proposed changes that would reduce duplicative processes and increase site flexibility, while still ensuring that appropriate environmental controls and oversight remain in place. In the past, AMO has [advocated](#) for a balanced approach that would empower municipalities and the province to protect the environment and community well-being while taking decisive action to expand landfill capacity in Ontario. We are pleased to see the province has incorporated these recommendations into this proposal.

AMO Comments on a Regulatory Framework for Communal Water and Wastewater Systems

AMO has submitted [comments](#) to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing on its [proposal](#) to establish a regulatory framework for municipal consent of communal water and wastewater systems. To be successful, AMO advised advancing clear regulations and governance requirements that do not undermine municipal fiscal health or the integrity of Official and capital plans. AMO's recommendations included:

- Establishing clear definitions for the types of systems subject to the framework
- Maintaining a level regulatory playing field between private communal and municipally-owned systems
- Ensuring the development of communal systems is aligned with long-term settlement patterns, servicing strategies, and infrastructure capacity
- Clearly defining the roles and responsibilities of municipalities and the province in the event of system failure, and adopting a one-window model for provincial approvals and oversight

We will monitor next steps and share feedback with the province to help ensure any future regulations deliver a clear, consistent, and fiscally sustainable framework.

An online version of this Policy Update is also available on the [AMO Website](#).

*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.

Association of Municipalities of Ontario

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Board Elections, DC Program Resources, Special Conference Rates + more.

From AMO Watchfile <communicate@amo.on.ca>
Date Thu 2026-06-18 10:01 AM
To Nate Harrington <NHarrington@ramara.ca>



June 18, 2026

Last Call to submit AMO Board Election Nominations

The deadline to submit nominations to the 2026-2028 AMO Board of Directors closes next Monday, June 22 at 12:00 p.m. (ET). For nomination information, visit the AMO Elections Webpage. To submit your nomination, or ask any questions, email amoelections@amo.on.ca.

[More Info](#)

Special Conference Rates: AMO Education Workshops - Sunday, August 16

AMO is offering 2 standalone workshops in Ottawa, focused on preventing escalated behaviours and municipal-Indigenous relations. Conference registration is not required!

[Register Here](#)

Registration for AMO's Local Leadership Foundations Opening Soon

Pricing and bursary details on the new post-election education program from AMO and public sector education experts, Institute on Governance, are now posted. Registration opens soon - learn more & join the waitlist.

[Learn More](#)

Canada-Ontario Development Charge Reduction Program

On June 1, the federal and Ontario governments launched The [Canada-Ontario Development Charge Reduction Program](#). Municipalities have until June 19, 2026 to submit

projects for funding consideration.

For further guidance and FAQs, [see AMO's recent Policy Update](#).

Provincial Matters

Applications Open - 2026/27 MHS4PSP Grant Program

Applications for the Mental Health Supports for Public Safety Personnel (MHS4PSP) Grant are now open to eligible Ontario Public Safety Organizations in the EHS, fire, and police sectors. Interested applicants can [register for an info session on June 22, 2026, here](#).

July 1 Deadline for BPS Energy Reporting

Report your annual energy use and greenhouse gas emissions by July 1. This helps manage costs, identify energy-saving opportunities, and reduce emissions. [Read more here](#).

Events & Education

- **JUN 23 - Strengthening the Municipal Talent Pipeline**

Learn what draws students to municipal careers, practical ideas for creating meaningful placements that support recruitment, workforce planning, and long-term career pathways in local government. [Register here](#).

- **JUN 23 - Stronger Leaders, Stronger Communities - Session Two (Community Members)**

For community members considering running for office, this free workshop is session two in the series and will cover how to manage conflict and build relationships. [Register here](#).

- **JUN 24 - Webinar: Less Time in Spreadsheets, More Time Managing Risk**

Join AMO/LAS on June 24 at 11:00am for an exclusive session with ClearRisk focused on helping Ontario public sector risk professionals streamline risk and claims management processes. [Register Here](#).

- **JUN 25 - Stronger Leaders, Stronger Communities - Session Three (Community Members)**

For community members considering running for office, this free workshop is session two in the series and will cover how to prioritize and protect mental health and well-being. [Register here](#).

See the Full Event Calendar

LAS AMO Business Services

How to Reduce Your Operating Costs

LAS [Energy Training](#) is a proven effective way to save energy and cut your operating costs right in your own buildings. [Contact Christian](#) to schedule your custom workshop and treasure hunt.

Municipal Partners*

Last chance to nominate a project for an FCM Sustainable Communities Award

There are only a couple of weeks left to apply for FCM's Sustainable Communities Awards. The awards recognize initiatives that demonstrate environmental responsibility and excellence. Eligible projects use best practices in sustainability and can be replicated by others to help communities of all sizes tackle local priorities. [Nominations close on June 28, 2026.](#)

2026 Western Ontario Municipal Conference in Guelph

[Registration is now open](#) for the 2026 Western Ontario Municipal Conference (WOMC), taking place October 16, 2026, at the Delta Guelph Conference Centre in Guelph.

Applications Open – Hydro One Community Partnership Grant

Municipalities and municipality-endorsed charitable partners are invited to apply for Hydro One's Community Partnership Grant, supporting initiatives enhancing emergency preparedness, critical infrastructure, or community well-being. [Applications close on June 30.](#)

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

Canada-Ontario Development Charges Reduction Program

On June 1, the federal and Ontario governments launched The Canada-Ontario Development Charge Reduction Program. Municipalities have until June 19, 2026 to submit projects for funding consideration. [Read AMO's Policy Update for more information.](#)

New Code of Conduct Bill Passes,

Bill 9, the Municipal Accountability Act, passed third reading, a significant achievement for the municipal sector. Read the [AMO Policy Update](#).

June is Pride Month

Find a list of municipalities celebrating and raising flags for the month [here](#).

[Read More Past Issues](#)



AMO Contacts

[AMO Watchfile](#) Tel: 416.971.9856

[Conferences/Events](#)

[Policy and Funding Programs](#)

[LAS Local Authority Services](#)

[MEPCO Municipal Employer Pension Centre of Ontario](#)

[ONE Investment](#)

[Media Inquiries](#)

[Municipal Wire, Career/Employment and Council Resolution Distributions](#)

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Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)

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155 University Ave Suite 800 | Toronto, ON M5H 3B7 CA

This email was sent to nharrington@ramara.ca.

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Ministry of Natural Resources

Development and Hazard Policy
Branch
Policy Division
300 Water Street
Peterborough, ON K9J 3C7

Ministère des Richesses Naturelles

Direction general de l'elaboration et des
politiques sur les risqué
Division de l'elaboration des politiques
300, rue Water
Peterborough (Ontario) K9J 3C7



June 15, 2026

RE: Updates to certain operational policies under the *Aggregates Resource Act*

Greetings,

Further to a letter from the ministry dated August 8th, 2025, I am writing to inform you that a decision notice has been posted regarding the updates to certain operational policies under the *Aggregate Resources Act* (ERO # [025-0216](#)).

These policies were updated as part of the ministry's initiative to modernize operational policies that support the effective delivery of Ontario's *Aggregate Resources Act* program. The updates are intended to clarify requirements and improve program efficiency.

Policies related to the following have been updated:

- Cultural Heritage Report
- Matters to be Considered in the Issuance of a Licence
- Water Report
- Maximum Predicted Water Table Report (New Policy)

These updates better align policy guidance with the requirements of the Aggregate Resources of Ontario Standards. Details of the decision and revised policies are available through the Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO #[025-0216](#)) and will be posted soon on the aggregates policies and procedures page.

In addition, the ministry has rescinded 28 policies that were outdated or no longer needed. Rescinding these policies is expected to provide greater certainty and clarity to industry and the public about current program requirements and processes.

If you have any questions regarding these changes, please contact us by email at aggregates@ontario.ca.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Dungavell".

John Dungavell,
Director, Development and Hazard Policy Branch

June 16, 2026

SUBJECT: Information on the new Development Charge Reduction Program (FIN-06-26)

Please be advised that at its Special Council meeting held Monday, June 15, 2026, the Council of the City of Burlington approved the following resolution:

Whereas on March 30, 2026, the federal and provincial government signed the Canada-Ontario Partnership to Build agreement to support the shared goals of building more homes faster, making housing more affordable and accelerating key infrastructure projects to protect jobs and help communities grow, and the agreement included \$8.8 billion in federal and provincial funding over 10 years to support housing-enabling infrastructure investments for municipalities; and

Whereas on June 1, 2026, the Province released information on the Development Charge Reduction Program, including details on the application process, eligibility and assessment criteria and funding requirements; and

Whereas municipalities had limited opportunity to provide input on the program design prior to its release, despite the commitment of up to \$8.8 billion for housing enabling infrastructure representing a significant investment in municipal infrastructure and housing priorities; and

Whereas eligible projects must primarily enable the construction of new housing units, accelerate the delivery and implementation of shovel-ready infrastructure projects in the municipality's DC background study and capital plan, begin construction by July 31, 2030, and be complete by October 31, 2035; and

Whereas applications will also be assessed based on the percentage of committed DC rate reduction, the number of housing units projected to be built as a result of the proposed DC relief, and the municipality's financial contribution, with at least 10 per cent of eligible project costs to be funded by the municipality; and

Whereas the City supports the objectives of the Canada-Ontario Partnership to Build and recognizes the importance of senior government investment in housing-enabling infrastructure; and

Whereas the City has already taken significant Council-approved actions to reduce its DC rates, which are among the lowest in Halton Region and low compared to other GTHA municipalities, and has also used other municipal and planning tools, including the City of Burlington Housing Community Improvement Plan, to support housing supply, affordability and complete communities; and

Whereas the current DCRP design, including the requirement for an across-the-board 30 per cent to 50 per cent residential DC reduction, the minimum municipal contribution requirement, the March 30, 2026 measurement date and the absence of a mechanism to cap municipal exposure, presents significant municipal financial exposure; and

Whereas in addition to the risk that the program could result in a subsidy from City taxes, there does not appear to be consideration given to early and creative actions already enacted by municipalities to support the creation of new housing while also meeting specific housing targets and goals to deliver complete communities; and

Whereas a number of Council-approved actions have been implemented that support the creation of housing and do not impact the tax base, including:

- Staff-driven initiative to reduce the proposed DC rates to mitigate the proposed increase in the DC Background Study that has been in effect since June 2024, resulting in residential DC rates being reduced by 28 per cent and non-residential DC rates being reduced by 32 per cent;
- Development of the City's first Affordable Rental Housing Community Improvement Plan, including 10 programs in 2025;
- Amendments to the Affordable Rental Housing Community Improvement Plan in May 2026 to broaden the scope of the CIP and develop a suite of new temporary programs in the now named City of Burlington Housing Community Improvement Plan, approved in May 2026 and currently within the appeal period, including DC grant programs to incentivize purpose-built rental units and ownership units with criteria related to built form, bedroom numbers and unit size, including within midrise and tall buildings, as well as other temporary programs including a Missing Middle Municipal Fee Waiver, Tax Increment Equivalent Grants and Accessible Design Grant;
- Modernized Official Plan policies and associated Residential Zoning By-law to support the creation of new residential units;
- Completion of all Housing Accelerator Fund Action Plan items; and

Whereas in considering the DCRP, staff also note that Council recently reviewed options to support housing through development-related financial incentives, and through that work, broad DC reductions were identified as presenting financial and implementation risks, including reduced flexibility in future DC by-law updates, limitations in targeting specific housing policy objectives and pressure on tax-supported funding sources; and

Whereas Council ultimately approved amendments to the City's housing-related Community Improvement Plan as a more targeted, temporary and controlled approach to supporting housing while protecting existing taxpayers;

Therefore, be it resolved that staff submit a list of projects and apply to the Development Charge Reduction Program on the basis that, through the application, the City requests to receive credit for:

1. The significant development charge reductions for new residential units, being 28 per cent, already made and in effect; and
2. The development charge exemptions available for a broad range of housing through the amended Community Improvement Plan; and
3. The City's 10 per cent portion being eliminated or funded from non-tax-supported sources, including Housing Accelerator Fund funding and development charges;

Therefore, be it further resolved that the CAO provide an accompanying letter to the City of Burlington's application under the DCRP detailing these considerations and requesting that the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing and Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada evaluate program applications with fair consideration for previous municipal actions to reduce DCs and provide flexibility in working with municipalities to ensure successful program implementation;

Therefore, be it further resolved that a copy of this motion be shared with the Premier, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Minister of Finance, Halton Regional Council, all Ontario municipalities, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.

Sincerely,



Mike de Rond
City Clerk, Director of Legislative Services



MUNICIPALITY OF SHUNIAH

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Date: Jun 16, 2026

Resolution No.: (2480-26) 239-26

Moved By: *[Signature]*

Seconded By: *[Signature]*

THAT Council for the Municipality of Shuniah receives and supports the Parry Sound request for more rest stops and service areas along highways 11 & 17;

AND THAT Council directs the Clerk to forward a copy of this resolution to FONOM, NOMA, AMO, TBDML, local MPPs and MPs, the Premier of Ontario, the Leader of the Official Opposition (Ontario), and all Ontario municipalities.

- Carried
- Defeated
- Amended
- Deferred

Wendy Larkins
Signature

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



DISTRICT OF PARRY SOUND

56 ONTARIO STREET
PO BOX 533
BURK'S FALLS, ON
POA 1C0

(705) 382-3332

(705) 382-2954

Fax: (705) 382-2068

Email: admin@armourtownship.ca

Website: www.armourtownship.ca

Date: May 26, 2026

Motion # 2026-158

WHEREAS Highways 11 and 17 are critical transportation corridors connecting Northern Ontario communities and supporting national trade, tourism, emergency response, and economic development; and

WHEREAS Northern Ontario residents, travellers, commercial drivers, and emergency services rely on safe and accessible year-round highway infrastructure; and

WHEREAS many stretches of Highways 11 and 17 lack sufficient rest areas, washroom facilities, truck parking, warming centres, fuel access, and safe pull-off locations, particularly in remote areas of Northern Ontario; and

WHEREAS inadequate rest stop infrastructure contributes to driver fatigue, safety concerns, limited accessibility, and challenges for tourism and commercial transportation;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Township of Armour calls upon the Government of Ontario and the Government of Canada to prioritize the development of new and upgraded highway rest stops and traveller infrastructure along Highways 11 and 17 across Northern Ontario; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT such infrastructure include year-round washrooms, safe parking areas, commercial truck parking, warming shelters, electric vehicle charging stations, fuel access, tourism information, and improved emergency communication services where feasible; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Province of Ontario work collaboratively with Northern municipalities, FONOM, NOMA, Indigenous communities, and industry stakeholders to identify priority locations for investment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this resolution be circulated to FONOM, NOMA, AMO, local MPPs and MPs, the Premier of Ontario, and Ontario municipalities.

Moved by:	Blakelock, Rod	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Brandt, Jerry	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Haggart-Davis, Dorothy	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Ward, Rod	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Whitwell, Wendy	<input type="checkbox"/>

Seconded by:	Blakelock, Rod	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Brandt, Jerry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Haggart-Davis, Dorothy	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Ward, Rod	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Whitwell, Wendy	<input type="checkbox"/>

Carried / Defeated 

Declaration of Pecuniary Interest by: _____

Recorded vote requested by: _____



DISTRICT OF PARRY SOUND

56 ONTARIO STREET
PO BOX 533
BURK'S FALLS, ON
POA 1C0

(705) 382-3332

(705) 382-2954

Fax: (705) 382-2068

Email: admin@armourtownship.ca

Website: www.armourtownship.ca

Date: May 26, 2026

Recorded Vote:

Blakelock, Rod

Brandt, Jerry

Haggart-Davis, Dorothy

Ward, Rod

Whitwell, Wendy

For

Opposed


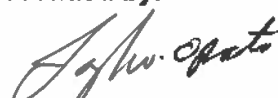


The Corporation of the Municipality of Wawa

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

RESOLUTION

Tuesday, June 16, 2026

Resolution # RC26130	Meeting Order: 4
Moved by: 	Seconded by: 

WHEREAS the Province of Ontario is considering potential changes to school board governance structures, including the possible elimination of elected school board trustees;

AND WHEREAS elected trustees play an important role in representing local communities, providing accountability, and ensuring that the unique needs and priorities of students, families, and residents are reflected in educational decision-making;

AND WHEREAS municipalities in Northern Ontario and rural regions face distinct challenges related to geography, transportation, population distribution, and access to educational services that require strong local representation within the education system;

AND WHEREAS any significant changes to school board governance should be informed by meaningful consultation with affected stakeholders, including municipalities, school boards, parents, educators, and community members across Ontario;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Municipality of Wawa supports the request of the Durham District School Board regarding school board governance and calls upon the Province of Ontario to undertake a comprehensive, province-wide consultation process prior to making any decisions regarding changes to school board governance, including the potential elimination of elected trustees;

AND FURTHER THAT the Province of Ontario ensure that any future governance model maintains strong local representation and reflects the diverse needs of communities across the province, including Northern and rural municipalities;

Page 2...



The Corporation of the Municipality of Wawa

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

RESOLUTION

AND FURTHER THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Education, the Ontario Ombudsman, the Durham District School Board, the Near North District School Board, the Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board, the Conseil scolaire public du Nord-Est de l'Ontario, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the local Member of Provincial Parliament, and all Ontario municipalities for their consideration and support.

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

Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and the general nature thereof.

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

Clerk: _____

MAYOR - MELANIE PILON	CLERK - MAURY O'NEILL

This document is available in alternate formats.

June 17, 2026

Please be advised that during the regular Council meeting of June 9, 2026 the following resolution regarding a request to the Province to extend the deadline for Notices of Intention to Designate Listed Heritage Properties was carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-268

DATE: June 9, 2026

MOVED BY: Councillor Hirsch

SECONDED BY: Councillor MacNaughton

WHEREAS amendments to the Ontario Heritage Act under the More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022 introduced timelines requiring municipalities to issue Notices of Intention to Designate for properties listed on municipal heritage registers as of December 31, 2022, originally requiring action by January 1, 2025; and

WHEREAS the Province subsequently amended the legislation through the Homeowner Protection Act, 2024 to extend the deadline to January 1, 2027 in response to concerns raised by municipalities and heritage stakeholders; and

WHEREAS municipalities require sufficient time and resources to undertake research, documentation, consultation, and evaluation to determine whether listed properties warrant designation under the Ontario Heritage Act; and

WHEREAS the removal of listed properties from municipal heritage registers if the prescribed timelines are not met may place cultural heritage resources at increased risk of demolition or irreversible alteration before municipalities have the opportunity to properly evaluate their cultural heritage value or interest; and

WHEREAS the Built & Cultural Heritage Advisory Committee and Heritage Designation Working Group are comprised of a handful of dedicated volunteers who are not able to review the current non-designated register containing over 200 properties on or before the deadline of January 1, 2027; and

WHEREAS many municipalities, including the County of Prince Edward, do not have dedicated heritage planning staff and must rely on volunteer Heritage committee members or external heritage consultants to undertake the evaluations, which can result in additional financial and administrative pressures; and

WHEREAS the Heritage Designation Working Group, heritage consultants or staff members would need to review the municipal heritage register, research the heritage value and interest of listed non-designated properties, contact owners of such properties, determine which properties should potentially be designated in accordance with the provisions of



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

Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act, and take all required steps to designate such properties; and

WHEREAS the above noted work involving over 200 listed properties in the County of Prince Edward is extremely time-consuming and cannot be completed by January 1, 2027 with the current resources available given other competing interests including reviewing and supporting new housing development proposals; and

WHEREAS municipalities across Ontario are facing significant workloads associated with evaluating listed properties; and

WHEREAS the Built & Cultural Heritage Advisory Committee, at its meeting of June 3, 2026, discussed and supported advocating to the Province of Ontario for a further extension to the current deadline;

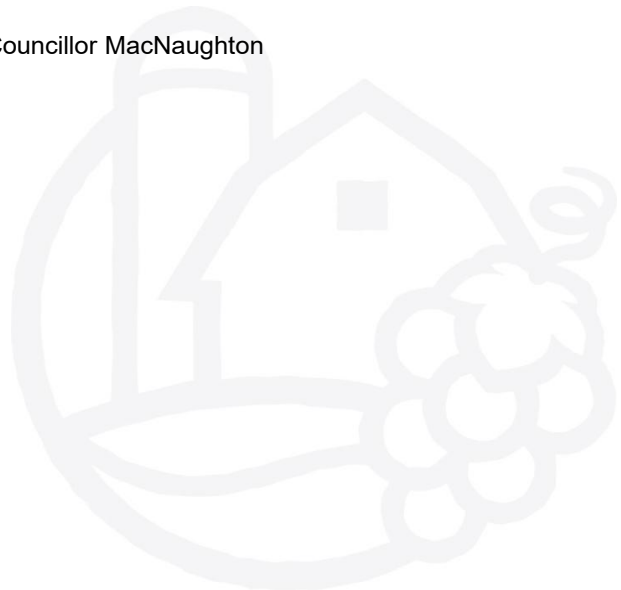
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the County of Prince Edward respectfully request that the Province of Ontario further amend the Ontario Heritage Act to extend the January 1, 2027 deadline to January 1, 2030, or another reasonable timeframe for issuing Notices of Intention to Designate for properties listed on the municipal heritage non-designated register; and

THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to the Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Bay of Quinte M.P.P. Tyler Allsopp, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, Community Heritage Ontario, and all Ontario municipalities.

Yours truly,

Catalina Blumenberg, **CLERK**

cc: Mayor Steve Ferguson, Councillor Hirsch, Councillor MacNaughton





15 June 2026

Dear Members of Council,

Last year, the Rescue Lake Simcoe Coalition released “Protect Our Plan: From Good Goals to Practical Progress”, a series of practical recommendations intended to strengthen implementation of the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan.

Since its release, the report has been formally endorsed by the Region of Durham, the City of Orillia, the Town of Georgina, the Township of Uxbridge and the Township of Essa. Together, these municipalities represent a growing coalition of communities committed to protecting Lake Simcoe while supporting sustainable growth and economic prosperity.

The report has also been formally reviewed by the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority. Following consideration by the Authority’s Board of Directors, staff found substantial alignment between “Protect Our Plan” and the Authority’s own watershed priorities. The Board subsequently endorsed a recommendation that staff continue advancing these shared priorities through ongoing workplans, advocacy and collaboration with municipal, provincial and federal partners.

At its core, “Protect Our Plan” is a call for renewed action and investment by senior levels of government. The recommendations focus on practical measures such as modernizing Ontario’s phosphorus reduction strategy, addressing road salt pollution, investing in stormwater infrastructure, supporting natural heritage restoration, strengthening watershed governance and securing long-term federal funding for Lake Simcoe.

As the current municipal term enters its final months, I wanted to respectfully invite your Council to join this growing coalition of municipalities by expressing support for the report and its recommendations. Collectively, these endorsements send a strong message to the provincial and federal governments that municipalities across the watershed support renewed action to protect Lake Simcoe and are prepared to be partners in that work.

Municipal governments play a critical role in implementing the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan through planning, infrastructure investment, stormwater management and environmental stewardship. However, many of the tools, funding programs and policy

120 Primeau Drive, Aurora, Ontario, L4G 6Z4 • rescuelakesimcoe.org @RescueLakeSimcoe
@RescueLakeSimcoeCoalition



changes needed to achieve the Plan's objectives require action from senior governments. We believe the recommendations contained in "Protect Our Plan" provide a practical roadmap for advancing those shared objectives.

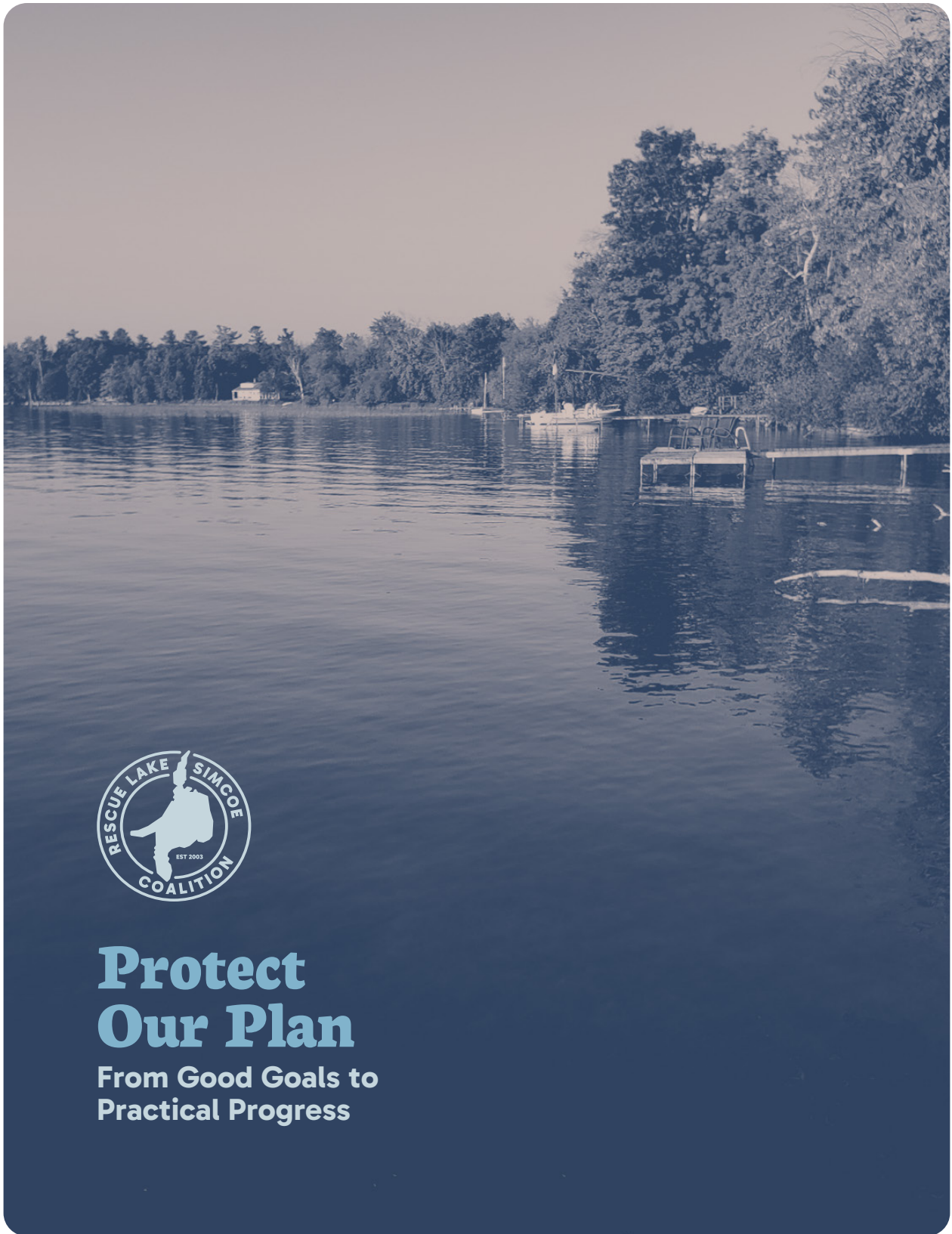
A copy of the report is enclosed for your consideration. Should Council wish to discuss the recommendations further, I would be pleased to arrange a presentation or answer any questions.

Thank you for your continued leadership and commitment to protecting Lake Simcoe and its watershed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jonathan Scott". The signature is stylized and fluid.

Jonathan Scott
Executive Director
Rescue Lake Simcoe Coalition



Protect Our Plan

From Good Goals to
Practical Progress



**Protect Our Plan:
From Good Goals to Practical Progress**

Prepared by Rescue Lake Simcoe Coalition.

Published November 2025.

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Table of Contents

Introduction	4
Executive Summary	5
Lake Simcoe Protection Plan Background	6
State of the Lake	7
Analysis of Federal, Provincial, and Municipal Policies and Programmes ..	10
Federal Government.....	11
Provincial Government.....	13
Municipal Governments.....	15
Recommendations	18
Conclusions	26
—	
Methodology	27
Indicator Assessment Summary	28
References	32
Acknowledgments	35

Introduction

Lake Simcoe is one of Ontario's most important freshwater ecosystems. It is vital to the ecological health, cultural identity and economic wellbeing of the region. Spanning more than 3,400 square kilometres, the watershed supports over half a million residents, dozens of communities and a diversity of natural systems, from coldwater fish habitat to wetlands and woodlands. With hundreds of working farms, including The Holland Marsh specialty crop area, and significant economic activity from tourism—including swimming, boating, fishing, ice fishing, snowmobiling, hiking and summer cottages—the health of the Lake is intrinsically linked to the economic success of the region.

Since 2009, the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan (LSPP) has provided a science-based framework to protect and restore the watershed. It sets out ambitious goals: to reduce phosphorus pollution to 44 tonnes per year, protect 40% high-quality natural cover from forests and wetlands, restore dissolved oxygen for fish habitat and embed watershed science into land-use planning. These goals remain sound—but they are increasingly at risk.

From 2009 to 2015, the LSPP was supported by robust federal and provincial investment, coordinated governance and a strong mandate for local implementation. In recent years, however, this foundation has eroded. Federal funding declined sharply after 2015 with the expiration of the Lake Simcoe Clean-Up Fund. At the same time, provincial legislation has weakened key protections, and the phosphorus reduction strategy has not been updated in over a decade, even as pollution levels remain well above target.

In the face of these challenges, municipalities and the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority (LSRCA) have stepped up. From capital investments like the Phosphorus Reduction Facility to green infrastructure pilots, stormwater retrofits and data partnerships, local leadership has been strong, yet fragmented. Without clear performance tracking, sustained senior government funding and modernized governance, these efforts risk becoming isolated wins in a fragmented system. Local efforts are commendable, but the lake requires an integrated, watershed-wide plan and renewed federal and provincial engagement.

Executive Summary

Sixteen years after the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan (LSPP) was launched, the watershed remains under significant ecological stress. This report reviews the Plan's implementation, current scientific conditions and policy trends across federal, provincial and municipal levels.

The costs of inaction are mounting. Declining water quality drives higher municipal expenses for stormwater systems, with significant deferred maintenance for stormwater ponds and linear drainage assets requiring funding, alongside road maintenance. We are also seeing an increase in public-health advisories related to beach closures, while lost fisheries and recreational opportunities mean forgone revenue for local communities.

Yet progress is possible. The LSRCA and the larger shoreline municipalities, in particular, have pioneered effective local projects, from the Phosphorus Reduction Facility to stormwater retrofits, low-impact development techniques and wetland restoration. These successes now need coordination and scaling up.

This report outlines thirteen recommendations to restore policy momentum.

The message is clear: we must protect the plan that protects the lake with strong policy, smart investment, and tangible incentives that reward conservation and good governance.

Lake Simcoe Protection Plan Background

Enabled by the *Lake Simcoe Protection Act*, 2008, the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan is Ontario's most comprehensive watershed-based strategy. It was created to address declining water quality, rising phosphorus pollution, habitat loss and the impacts of growing urban development.

The core goals of the plan are to:



Reduce phosphorus pollution to 44 tonnes per year
(from ~78 tonnes per year pre-2009)



Reduce pathogen loading to eliminate beach closures



Maintain dissolved oxygen at ≥ 7 mg/L to support coldwater fish habitat



Achieve a minimum 40% high-quality natural cover across the watershed



Improve stormwater management and wastewater performance



Support subwatershed monitoring, scientific research and intergovernmental coordination

Implementation partners include:

Ontario 

Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)

Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF)



Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority (LSRCA)

20

Municipalities and First Nations



Environmental non-profits, agricultural and development sectors, and the public.

State of the Lake

Sixteen years after the launch of the LSPP, the watershed remains under significant ecological pressure. Key scientific indicators highlight some areas of progress and several areas of continuing decline.

Phosphorus Pollution

Annual phosphorus loads remain at ~70–110 tonnes—double the Plan’s 44-tonne target. While sewage-treatment plant upgrades have increased the efficacy of treatment plants, growth has meant these system improvements have merely held the line on phosphorus loading. The proposed Phosphorus Reduction Facility in Bradford is expected to remove 2–10% of phosphorus pollution, but more reductions across stormwater and septic systems are needed.

Fish Health

Cisco populations fluctuate, burbot are improving, but lake trout and whitefish continue to struggle with natural reproduction. Stocking sustains these species, while warm-water fish such as perch and bass remain generally healthy and resilient. However, invasive species and climate-driven changes continue to pose increasing threats to the lake’s native fish community.

Dissolved Oxygen

Dissolved oxygen levels in the lake’s coldwater zone, critical for lake trout and whitefish survival, remain volatile. Monitoring from 2019–23 shows concentrations ranging from 4.0 to 6.9 mg/L, which is better than the 1990s but still often below the 7 mg/L target.

High-Quality Natural Cover

In 2009, forests and wetlands comprised approximately 35% of the watershed’s land-area, and about 61% of the land was subject to some form of provincial protection. The LSPP includes a goal often expressed as striving for 40% “high-quality natural cover”. Ongoing fragmentation and land-use change are diminishing the watershed’s capacity to filter nutrients, provide flood-water storage, and maintain shade and habitat for temperature-sensitive species. Strengthening protection and restoration of well-connected natural areas remains fundamental to meeting the broader outcomes of the Plan.

Chloride (Road Salt)

Concentrations rose from ~40 mg/L in 2010 to ~61 mg/L in 2024, with tributary spikes up to >26,000 mg/L in urban areas—far above aquatic health thresholds. Lake Simcoe is on a trajectory to reach the federal chronic Chloride level of 120mg/L by 2058. No provincial chloride reduction targets or strategies exist. Elevated road-salt use has also increased sodium levels in some municipal drinking-water sources, posing public-health concerns for residents on sodium-restricted diets and adding costs to local water treatment.

Impervious Cover

Urbanization continues to reshape the watershed. Impervious surfaces have increased from roughly 3% in 2003 to about 5% today. Given the rapid pace of growth, the increase being relatively low reflects the benefits of densification. According to the LSRCA, subwatersheds such as East Holland River (13%), Lovers Creek (14%) and Hewitt’s Creek (8%) remain below the critical 25–30% threshold where stream health typically declines sharply, but ongoing growth is pushing them closer. Once those thresholds are crossed, water-quality decline becomes difficult to reverse.

Harmful Algal Blooms (Cyanobacteria)

Blue-green algae blooms have appeared the last two summers, driven by warm temperatures, calm water and nutrient enrichment. Several water quality advisories in 2023 and 2024 closed beaches for weeks, affecting recreation and local tourism. These blooms can produce toxins harmful to people, pets and wildlife. While variability remains high, the trend is worsening, underscoring the need to reduce nutrient loading and manage climate-related drivers.

Invasive Species

Quagga mussels have overtaken zebra mussels; round goby are widespread; starry stonewort is entrenched, though it has gone through “boom and bust” cycles; and in 2024, water soldier was confirmed near Keswick and Innisfil as a significant emerging threat, especially to Cook’s Bay. These invasions alter food webs and complicate recovery.

Climate Change

Warming temperatures, earlier stratification and more intense rainfall events are exacerbating phosphorus release, lowering deep-water oxygen and favouring invasive species.

STATE OF THE LAKE

Overall Assessment

Scientific monitoring shows a mixed picture for Lake Simcoe. Phosphorus concentrations have slightly declined or held flat, albeit well above the 44-tonne target, and deep-water oxygen levels have improved, indicating some success in nutrient management. Forest and wetland cover have remained broadly stable, though still below targets for ecosystem resilience. At the same time, chloride levels continue to rise, climate pressures are intensifying and impervious surface area is increasing, even as “per capita” imperviousness declines through more compact development.

Overall, these trends show that **while localized improvements have occurred, many key indicators are static or worsening**. The goals of the LSPP remain sound, but progress has stalled. Without renewed coordination, stable funding and science-based regulation, the lake risks drifting further from recovery.

Methodology and detailed data tables supporting this section are provided in the Appendices.



Analysis of Federal, Provincial and Municipal Policies and Programmes

Federal Government

Strategic projects, but a retreat from sustained funding

From 2015–2025, the federal government invested \$24.7 million in twenty projects across ten municipalities under the Clean Water and Wastewater Fund (CWWF) and the Canada Community-Building Fund (CCBF). These projects largely targeted upgrades to stormwater and wastewater systems. Most notably, \$16 million was delivered toward the Lake Simcoe Phosphorus Reduction Facility in Bradford—a long-delayed project expected to remove 2-12 tonnes of phosphorus annually from the Holland Marsh basin before it reaches the lake.

However, this period also marks a significant decline in federal funding compared to the 2008-2015 Lake Simcoe Clean-Up Fund (LSCUF), which delivered \$59.9 million across more than 200 projects, averaging \$8.5 million per

year. The post-2015 era has seen fewer projects and, simply put, less funding reduces the ability to achieve the Plan's goals. The recently released 2026 Federal Budget did not fulfill prior promises to restore funding to at least \$40 million, although rumoured cuts also did not occur.

While the federal government deserves credit for funding its share of the Phosphorus Reduction Facility, sustained and transparent investments are urgently needed, particularly to support smaller municipalities, subwatershed data reporting, stormwater retrofits, wastewater upgrades and other capital improvements.

Comparing Federal Investment Eras

	2008-2015 (LSCUF)	2015-2025 (Post-LSCUF)
Federal Investment	\$59.9M	\$24.7M + \$4.1M
Delivery Model	Dedicated fund	General infrastructure funds
Projects Funded	~200	~30
Project Types	Community, retrofits, outreach, research	Capital-heavy
Major Achievements	2-4 tonnes/year phosphorus reduction	Projected 2-10 tonnes/year from one facility
Monitoring/Reporting	Locally reported	Harder to trace
Alignment with LSPP	Strong	More ad hoc

Key Takeaway

While 2015–2025 includes funding for the single largest phosphorus project to date, the LSCUF era offered more diverse, locally grounded and performance-linked funding. Ensuring a dedicated Lake Simcoe federal funding program through the Freshwater Action Fund

would restore momentum. Despite recent investments, annual phosphorus loads remain ~88 tonnes—unchanged from pre-2010 levels—underscoring the need for sustained and diversified federal programming beyond single capital projects.

Provincial Government

Important investments, but regulatory weakening and strategic drift

Ontario is the steward of the LSPP. In 2022, the province committed \$24 million to the Phosphorus Reduction Facility, its largest single capital investment for Lake

Simcoe water quality to date. Since 2018, an additional \$13 million has supported scientific research, runoff tracking, chloride studies and urban restoration.

Recent provincial initiatives include:

- \$3 million to fund filtration of wash water from agriculture;
- \$165,250 to the Holland Marsh Growers Association for phosphorus-smart fertilizer practices;
- \$63,599 for phosphorus monitoring in drainage canals;
- \$115,000 to Toronto Metropolitan University to study chloride discharge from stormwater ponds;
- \$69,114 for chemical contaminant tracking in lake and tributary sediments; and
- Preservation of the North Gwillimbury Forest from development as a future conservation area.

Despite this funding, regulatory and implementation weaknesses have emerged:

- The Phosphorus Reduction Strategy, 2010 has not been revised despite phosphorus pollution remaining well above target.
- Advisory bodies like the Lake Simcoe Coordinating Committee and Science Committee appear inactive or under-resourced, seemingly without scientific leadership.
- Conservation Authorities' planning roles were curtailed by Bill 23, reducing oversight of development impacts. The recent proposal to dramatically consolidate Conservation Authorities also potentially risks reducing focus on the Lake Simcoe watershed should the LSRCA be subsumed into a mega-regional conservation authority that includes all of the conservation regions in Lake Huron and Lake Superior up to Thunder Bay.
- Reporting from the MECP has become less transparent, although LSRCA reporting has increased.

Wetland and forest protections, once embedded in provincial policy, have been rolled back, leaving thousands of hectares of natural cover vulnerable. Other changes by the province to environmental protections have caused further risks to our natural heritage. These natural features are critical to filtering runoff and achieving the LSPP's 40% high-quality natural cover goal.

Chloride levels in the Lake itself have risen from ~40 mg/L in 2010 to 61 mg/L in 2024, with several tributaries exceeding the LSRCA's 50 mg/L threshold for aquatic health. Yet, the province has not set reduction targets, leaving a major gap in the LSPP framework.

Key Takeaway

Ontario's capital investments will play a vital role in Lake Simcoe's restoration, but long-term success will depend on rebuilding governance capacity, re-establishing science-based

regulatory oversight, and improving data transparency and public reporting to align implementation with the LSPP objectives.

Municipal Governments

*Leading on implementation,
but needing partners*

All municipalities in the Lake Simcoe watershed—shoreline and inland alike—play vital roles in implementation of the LSPP. Municipalities manage most of the infrastructure and land-use decisions affecting water quality. Collectively, they also contribute roughly \$9.5 million annually to the LSRCA’s operating levy, oversee billions in infrastructure assets and invest heavily in stormwater, wastewater and green-infrastructure improvements.

While shoreline municipalities tend to manage the largest water-facing assets, inland communities are making important progress integrating low-impact development, stormwater retrofits and natural-cover restoration into their growth plans. Aurora’s leading work on low-impact development standards and Newmarket’s green infrastructure retrofits show how inland municipalities

are helping reduce nutrient and salt loading before water reaches the lake.

Inland and headwater municipalities—including New Tecumseth, Oro-Medonte, Ramara, Brock and others—contribute through stormwater retrofits, agricultural best-management practices and source-water protection planning. Many partner with LSRCA through cost-share programmes that support rural stewardship, urban stormwater retrofits and habitat restoration.

Sustaining and scaling these municipal efforts—both shoreline and inland—will require stable provincial and federal support, modernized policy tools and consistent watershed-wide reporting to demonstrate collective progress toward the LSPP’s goals.

Recent Municipal Investments

The following examples highlight major recent shoreline-area investments that demonstrate the scale and innovation needed for full delivery of the Plan.

Bradford West Gwillimbury

- Phosphorus Reduction Facility: Coordinating multi-government funding and engineering oversight for the \$40-million plant near the Holland Marsh basin, capable of removing up to 10% of the phosphorus reduction target per annum;
- LittaTrap Pilot: Capturing debris, sediment and microplastics from stormwater grates before entering the Holland River;
- Snow Storage and Filtration Facility: \$2.9M site filtering pollutant-laden meltwater;
- Vegetated Buffer Strip Pilot: Intercepting phosphorus runoff in agricultural drainage areas; and
- Ducks Unlimited Partnership: Supporting 434-acre Holland River Wetland Restoration.

Barrie

- \$261M upgrade to its Water Pollution Control Centre, with \$125 M+ awarded to Maple-Bird JV for advanced treatment works—including new aeration, membrane bioreactor systems and solids handling—to meet phosphorus limits and renew capacity as the project expands treatment volume while maintaining some of the most stringent effluent standards in Canada, demonstrating how growth can be accommodated without increasing nutrient loads to the lake;
- Ongoing retrofits to stormwater outfalls and water quality monitoring programmes; and
- Stable water/wastewater rate structures funding long-term capital planning.

Innisfil

- Planning a \$290M wastewater treatment plant upgrade, with phosphorus offsets required for new development, allowing growth within existing environmental obligations by improving performance, not relaxing standards;
- Releasing Master Servicing Plans and annual sewage system performance reports; and
- Launching stormwater restoration projects with LSRCA partnership.

Recent Municipal Investments (cont'd)

Georgina

- Phosphorus reduction through stormwater management: Award-winning catch basin filter pilot, integration of Low Impact Development features in road and parking lot retrofits, and rehabilitation of aging stormwater systems.
- Shoreline stabilization projects: Using geotechnical and green-infrastructure solutions to prevent erosion and reduce phosphorus loading.
- Salt mitigation: Implementing an enhanced Salt Management Plan that includes rock-salt alternatives, electronic spreader controllers, and other best practices.
- Invasive species management: Removing phragmites from stormwater infrastructure, ponds and tributaries, and conducting aquatic weed collection.
- Climate Action Plan: Council-approved plan identifying Lake Simcoe's health as a top environmental and climate-risk priority.

Key Takeaway

These local interventions are vital. Together, municipalities have demonstrated that even under tight constraints, local leadership can advance watershed priorities.

Continued progress, however, depends on sustained provincial and federal investment, science-informed frameworks and public access to data.



Recommendations: From Promises to Performance

To transition from fragmented programmes to meaningful implementation of the LSPP, all levels of government must **move from symbolic commitments to systemic action.**

Accordingly, we recommend the following thirteen actions →

1.

Anchor Lake Simcoe Within the Federal Freshwater Action Plan

Blue-green algae blooms have appeared the last two summers, driven by warm temperatures, calm water and nutrient enrichment. Several water quality advisories in 2023 and 2024 closed beaches for weeks, affecting recreation and local tourism. These blooms can produce toxins harmful to people, pets and wildlife. While variability remains high, the trend is worsening, underscoring the need to reduce nutrient loading and manage climate-related drivers.

2.

Modernize and Enforce the Provincial Phosphorus-Reduction Strategy

Update the 2011 Phosphorus Reduction Strategy with subwatershed-specific targets, timelines and public dashboards. Integrate low-impact development (LID), stormwater retrofits, natural-cover restoration and agricultural buffer strips as phosphorus-control measures. Mandate phosphorus-reduction reporting for all provincially funded infrastructure projects. Provide stable funding for septic inspections and upgrades, and require large developments to demonstrate net phosphorus neutrality. Public engagement is essential. Expanding homeowner and cottager awareness—through incentives and education on native planting, erosion control and reduced-use practices—would strengthen phosphorus reduction and improve water quality.

3.

Tackle Road-Salt Pollution Through Liability Reform, Regulation and Enforcement

Adopt a limited-liability framework for certified salt contractors, coupled with mandatory training, enforceable application limits and annual reporting. Develop a single set of provincially endorsed Best Management Practices for snow and ice management to curb over-application of salt while maintaining public safety. Establish and fund an expert stakeholder advisory committee to guide the province and municipalities on implementing salt-use standards, monitoring chloride levels, and protecting freshwater ecosystems and drinking-water sources. Addressing chloride pollution is now as urgent as phosphorus control; chloride levels continue to rise across the watershed, threatening aquatic life, infrastructure and drinking water. At the same time, a limited-liability reform will allow small businesses to reduce their costs by using an adequate amount of salt.

4.

Invest in Stormwater Management and Asset Maintenance

Increase provincial and federal funding for municipal stormwater infrastructure renewal and maintenance—not only new construction. Aging systems contribute to phosphorus and chloride loading, urban flooding and erosion hazards. Recognize stormwater ponds, conveyances and green-infrastructure systems as core municipal assets under Ontario’s Asset-Management Planning Regulation, and create a dedicated maintenance and inspection funding stream. Improved maintenance also supports flood-plain hazard reduction, protecting existing communities and enabling more compact housing within serviced areas.

5.

Restore and Expand High-Quality Natural Cover

Establish enforceable watershed-wide natural-heritage targets with subwatershed allocations and timelines. Fund land securement, riparian buffers and wetland restoration through joint federal–provincial programmes. As an example, work with adjacent private landowners near the Black River, Maskinonge River and Lake Simcoe shoreline, and/or to expand the Scanlon Creek Conservation Area. Require net-gain natural cover in major developments and integrate targets with the LSRCA’s Natural Heritage System and Restoration Strategy.

6.

Cut Property Taxes to Clean the Lake

Expand Ontario's Conservation Land Tax Incentive Program (CLTIP) and create a Lake Simcoe Riparian Tax Exemption to exempt naturalized areas within thirty metres of streams and rivers from municipal taxation. This incentive would reward landowners who maintain or restore vegetated buffers that reduce runoff, mitigate flooding and enhance habitat. Municipal revenues could be backfilled through a modest provincial transfer and/or the Freshwater Action Plan.

7.

Scale and Export Municipal Best Practices

Create a trilateral Lake Simcoe Best Practices Fund to replicate and scale-up successful municipal pilots—such as Bradford's snow-filtration site, Aurora's LID retrofits and Georgina's stormwater filter and salt-management programmes—across the watershed. Funded municipalities would submit phosphorus and chloride reduction projections, share technical designs and contribute performance data to a public dashboard.

8.

Build a Public Lake Simcoe Dashboard

Develop a map-based, public-facing platform showing timely water-quality data, septic-inspection results, sewage-treatment performance and beach conditions. Host jointly through MECP and the LSRCA, with federal funding support, ensuring open data, transparency and accountability.

9.

Enable Compact, Climate-Ready Housing in Serviced Areas

Integrate flood-plain hazard mitigation, culvert upgrades and stormwater retrofits into municipal growth strategies to unlock housing within existing settlement boundaries—allowing communities to grow up, not out. Provincial and federal infrastructure programmes should prioritize densification projects that reduce runoff, protect natural cover and make more efficient use of existing services, helping deliver affordable, transit-oriented housing compatible with the LSPP.

10.

Ensure MZOs and Special Economic Zones Uphold the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan

Require that any Minister's Zoning Order (MZO), provincial land-use order or Special Economic Zone designation within the watershed conform to the LSPP and its objectives. Create a public disclosure and review process for proposed MZOs in the watershed, including environmental impact statements and LSRCA consultation, to maintain transparency and uphold watershed integrity.

11.

Establish an Annual Lake Simcoe Science and Policy Forum

Bring back a public science forum—co-chaired by the Science and Coordinating Committees—as an annual, day-long conference to share research findings, policy updates and municipal progress. This forum would strengthen knowledge translation, data coordination and accountability, ensuring decisions remain grounded in the best available science and engaging citizens and partners in adaptive management.

12.

Deliver All-Day, Two-Way Regional Express Rail (RER) on the Barrie GO Line and Strengthen Regional Connectivity

Prioritize fifteen-minute, all-day, two-way service on the Barrie GO Line—serving Barrie, Innisfil, Bradford, East Gwillimbury, Newmarket and Aurora—and study a Bloomington-to-Keswick extension. Include a Pefferlaw stop on the Ontario Northlander to connect eastern Lake Simcoe communities. Upgrading rail corridors would also replace undersized culverts, thereby reducing flood risk, restoring hydrologic connectivity and enabling higher-density housing within existing settlement boundaries near transit stations.

13.

Protect and Strengthen Conservation Authority Governance

Amend legislation to restore the LSRCA's planning and review powers over development applications, ensuring consistency with watershed standards and the LSPP. Ensure any consolidation of Ontario's conservation authorities into larger regional bodies does not dilute local scientific focus or shift resources away from Lake Simcoe's needs. Reinvest in the LSRCA's scientific, policy and monitoring capacity so it can continue leading integrated watershed management.



Conclusion: Time to Restore the Spirit—and the Tools—of the Plan

The Lake Simcoe Protection Plan remains Ontario's strongest watershed-based environmental strategy.

It is not broken, but it is under pressure. Its success depends not only on clear goals but on full commitment from governments, municipalities, conservation authorities and the public. Isolated capital investments alone are no substitute for a sustained strategy.

This past decade has shown what can work: snow filtration, phosphorus reduction, buffer strips, green infrastructure and stormwater retrofits. The Phosphorus Reduction Facility is a good project, and every effort must be made to bring it online quickly as it is long overdue.

But local efforts are not enough. Without alignment and sustained investment from provincial and federal governments, these

innovations will remain scattered and insufficient.

Protecting Lake Simcoe requires transparent governance, modernized scientific oversight and coordinated funding. We must restore the plan to the strength, clarity and shared purpose it had in 2009.

With political will and intergovernmental cooperation, Lake Simcoe can once again become a provincial and national success story in watershed recovery.

Let us protect the plan that protects the lake.

APPENDIX

Methodology

This assessment draws upon federal and provincial reports, legislation, academic literature and local monitoring data to compare two periods of implementation: 2008–2013, representing the early benchmark years following adoption of the LSPP, and 2020–2025, reflecting current trends under recent policy changes.

Indicators were assessed using a “Better / Same / Worse” framework to summarize direction of change, supported by quantitative data wherever available. Qualitative policy shifts were considered where measurable data was unavailable. Limitations include data gaps caused by cancelled programmes, lagging ecological indicators such as fish recruitment, and incomplete public reporting at the subwatershed level.

APPENDIX

Indicator Assessment Summary

Indicator	2008-2013	2020-2025	Trend
Wetland protection	Strong buffers, LSRCA oversight	Buffers reduced, LSRCA role curtailed	⬇️ Worse
Forest cover protection	40% HQNC target, NHS mapping required	NHS mapping revoked, no binding targets	⬇️ Worse
Phosphorus load	Effluent upgrades, still >80 t/yr	~88 t/yr, above 44 t/yr target	⬇️ Worse
Dissolved oxygen	Improved vs 1990s, still <7 mg/L	4.0–6.9 mg/L, variable	⬆️ Slight Improvement
Fish health	Cisco & burbot improving	Trout/whitefish declining	⚖️ Mixed
Chloride (road salt)	Rising, spikes >6,000 mg/L	Avg. ~61 mg/L, peaks >26,000 mg/L	⬇️ Worse
Impervious cover	Watershed 3.4→4.3%	Watershed ~5%	⬇️ Worse ⁽¹⁾
Invasive species	Zebra mussels dominant, goby emerging	Quagga/stonewort/water soldier present	⬇️ Worse
Capital investment	\$59.9M Clean-Up Fund, 200+ projects	One \$40M facility, ad hoc funding	⚖️ Same
Natural cover (forests, wetlands, meadows)	40% target set but actual sat at 28-34%	28–34%	⚖️ Same
Harmful algal blooms (cyanobacteria)	Sporadic advisories	Recurring advisories 2023–24	⬇️ Worse
Chloride / Sodium	~40 mg/L Cl	~61 mg/L Cl + rising sodium in DW sources	⬇️ Worse

1. While overall impervious surface area in the Lake Simcoe watershed has increased with population growth, the rate of increase has been slower than population growth itself. On a per-capita basis, imperviousness is actually declining, reflecting the success of municipal intensification policies and compact development in limiting sprawl. This demonstrates that growth management and urban intensification can reduce the per-person impact on water quality and quantity, even as total land coverage rises.

A. Wetland protection

Time Period	Policy/Action	Observed Impact
2008-2013	100 m buffers; LSRCA oversight intact	Strong, consistent protection
202-2025	Bill 23 reduced buffers to 30 m; complexes delisted	Legislative change has created a risk of fragmentation

B. Forest cover

Time Period	Policy/Action	Observed Impact
2008-2013	40% HQNC target; NHS mapping required	~34–35% forest cover
202-2025	NHS mapping revoked; no binding woodland target	Fragmentation, discretionary only, slight increase from 33% to 34% per LSRCA

C. Phosphorus loads

Time Period	Policy/Action	Observed Impact
2008-2013	LSCUF \$59.9M, 200+ projects	Sewage effluent improved; > 80 t/yr
202-2025	Major facility funded	~88 t/yr; facility expected 2–10 t/yr reduction

D. Dissolved oxygen

Time Period	Observed vs Target (7 mg/L)
2008-2013	Improved vs 1980s, but <7 mg/L
202-2025	4.0–6.9 mg/L; highly variable

E. Fish health

Species	2008-2013	2020-2025	Trend
Lake trout	Minimal wild reproduction	Still reliant on stocking	⬇️ Worse
Whitefish	Weak recruitment	Declining further	⬇️ Worse
Cisco	Strong cohorts (2004/08/12)	Recruitment variable	➡️ Same
Burbot	Increasing CPUE	Continued increase	⬆️ Better
Brook trout	Declining in tributaries	Stable	➡️ Same

F. Chloride (road salt)

Period	Avg. Lake Conc.	Tributary Spikes	Trend
2000s	~36–40 mg/L	>6,000 mg/L	⬇️ Worse
2020-2025	~61 mg/L (2024)	>26,000 mg/L in Newmarket, 2025)	⬇️ Worse

G. Impervious Cover

Area	2008-2013	2020-2025	Trend
Watershed average	3.4% → 4.3%	~5%	⬇️ Worse ⁽¹⁾

1. With population growth, the 'per capita' rate of worsening has slowed

H. Invasive Species

Species	2008-2013	2020-2025	Trend
Round goby	Rapid spread	Widespread, dominant	⬇️ Worse
Zebra mussel	Dominant benthos	Declined, replaced by quagga	⬆️ Better
Quagga mussel	Low abundance	Now dominant	⬇️ Worse
Starry stonewort	Spread after 2009	Still widespread albeit declining in a 'boom to bust' cycle	⊖ Mixed
Water soldier	Absent	Confirmed 2024	⬇️ Worse

I. Major Capital Investments

Project	Cost	Impact	Trend
Federal Clean-Up Fund (2007–17)	\$59.9M	200+ projects; 2–4 t/yr reduction	⬆️ Better
Phosphorus Reduction Facility	\$40M	Expected 2–10 t/yr reduction	⬆️ Better
Barrie WWTF upgrade	\$261M	Major nutrient removal gains	⬆️ Better
Innisfil WWTP expansion	\$290M	Growth offset, phosphorus neutral	⊖ Same
Pond retrofit backlog	\$117M	Potential 7 t/yr reduction (unfunded)	⬇️ Worse

APPENDIX

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APPENDIX

Acknowledgements

This report was authored by Jonathan Scott, Executive Director of the Rescue Lake Simcoe Coalition, with initial research and project contributions from past-Executive Director Claire Malcolmson. Research was led by intern Meetkumar Patel, with thanks to the Canada Summer Jobs program. Additional support came from staff members Janis Macaskill and Jessica Merriman, and consultant Darrell Dean.

We are grateful for the guidance and oversight of the Rescue Lake Simcoe Coalition Board of Directors, including:

- Jennie Ucar, Chair
- Susan Sheard, Secretary
- Michael Duffy
- MJ Hanley
- Gail White.

Thank you to Jack Gibbons of Lake Simcoe Watch for his suggestions.

We also want to thank Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority staff — including Rob Baldwin, Trish Barnett, Don Goodyear, Bill Thompson and David Lebecke — for their thoughtful and helpful review of this document.

June 16, 2026

Right Honourable Mark Carney
Prime Minister of Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A6

VIA EMAIL: mark.carney@parl.gc.ca

Dear Sir:

Re: Resolution Supporting Canada North Vehicles Initiative

Please be advised that the Town of New Tecumseth Council passed the following resolution at their meeting of June 15, 2026:

The automotive sector is a foundational industry in the Town of New Tecumseth and Simcoe County, with over 40 years of investment and employment supported by major manufacturers, including Honda Canada Manufacturing.

The Canadian automotive industry is facing increasing pressures due to evolving global trade dynamics, tariffs, and market uncertainty, creating a need for greater economic resilience and diversification.

Canada's auto sector remains highly concentrated within North American export markets, increasing vulnerability to external trade pressures.

Canadian-built vehicles are recognized for their durability in extreme climates, high safety and quality standards, resilience to corrosive conditions, and strong environmental and technological performance.

There is currently no unified national identity or branding that distinguishes Canadian-built vehicles in domestic or international markets, limiting awareness and competitive positioning.

The Town of New Tecumseth is the founding municipality of the Canada North Vehicles Initiative, which has been advanced in collaboration with the Simcoe County Auto Mayors to create a unified national branding and market-positioning effort for Canadian-built vehicles.

The Canada North Vehicles Initiative proposes the creation of a recognizable symbol for Canadian-made vehicles to promote domestic awareness, support export diversification, and strengthen Canada's global automotive identity.

The Town of New Tecumseth, through the Simcoe County Auto Mayors, has formally advocated to the federal government for structural improvements to the Federal Auto Strategy, including the inclusion of the Canada North Vehicles Initiative.

The Government of Canada, through the Prime Minister's Office, has acknowledged this advocacy and indicated its intention to continue dialogue on strengthening Canada's automotive sector.

Now Therefore Be It Resolved That the Resolution supporting Canada North Vehicles Initiative be received;

And Further That Council formally endorses the Canada North Vehicles Initiative as a strategic effort to strengthen the resilience, competitiveness, and global positioning of Canada's automotive sector;

And Further That Council supports the development and promotion of a unified "Canada North Vehicles" identity, including the use of a recognizable symbol for Canadian-built vehicles in both domestic and international markets;

And Further That Council directs staff to continue to lead and collaborate with municipal partners, industry stakeholders, and other orders of government to advance the Canada North Vehicles Initiative and identify opportunities for implementation and advocacy;

And Further That Council requests that the Government of Canada formally consider and integrate the Canada North Vehicles Initiative into its broader Federal Auto Strategy to support export diversification, industry competitiveness, and domestic awareness;

And Further That Council directs that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to: the Right Honourable Prime Minister of Canada, the Minister of Industry, the Minister of Transport, the Minister of Environment and Climate Change, the Minister of Economic Development, the Premier of Ontario, Local Members of Parliament and Provincial Parliament, Simcoe County and Simcoe County municipalities and the Simcoe County Auto Mayors Association.

Yours truly,



Pamela Slowleigh
Manager, Legislative Services / Deputy Clerk

Cc: The Honourable Melanie Joly, Minister of Industry, melanie.joly@parl.gc.ca
The Honourable Prabmeet Singh Sarkaria, Minister of Transportation, prabmeet.sarkaria@pc.ola.org
The Honourable Julie Dabrusin, Minister of the Environment, Climate Change and Nature, julie.dabrusin@parl.gc.ca
The Honourable Victor Fedeli, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade, vic.fedeli@pc.ola.org
The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, premier@ontario.ca

Local Members of Parliament

MP Terry Dowdall (Simcoe-Grey), terry.dowdall@parl.gc.ca
MP Adam Chambers (Simcoe North), adam.chambers@parl.gc.ca
MP Doug Shipley (Barrie-Springwater-Oro-Medonte), Doug.Shipley@parl.gc.ca
MP John Brassard (Barrie South-Innisfil), john.brassard@parl.gc.ca

Local Members of Provincial Parliament

MPP Brian Saunderson (Simcoe-Grey), brian.saunderson@pc.ola.org
MPP Jill Dunlop (Simcoe North), Jill.Dunlop@pc.ola.org
MPP Doug Downey (Barrie-Springwater-Oro-Medonte), Doug.Downey@pc.ola.org
MPP Andrea Khanjin (Barrie-Innisfil), Andrea.Khanjin@pc.ola.org

Simcoe County, clerks@simcoe.ca

Simcoe County municipalities

Clearview Township - clerks@clearview.ca
Essa Township - scorbett@essatownship.on.ca
Tay Township - clerk@tay.ca
Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury - clerk@townofbwg.com
Town of Collingwood - clerk@collingwood.ca
Town of Innisfil - clerksoffice@innisfil.ca
Town of Midland - clerks@midland.ca
Town of Penetanguishene - kcole@penetanguishene.ca
Town of Wasaga Beach - clerk@wasagabeach.com
Township of Adjala-Tosorontio - clerk@adjtos.ca
Township of Oro-Medonte - yaubichon@oro-medonte.ca
Township of Ramara - ramara@ramara.ca
Township of Severn - clerk@severn.ca
Township of Springwater - clerks@springwater.ca
Township of Tiny - clerks@tiny.ca

Simcoe County Auto Mayors Association

Mayor Jennifer Coughlin, Township of Springwater, jennifer.coughlin@springwater.ca
Mayor Scott Anderson, Township of Adjala-Tosorontio, sanderson@adjtos.ca
Mayor James Leduc, Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury, jleduc@townofbwg.com
Mayor Doug Measures, Township of Clearview, dmeasures@clearview.ca
Mayor Yvonne Hamlin, Town of Collingwood, yhamlin@collingwood.ca
Mayor Sandie Macdonald, Township of Essa, smacdonald@essatownship.on.ca
Mayor Lynn Dollin, Town of Innisfil, officeofthemayor@innisfil.ca
Mayor Doug Rawson, Town of Penetanguishene, drawson@penetanguishene.ca



Town of Petawawa

Legislative Services
1111 Victoria Street
Petawawa, ON K8H 2E6
613-687-5536

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

Via Email: premier@ontario.ca

The Honourable Michael Kerzner
Minister of the Solicitor General
George Drew Building, 18th Floor
25 Grosvenor St.
Toronto, ON M7A 1Y6

Via Email: minister.solgen@ontario.ca

June 17, 2026

RE: Sustainable Provincial Grant Funding for Fire Services in Ontario

Dear Honourable Doug Ford and Honourable Michael Kerzner:

At its Council in Committee meeting held on June 8, 2026, the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Petawawa endorsed the following resolution:

Moved by Lisa Coutu

Seconded by Theresa Sabourin

WHEREAS Municipal fire services in Ontario operate under legislative authority established by the province through statutes, regulations, codes, and prescribed standards governing training, equipment, certification, inspection, and operational requirements;

AND WHEREAS municipalities are responsible for implementing and maintaining compliance with these provincially mandated requirements primarily through local property taxation;

AND WHEREAS current provincial fire service grant programs are available to both full-time and volunteer fire departments across Ontario and are distributed through competitive application processes that may not fully reflect the differing financial and administrative capacities of urban and rural municipalities, highlighting the need for a more balanced approach to funding that supports all fire services equitably;

AND WHEREAS volunteer firefighters represent approximately 70–75% of firefighters in Ontario, protecting the majority of communities across the province and, particularly in rural areas, are frequently the first emergency responders to arrive on scene ahead of other emergency services;

AND WHEREAS other provincially regulated emergency services, including policing and paramedic services, receive stable and predictable provincial funding contributions or cost-sharing arrangements;

AND WHEREAS the absence of a comparable and stable funding model for fire services creates a structural imbalance between provincial regulatory authority and municipal financial responsibility;

AND WHEREAS reliance on competitive funding creates budget uncertainty, limits long-term financial planning, and may not reflect the actual operational needs of fire services, contributing to instability, reduced preparedness and the reduction of services within a critical emergency response sector;

AND WHEREAS stable and predictable funding is essential to maintain emergency preparedness, firefighter safety, service sustainability, and equitable protection for residents regardless of municipal size or tax base;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT

The Council of the Town of Petawawa respectfully calls upon the Province of Ontario to transition the current practice of competitive provincial fire service grant programs into a permanent, stable, and predictable non-competitive provincial funding program that supports municipalities in meeting provincially legislated fire protection requirements;

AND FURTHER THAT this funding be structured to provide equitable and predictable annual support for operational readiness and training costs associated with volunteer, composite and full-time fire departments across Ontario;

AND FURTHER THAT the annual value of this funding be reviewed and adjusted to more appropriately reflect the level of provincial funding support currently provided to other provincially regulated emergency services, including policing and paramedic services;

AND FURTHER THAT this resolution be circulated for endorsement to:

- All municipalities
- Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs

- Ontario Professional Fire Fighters Association
- Ontario Volunteer Fire Fighters Association
- Association of Municipalities of Ontario
- Rural Ontario Municipal Association

AND FURTHER THAT, upon endorsement, this resolution be submitted to:

- Billy Denault MPP Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke
- The Honourable Michael Kerzner, Minister of the Solicitor General
- The Honourable Kinga Surma, Minister of Infrastructure
- The Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
- The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario

Carried

The Town of Petawawa respectfully requests that the Government of Ontario implements a permanent, stable, and predictable non-competitive provincial funding program that supports municipalities in meeting provincially legislated fire protection requirements. We look forward to your favourable reply.

Sincerely,



Dawn Recoskie, CMO, Dipl.M.A.

Director of Legislative Services/Clerk

613-687-5536 ext. 2003

drecoskie@petawawa.ca

cc: All municipalities

Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs, info@oafc.on.ca

Ontario Professional Fire Fighters Association, info@opffa.org

Ontario Volunteer Fire Fighters Association, admin@ontariofirefighters.org

Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), resolutions@amo.on.ca

Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA), roma@roma.on.ca

Billy Denault, MPP, Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke, billy.denault@pc.ola.org

Honourable Kinga Surma, Minister of Infrastructure, kinga.surma@pc.ola.org

Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs & Housing, rob.flack@ontario.ca.



June 15, 2026

Hon. Robert J. Flack
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
777 Bay Street, 17th Floor
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3

Dear Minister Flack,

Re: Canada-Ontario Development Charge Reduction Program (DCRP)

On behalf of Council for the Town of Plympton-Wyoming, I am writing to acknowledge the Province of Ontario's Canada-Ontario Development Charge Reduction Program (DCRP) and its intent to support housing development and critical infrastructure investment across municipalities.

Council appreciates the Province's efforts to address housing supply challenges by incentivizing development and providing access to infrastructure funding. The objectives of increasing housing availability and supporting growth-related infrastructure are important priorities that align with the Town's long-term planning goals.

However, Council wishes to express concern that the current structure of the DCRP presents significant challenges for small, rural, and northern municipalities such as the Town of Plympton-Wyoming. Municipalities are required to commit to substantial development charge reductions while also preparing competitive applications for large, shovel-ready projects within a limited timeframe.

The program's compressed application intake period provides limited opportunity for municipalities with constrained staffing and financial capacity to properly evaluate participation, identify eligible projects, and assemble a competitive submission.

Additionally, the requirement to prioritize large-scale infrastructure projects that clearly enable housing development, coupled with the expectation of upfront municipal financial contributions, places smaller municipalities at a disadvantage. Many rural communities do not have the same breadth of shovel-ready growth-enabling projects readily available, nor the internal resources required to mobilize applications within such tight timelines.

Council is concerned that, without adjustments, the current program design may limit participation from smaller municipalities and result in an inequitable distribution of funding, favouring larger urban centres with greater administrative capacity and project readiness.



In light of these concerns, Council respectfully requests that the Province of Ontario consider establishing a dedicated program stream for small, rural, and northern municipalities. Such a stream should include:

- More flexible and extended application timelines;
- Scaled project requirements that reflect community size and capacity; and
- Adjusted eligibility criteria that recognize the unique infrastructure funding models and operational realities of rural municipalities.

These modifications would help ensure that all municipalities, regardless of size, have a fair opportunity to participate in the program and contribute to the Province's shared objective of increasing housing supply.

The Town of Plympton-Wyoming remains committed to working collaboratively with the Province to support sustainable growth and infrastructure investment in our community.

A copy of this correspondence has been shared with our local Members of Provincial Parliament and Federal Parliament, as well as neighbouring municipalities, to encourage broader support for these requested program enhancements.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Adam Sobanski
Chief Administrative Officer
Town of Plympton-Wyoming



SMITHS FALLS

RISE AT THE FALLS

June 17th, 2026

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

Re: Support for Sustainable Provincial Grant Funding for Fire Services in Ontario

Please be advised that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Smiths Falls passed the following resolution at their June 15th, 2026 Council meeting:

The Council of the Town of Smiths Falls respectfully calls upon the Province of Ontario to transition the current practice of competitive provincial fire service grant programs into a permanent, stable, and predictable non-competitive provincial funding program that supports municipalities in meeting provincially legislated fire protection requirements;

AND FURTHER THAT this funding be structured to provide equitable and predictable annual support for operational readiness and training costs associated with volunteer, composite and full-time fire departments across Ontario;

AND FURTHER THAT the annual value of this funding be reviewed and adjusted to more appropriately reflect the level of provincial funding support currently provided to other provincially regulated emergency services, including policing and paramedic services;

AND FURTHER THAT this resolution be circulated to:

- *Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs*
- *Ontario Professional Fire Fighters Association*
- *Ontario Volunteer Fire Fighters Association*
- *Association of Municipalities of Ontario*
- *Rural Ontario Municipal Association*
- *Scott Reid, M.P. Lanark-Frontenac*
- *John Jordan, M.P.P. Lanark-Frontenac-Kingston*
- *Minister of the Solicitor General*

77 Beckwith St N, Smiths Falls, ON K7A 2B8

613.283.4124 • info@smithsfalls.ca • www.smithsfalls.ca



SMITHS FALLS

RISE AT THE FALLS

- *Minister of Infrastructure*
- *Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing*
- *All Ontario Municipalities*

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions and/or concerns.

Yours truly,

Kerry Costello
Town Clerk

- cc:
- Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs
 - Ontario Professional Fire Fighters Association
 - Ontario Volunteer Fire Fighters Association
 - Association of Municipalities of Ontario
 - Rural Ontario Municipal Association
 - Scott Reid, M.P. Lanark-Frontenac
 - John Jordan, M.P.P. Lanark-Frontenac-Kingston
 - Minister of the Solicitor General
 - Minister of Infrastructure
 - Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
 - All Ontario Municipalities



THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MCGARRY
P.O. BOX 99
VIRGINIATOWN, ON. P0K 1X0
705-634-2145, Fax 705-634-2700

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR:

Louanne Caza
 Elaine Fic
 Annie Keft
 Mayor Culhane

SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR:

Louanne Caza
 Elaine Fic
 Annie Keft
 Mayor Culhane

RESOLUTION # 140/2024

DATE : June 4, 2026

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Township of McGarry supports the resolution from the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) regarding the Establishment of Northern Ontario Policing Grant.

WHEREAS Municipalities across Northern Ontario face disproportionately high policing costs due to low population densities, geographic isolation, and limited municipal tax bases;

AND WHEREAS many Northern communities rely on the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) for policing services, while others operate municipal police services that are also experiencing significant cost pressures;

AND WHEREAS recent increase in policing costs have placed unsustainable pressure on municipal budgets, forcing communities to make difficult decisions between maintaining public safety and funding essential municipal services such as infrastructure, roads, water systems, and recreation facilities;

AND WHEREAS Northern Ontario municipalities provide essential services across a vast geographic region while supporting key sectors of Ontario's economy, including mining, forestry, transportation, and energy;

AND WHEREAS municipalities require predictable and equitable provincial support to ensure policing costs remain sustainable and communities remain safe;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities call on the Government of Ontario to establish a \$100 million Northern Ontario Policing Grant, phased in over three years, to support the 157 municipalities across Northern Ontario served by both the Ontario Provincial Police and municipal police services;

AND THAT the grant includes a base funding allocation for all municipalities, with additional funding distributed based on population to ensure equitable support across communities of varying sizes;

AND THAT the Province work collaboratively with Northern municipal leaders, including FONOM and NOMA, to design and implement a sustainable funding framework that recognized the unique economic and geographic realities of Northern Ontario.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of the Solicitor General, the Minister of Finance, the Minister of Northern Economic Development and Growth, the Association (NOMA), and all Northern Ontario Municipalities.

Recorded vote requested by _____

	For	Against
Councillor Louanne Caza		
Councillor Elaine Fic		
Councillor Annie Keft		
Mayor Bonita Culhane		

I declare this motion

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Carried
<input type="checkbox"/> Lost / Defeated
<input type="checkbox"/> Deferred to: _____ (enter date)
Because:
<input type="checkbox"/> Referred to: _____ (enter body)
Expected response: _____ (enter date)

<i>Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest *</i>

Signature of Chair:

Bonita Culhane

**Disclosed his/her (their) interest(s), abstained from discussion and did not vote on this question.*



THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MCGARRY
P.O. BOX 99
VIRGINIA TOWN, ON. P0K 1X0
705-634-2145, Fax 705-634-2700

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR:

- Louanne Caza
- Elaine Fic
- Annie Keft
- Mayor Culhane

SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR:

- Louanne Caza
- Elaine Fic
- Annie Keft
- Mayor Culhane

RESOLUTION # 136/2026

DATE: June 9, 2026

WHEREAS the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) provide policing services to both organized municipalities and unorganized territories across the Province of Ontario;

AND WHEREAS organized municipalities receiving OPP policing services are billed under the OPP Municipal Policing Billing Model, which includes a base service cost and additional costs related to calls for services;

AND WHEREAS unorganized townships and territories contribute to policing costs through provincial taxation mechanisms and pay only a base rate while receiving OPP policing services;

AND WHEREAS residents of unorganized territories receive comparable OPP policing services to those provided in organized municipalities;

AND WHEREAS recent increases in OPP policing costs have placed a growing and disproportionate financial burden on organized municipalities and their taxpayers;

AND WHEREAS municipalities have limited revenue tools and must rely primarily on property taxation to fund essential services such as policing;

AND WHEREAS the current funding structure creates an inequitable situation in which organized municipalities are required to subsidize a larger share of policing costs while similar services are provided in unorganized territories at a significant lower contribution level;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Township of McGarry calls upon the Province of Ontario to conduct an immediate review of the OPP Municipal Policing Billing Model and the policing funding structure for unorganized territories;

AND FURTHER THAT the Province be requested to implement a fair and equitable funding model that ensures all communities receiving OPP policing services contribute appropriately to the cost of those services;

AND FURTHER THAT the Province be requested to consult with municipalities, particularly those in Northern Ontario, regarding the financial impacts of OPP policing costs and the current inequities in the system;

AND FURTHER THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Honorable Minister of the Solicitor General, the local Member of Provincial Parliament, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM), the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA), and neighboring municipalities for their support.

Recorded vote requested by _____

	For	Against
Councillor Louanne Caza		
Councillor Elaine Fic		
Councillor Annie Keft		
Mayor Bonita Culhane		

<i>Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest *</i>

I declare this motion

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Carried
<input type="checkbox"/> Lost / Defeated
<input type="checkbox"/> Deferred to: _____ (enter date)
Because:
<input type="checkbox"/> Referred to: _____ (enter body)
Expected response: _____ (enter date)

Signature of Chair:

Bonita Culhane

**Disclosed his/her (their) interest(s), abstained from discussion and did not vote on this question.*



THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MCGARRY
P.O. BOX 99
VIRGINIATOWN, ON. P0K 1X0
705-634-2145, Fax 705-634-2700

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR:

_____ Louanne Caza
 _____ Elaine Fic
 _____ Annie Keft
 _____ Mayor Culhane

SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR:

_____ Louanne Caza
 _____ Elaine Fic
 _____ Annie Keft
 _____ Mayor Culhane

RESOLUTION # 139/2026

DATE: June 9, 2026

WHEREAS Highways 11 and 17 are critical transportation corridors connecting Northern Ontario communities and supporting national trade, tourism, emergency response, and economic development; and

WHEREAS Northern Ontario residents, travelers, commercial drivers, and emergency services rely on safe and accessible year-round highway infrastructure; and

WHEREAS many stretches of Highways 11 and 17 lack sufficient rest areas, washrooms facilities, truck parking, warming centres, fuel access, and safe pull-offs locations, particularly in remote areas of Northern Ontario; and

WHEREAS inadequate rest stop infrastructure contributes to driver fatigue, safety concerns, limited accessibilities, and challenges for Tourism and commercial transportation;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council of the Township of McGarry calls upon the Government of Ontario and the Government of Canada to prioritize the development of new and upgraded highway rest stops and traveler infrastructure along Highways 11 and 17 across Northern Ontario;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT such infrastructure include year-round washrooms, safe parking areas, commercial truck parking, warming shelters, electric vehicle charging stations, fuel access, tourism information, and improved emergency communication services where feasible; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Province of Ontario work collaboratively with Northern municipalities, FONOM, NOMA, Indigenous communities, and industry stakeholders to identify priority locations for investment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this resolution be circulated to FONOM, NOMA, AMO, local MPPs and MPs, the Premier of Ontario, and Ontario municipalities.

Recorded vote requested by _____

I declare this motion

	For	Against
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Councillor Louanne Caza		
Councillor Elaine Fic		
Councillor Annie Keft		
Mayor Bonita Culhane		

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Carried
<input type="checkbox"/> Lost / Defeated
<input type="checkbox"/> Deferred to: _____ (enter date) Because:
<input type="checkbox"/> Referred to: _____ (enter body) Expected response: _____ (enter date)

Second By Councillor Fic BC.

Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest *

Signature of Chair:
Bonita Culhane

*Disclosed his/her (their) interest(s), abstained from discussion and did not vote on this question.



The Corporation of the Township of Terrace Bay

P.O. Box 40, 1 Selkirk Avenue, Terrace Bay, ON, P0T 2W0
Phone: (807) 825-3315 Fax: (807) 825-9576

June 17, 2026

Premier Doug Ford
premier@ontario.ca

Dear Mr. Ford,

At the Township of Terrace Bay's Regular Council Meeting held Monday June 15, 2026, the following resolution of support was passed:

RE: Resolution of Support – Sustainable Provincial Grant Funding For Fire Service

Resolution: CR142–2026

Moved by: Councillor Webb

Seconded by: Councillor Dube

WHEREAS Municipal fire services in Ontario operate under legislative authority established by the province through statutes, regulations, codes and prescribed standards governing training, equipment, certification, inspection, and operation requirements.

AND WHEREAS municipalities are responsible for implementing and maintaining compliance with these provincially mandated requirements primarily through local property taxation;

AND WHEREAS current provincial fire service grant programs are available to both full-time and volunteer fire departments across Ontario and are distributed through competitive application processes that may not fully reflect the differing financial and administrative capacities of urban and rural municipalities, highlighting the need for a more balanced approach to funding that supports all fire services equitably;

AND WHEREAS volunteer firefighters represent approximately 70-75% of firefighters in Ontario protecting the majority of communities across the province and, particularly in rural areas, are frequently the first emergency responders to arrive on scene ahead of other emergency services;

AND WHEREAS other provincially regulated emergency services, including policing and paramedic services, receive stable and predictable provincial funding contributions or cost-sharing arrangements;



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AND WHEREAS the absence of a comparable and stable funding model for fire services creates a structural imbalance between provincial regulatory authority and municipal financial responsibility;

AND WHEREAS reliance on competitive funding creates budget uncertainty, limits long-term financial planning, and may not reflect the actual operational needs of fire services, contributing to instability, reduced preparedness and the reduction of services within a critical emergency response sector;

AND WHEREAS stable and predictable funding is essential to maintain emergency preparedness, firefighter safety, service sustainability, and equitable protection for residents regardless of municipal size or tax base;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Township of Terrace Bay respectfully calls upon the Province of Ontario to transition the current practice of competitive provincial fire service grant programs into a permanent, stable, and predictable non-competitive provincial funding program that supports municipalities in meeting provincially legislated fire protection requirements;

AND FURTHER THAT this funding be structured to provide equitable and predictable annual support for operational readiness and training costs associated with volunteer, composite and full-time fire departments across Ontario;

AND FURTHER THAT the annual value of this funding be reviewed and adjusted to more appropriately reflect the level of provincial funding support currently provided to other provincially regulated emergency services, including policing and paramedic services;

AND FURTHER THAT this resolution be circulated for endorsement to:

- All municipalities
- Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs
- Ontario Professional Fire Fighters Association
- Ontario Volunteer Fire Fighter Association
- Association of Municipalities of Ontario
- Rural Ontario Municipal Association

AND FURTHER THAT, upon endorsement, this resolution be submitted to:

- Lise Vaugeois, MPP Thunder Bay Superior North
- The Honourable Michael Kerzner, Minister of the Solicitor General
- The Honourable Kinga Surma, Minister of Infrastructure
- The Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
- The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario



The Corporation of the Township of Terrace Bay

P.O. Box 40, 1 Selkirk Avenue, Terrace Bay, ON, P0T 2W0

Phone: (807) 825-3315 Fax: (807) 825-9576

Sincerely,

J. Hall
Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk

CC:

MPP Thunder Bay Superior North, Lise Vaugeois – lvaugois-co@ndp.on.ca

Minister of the Solicitor General – Michael.kerzner@pc.ola.org

Minister of Infrastructure – kinga.surma@pc.ola.org

Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing – rob.flack@pc.ola.org

AMO – resolutions@amo.on.ca

NOMA – admin@noma.on.ca

ROMA – roma@roma.on.ca

O AFC – info@oafc.on.ca

OPFFA – admin@ontariofirefighters.org

OVFFA – president@ffao.on.ca

All Northern Ontario Municipalities