



# The Regional Municipality of Durham COUNCIL INFORMATION PACKAGE

Friday, March 1, 2024

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Members of Council – Please advise the Regional Clerk at [clerks@durham.ca](mailto:clerks@durham.ca), if you wish to pull an item from this CIP and include on the next regular agenda of the appropriate Standing Committee. Items will be added to the agenda if the Regional Clerk is advised not later than noon the day prior to the meeting, otherwise the item will be included on the agenda for the next regularly scheduled meeting of the applicable Committee.

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# The Regional Municipality of Durham Information Report

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From: Commissioner & Medical Officer of Health  
Report: #2024-INFO-08  
Date: March 1, 2024

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**Subject:**

Update to the Ontario Public Health Standards: Requirements for Programs, Services and Accountability

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**Recommendation:**

Receive for information

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**Report:**

**1. Purpose**

1.1 To provide an update on changes to the [Ontario Public Health Standards: Requirements for Programs, Services and Accountability](#) (OPHS).

**2. Background**

2.1 The updated OPHS came into effect in June 2021. Updated protocols and guidelines under the OPHS are released as required.

2.2 In August 2023, the Ministry of Health (MOH) announced its [Strengthening Public Health Strategy](#). The MOH's goal is to optimize capacity, stability and sustainability in public health and deliver more equitable health outcomes for all Ontarians.

2.3 Desired outcomes related to the MOH's goal include clarified and refined public health roles and responsibilities and improved frontline programs and services at the local level.

**3. Updates to the OPHS**

3.1 As part of the Strengthening Public Health Strategy, the MOH is reviewing and revising the OPHS and incorporated documents. On December 15, 2023, the MOH communicated short-term opportunities to refine, refocus and relevel specific requirements as well as additional areas where releveling or centralizing supports

will ease local resources for program and service delivery. It is anticipated that the full revised OPHS will be implemented beginning January 1, 2025.

- 3.2 In follow-up to the December 2023 memo, the MOH updated and posted two documents on the [OPHS](#) website, on February 14, 2024.
  - a. The [Menu Labelling Protocol, 2024](#) includes a shift to complaint-based inspections to decrease inspection and data burden for Local Public Health Agencies (LPHAs).
  - b. The [Emergency Management Guideline, 2024](#) includes revisions to better align with national and international approaches and best practices to emergency management.
- 3.3 The MOH announced that the following supports will be implemented in the coming weeks:
  - a. The Food Handler Training Course and Exam will include translations into additional languages to improve consistency.
  - b. The Small Drinking Water Systems program will include updated educational materials to support consistent delivery.
- 3.4 The MOH has begun its initial engagement phase with the public health sector through existing Standards Review Groups to provide feedback on how to relevel, refocus and refine the OPHS and incorporated documents ahead of the planned, broader sector consultation in Spring 2024.
- 3.5 The MOH will be establishing an OPHS Review Table in early 2024 to provide leadership and guidance, input into the broader consultation plan and advice on implementation supports for LPHAs.
- 3.6 The MOH will continue to leverage opportunities to engage with other partners and stakeholder groups for input into the OPHS review, including Indigenous and Francophone partners through existing advisory and technical groups.

#### **4. Relationship to Strategic Plan**

- 4.1 This report aligns with the following strategic goal and priorities in the Durham Region Strategic Plan:
  - a. Goal 5: Service Excellence
    - 5.1 Optimize resources and partnerships to deliver exceptional quality services and value.
    - 5.2. Collaborate for a seamless service experience.

**5. Conclusion**

- 5.1 The Durham Region Health Department (DRHD) will respond to OPHS review engagement opportunities and will contribute to the OPHS review process as requested.
- 5.2 DRHD is working to ensure that its policies and procedures are in compliance with the updated OPHS protocol and guideline.

Respectfully submitted,

Original signed by

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R.J. Kyle, BSc, MD, MHSc, CCFP, FRCPC, FACPM  
Commissioner & Medical Officer of Health



# The Regional Municipality of Durham Information Report

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From: Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development  
Report: #2024-INFO-9  
Date: March 1, 2024

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**Subject:**

Durham Region Economic Development and Tourism Strategy Ready Set Future Wins EDCO Award of Excellence

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**Recommendation:**

Receive for information

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**Report:**

**1. Purpose**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to notify Council that the Region of Durham's new Economic Development and Tourism strategy, titled '2023-2027 Ready Set Future – A PLACE Blueprint for Durham', won the Economic Developers Council of Ontario (EDCO) Award of Excellence in the category of Planning and Strategic Development (urban population).

**2. Background**

2.1 EDCO is Canada's largest provincial economic development association and provides leadership to enhance the professional development of its members; advance economic development as a profession; and support municipalities in fostering economic prosperity in Ontario. EDCO administers the EDCO Awards of Excellence, an annual program seeks progressive and insightful ideas and initiatives that can become economic development best practices of the future.



- 2.2 Municipalities across Ontario put forth their projects to be considered for awards in a variety of categories. The applications are reviewed by a panel of judges and winners are announced at the EDCO awards ceremony annually.
- 2.3 Recipients of the EDCO Awards of Excellence are viewed as leaders in economic development and often asked to present their efforts and accomplishments at speaking engagements including the EDCO Conference and Showcase. The competition also allows communities across Ontario the opportunity to compare their economic development and tourism initiatives to other municipalities.
- 2.4 On February 8, 2024, the Economic Development and Tourism Division won the Economic Developers Council of Ontario (EDCO) Award of Excellence in the category of Planning and Strategic Development (urban population) for the Region of Durham's new Economic Development and Tourism strategy, titled '2023-2027 Ready Set Future – A PLACE Blueprint for Durham'.

### **3. Ready Set Future Strategy**

- 3.1 In December 2022, Regional Council endorsed [Ready Set Future](#), the Region of Durham's new five-year Economic Development and Tourism strategy.
- 3.2 A comprehensive analysis was commissioned to review and consider economic and demographic data, local economic reports, and to explore the most impactful global drivers of change for years ahead. This analysis was used to identify high-value opportunities to grow the regional economy. A steering committee was assembled, comprised of a strong and diverse group of leaders from throughout Durham, including the post-secondary institutions, Durham's largest businesses, the Chambers of Commerce and Boards of Trade, the Arts / Cultural / Creative industry, and technology startups from the innovation community.
- 3.3 Collaborative sessions with internal and external partners and community members were held to identify and develop shared economic aspirations. In collaboration with these partners, five long-term aspirations for Durham's economic future were formed, and measures of success were identified.

### **4. Previous Reports and Decisions**

- 4.1 [#2022-EDT-15](#): Ready Set Future: Five Year Economic Development and Tourism Strategy and Action Plan

## **5. Relationship to Strategic Plan**

5.1 This report aligns with/addresses the following strategic goals and priorities in the Durham Region Strategic Plan:

- a. Economic Prosperity Goal #3.1: Position Durham Region as the location of choice for business.
- b. Economic Prosperity Goal #3.2: Leverage Durham's prime geography, social infrastructure, and strong partnerships to foster economic growth.
- c. Economic Prosperity Goal #3.4: Capitalize on Durham's strengths in key economic sectors to attract high-quality jobs.
- d. Economic Prosperity Goal #3.5: Provide a supportive environment for agriculture and agri-food.

## **6. Conclusion**

6.1 The "Ready Set Future" strategy sets out bold, long-term economic aspirations for Durham that will have a great impact on all residents of Durham Region. Staff are honoured by the recognition of this strategy by a panel of their Economic Development industry peers, and look forward to implementing this award winning, future forward strategy.

Respectfully submitted,

Original signed by

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Brian Bridgeman, MCIP, RPP, PLE  
Commissioner of Planning and  
Economic Development

If this information is required in an accessible format, please contact 1-800-372-1102 ext. 2564



# The Regional Municipality of Durham Information Report

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From: Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development  
Report: #2024-INFO-10  
Date: March 1, 2024

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**Subject:**

2023 Durham Region International Film Festival

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**Recommendation:**

Receive for information.

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**Report:**

**1. Purpose**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise Planning and Economic Development Committee of the 9th annual Durham Region International Film Festival (DRIFF) that took place in person on October 19 to 21 and online from October 21 to 28, 2023.

1.2 DRIFF's 2023 program included a gala event, film screenings, award ceremonies, and experiential activities. DRIFF hosted many local and international filmmakers, connecting them with audiences through post-screening question and answer periods, workshops, and networking events.

**2. Background**

2.1 DRIFF is a not-for-profit film festival rooted in the communities of Durham that engages a diverse network of audiences, filmmakers, and collaborators to promote film as a form of creative expression and a catalyst for community building.

- 
- 2.2 The Economic Development and Tourism Division supports DRIFF through in-kind support, the purchase of advertising, and through promotional partnerships such as joint news releases and coverage on regional social media.
- 2.3 DRIFF is a vital piece of Durham's film sector ecosystem and through hundreds of volunteer hours it gives emerging filmmakers a platform to advance their creative work. DRIFF showcases films and filmmakers from Canada and across the globe; and encourages community connections through the power of cinema.
- 2.4 From the 146 films submitted, the festival organizers curated the submissions and showcased a diverse and inclusive line-up of 37 films. The top countries contributing films were Canada, USA, UK, Iran, Palestine, Jamaica, Germany, France, and China.
- 2.5 Two feature films with a Durham Region focus were screened in-person at DRIFF and each won an award:
- a. *When Hope Breaks Through*, the People's Choice winner is the inspiring story of Mike Shoreman, a disabled paddleboarder from Whitby who sets out to raise awareness and funding for the youth mental health crisis in Canada by paddleboarding across all five Great Lakes.
  - b. *Purple Don't Cry*, winner of the Best Regional Film was shot in and around Durham and explored the complexities of Muslim identity and challenges that many Muslim youth face in western society.
- 2.6 The 2023 program featured documentaries, animation, shorts, and feature films, representing a variety of styles and genres. The breakdown was as follows:
- a. Thursday, October 19: DRIFF events began at the Biltmore Theatre, Oshawa with a red-carpet experience and VIP reception. The short film *Primitive Times* (Germany) preceded the opening night feature, *Suze* (Canada).
  - b. Friday, October 20: events were held at the St Frances Centre, Ajax, with a pre-screening party that featured local food from three chefs based in Durham Region. This was followed by a panel discussion with film and television industry experts on finance, insurance, and distribution. The evening screenings were a short film, *Demon Box* (Canada) and feature films, *The Boy in the Woods* (Canada) and *When Hope Breaks Through* (Canada).
  - c. Saturday, October 21: DRIFF hosted two free workshops at the Biltmore Theatre: a fascinating look into the world of sound effects presented by Footsteps Post-Production Sound Inc., and a panel of industry professionals discussing the filmmaking process and careers in film. Following was a

ticketed event – the Homegrown Shorts Program – with seven Canadian films. The evening was complete with awards ceremonies and two feature films *Purple Don't Cry* (Canada), and *Egghead and Twinkie* (USA).

2.7 DRIFF 2023 attendance increased by 17 per cent over 2022.

### **3. Future Activities**

3.1 In 2024, DRIFF plans to:

- a. Host DRIFF in a Jiff at RMG on four Fridays at the Robert McLaughlin Gallery (Oshawa) plus several screening events at the Whitby Public Library.
- b. Host the DRIFF three-day film festival from October 24 to 26 at Whitby Centennial Building (Whitby), St. Frances Centre for Community, Arts and Culture (Ajax), and the Biltmore Theatre (Oshawa).
- c. Continue their Durham Emerging Filmmaker Incubator program, which will provide one filmmaking team with \$10,000 in funding provided by DRIFF, the Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation's Maada'ookii Committee, Shaftesbury, and Invest Durham - Film Durham, plus mentoring, in-kind services, and equipment to produce a short film.
- d. Market the festival nationally and internationally through social media, the website, and film industry connections; and
- e. Continue to seek funding from industry, community, government grant programs, and other sources.

### **4. Relationship to Strategic Plan**

4.1 This report aligns with/addresses the following strategic goals and priorities in the Durham Region Strategic Plan:

- a. Goal 3 – Economic prosperity
  - Priority 3.1 - Position Durham Region as the location of choice for business.
  - Priority 3.2 - Leverage Durham's prime geography, social infrastructure, and strong partnerships to foster economic growth.
  - Priority 3.4 - Capitalize on Durham's strengths in key economic sectors to attract high-quality jobs.

## **5. Conclusion**

- 5.1 Each year the Durham Region International Film Festival fosters community pride, provides positive economic benefits, and shows how Durham Region is a welcoming and inclusive community.
- 5.2 Durham Region Economic Development and Tourism will continue to play a supporting role in this festival to highlight our film sector and grow and strengthen our creative industries.

Respectfully submitted,

Original signed by

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Brian Bridgeman, MCIP, RPP, PLE  
Commissioner of Planning and  
Economic Development

If this information is required in an alternate format, please contact the Accessibility Co-ordinator at 905-623-3379 ext. 2131

February 27, 2024

The Regional Municipality of Durham  
Via Email: [clerks@durham.ca](mailto:clerks@durham.ca)

To: Alexandar Harras

**Re:** Regional Municipality of Durham, Regarding Support for the Courtice Transit-Oriented Community District Energy System

**File Number:** PG.25.06

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At a meeting held on February 26, 2024, the Council of the Municipality of Clarington approved the following Resolution #GG-001-24:

Whereas at the Council Meeting of January 24th, 2024, Regional Council endorsed in principle the concept of a district energy system (DES) in the Courtice Transit-Oriented Community (CTOC) that leverages waste heat from Regional infrastructure in the adjacent Clarington Energy Park;

And whereas district energy is a strategic priority for building sector decarbonization with the potential to contribute more than 15 percent of total GHG emissions reductions by 2050, making it one of the top decarbonization strategies for Durham Region;

And whereas this is a unique opportunity for the Region of Durham and Clarington to work with utilities and landowners to demonstrate leadership in a major transit-oriented development initiative surrounding the future Courtice GO Station;

Now therefore be it resolved that the Municipality of Clarington collaborate with the Regional Municipality of Durham to integrate the DES concept into the CTOC Secondary Plan; and

That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Regional Municipality of Durham and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario.

Yours truly,



---

John Paul Newman  
Deputy Clerk

JPN/lh

- c: Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) - [amo@amo.on.ca](mailto:amo@amo.on.ca)
- C. Salazar, Deputy CAO, Planning and Infrastructure
- L. Backus, Manager, Manager of Community Planning



If this information is required in an alternate format, please contact the Accessibility Co-ordinator at 905-623-3379 ext. 2131

February 27, 2024

To Interested Parties:

**Re:** Intimate Partner Violence – Follow Up on Direction

**File Number:** PG.25.06

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At a meeting held on February 26, 2024, the Council of the Municipality of Clarington approved the following Resolution #GG-003-24:

That Report [LGS-003-24](#), and any related delegations or communication items, be received for information;

That, in an effort to help prevent Intimate Partner Violence, Council take the following actions:

- a. Affirm that Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) has reached epidemic proportions;
- b. Continue to advocate, to the Region of Durham, for transportation services for residents accessing IPV-related support where public transportation is inadequate, or not available;
- c. Continue advocating for expanded cell service and high-speed internet throughout the community; and
- d. Continue to promote and support community safety outreach programs across the Municipality.

That the IDEA Officer be directed to:

- e. Arrange training, in 2024, for front-line staff who may encounter IPV situations;
- f. Incorporate a reference to IPV within Clarington's 2024 Reconciliation Action Plan.

That Clarington Community Engagement Staff take the following actions:

- g. Promote and share public education campaigns to promote awareness about IPV including, where available, in multiple languages and formats;
- h. Identify/create, by end of 2024, private confidential spaces in libraries and community centres, where victims of IPV could make phone calls to shelters, police and victim services for support and guidance;
- i. Co-host age-appropriate community awareness programs which address IPV in 2024/2025;
- j. Propose a funding stream, as part of the 2025 budget, within the Community Funding Program, which supports community safety programs, including IPV, especially in rural areas of Clarington; and
- k. Install information and resources in recreation facility washrooms and community message boards in 2024.

That this resolution be forwarded to all Durham MPPs, the Ministry of the Attorney General, the Ministry of Women's Social and Economic Opportunity, Durham Region Council, all lower-tier Durham municipalities, and Durham Regional Police Services Board.

Yours truly,



---

John Paul Newman  
Deputy Clerk

JPN/lh

- c: The Honourable Doug Downey, Ministry of the Attorney General  
[doug.downey@pc.ola.org](mailto:doug.downey@pc.ola.org)  
The Honourable Charmaine A. Williams, Associate Minister, Women's Social and Economic Opportunity - [Charmaine.Williams@pc.ola.org](mailto:Charmaine.Williams@pc.ola.org)  
Patrice Barnes, M.P.P., Ajax - [Patrice.Barnes@pc.ola.org](mailto:Patrice.Barnes@pc.ola.org)  
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Alexander Harras, Regional Clerk, The Regional Municipality of Durham - [clerks@durham.ca](mailto:clerks@durham.ca)

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Mary Medeiros, City Clerk, City of Oshawa - [clerks@oshawa.ca](mailto:clerks@oshawa.ca)

Monika Machacek, Executive Director, Clarington Library Museums and Archives - [mmachacek@cplmas.ca](mailto:mmachacek@cplmas.ca)

Laura Burch, Executive Director, Bethesda House – [executivedirector@bethesdahouse.ca](mailto:executivedirector@bethesdahouse.ca)

Hermia Corbett, Executive Director, Community Development Council Durham – [hcorbette@cdcd.org](mailto:hcorbette@cdcd.org)


Sean Collier, Mayor of Ajax

Bill Clancy, Durham Regional Police Services

Anita Longo, Durham Regional Police Services

Cassy MacDonald, Councillor's Office Assistant



 Corporate Services Department Legislative Services Division	
Date & Time Received:	February 22, 2024 4:11 pm
Original To:	CIP
Copies To:	
Take Appropriate Action	<input type="checkbox"/> File <input type="checkbox"/>
Notes/Comments:	

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7404 Wellington Road 34  
Puslinch, ON N0B 2J0  
[www.puslinch.ca](http://www.puslinch.ca)

February 22, 2024

RE 6.2 Clearview Township Support Resolution Cemetery Administration Management & 6.3 Tay Township Support Resolution Cemetery Administration Management Support

Please be advised that Township of Puslinch Council, at its meeting held on January 10, 2024 considered the aforementioned topic and subsequent to discussion, the following was resolved:

**Resolution No. 2024-003:** Moved by Councillor Hurst and  
Seconded by Councillor Sepulis

That the Consent Agenda item 6.2 and 6.3 listed for January 10, 2023 Council meeting be received for information; and

Whereas Puslinch Council supports the Resolutions from Tay Township and Clearview Township regarding Cemetery Administration Management, that staff be directed to send a support resolution accordingly.

**CARRIED**



As per the above resolution, please accept a copy of this correspondence for your information and consideration.

Sincerely,

Justine Brotherston  
Municipal Clerk

CC: Ontario Municipalities



CLEARVIEW  
TOWNSHIP

**Clerk's Department**  
Township of Clearview  
Box 200, 217 Gideon Street  
Stayner, Ontario L0M 1S0  
[clerks@clearview.ca](mailto:clerks@clearview.ca) | [www.clearview.ca](http://www.clearview.ca)  
Phone: 705-428-6230

December 12, 2023

File: C00.2023

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

Sent by Email

**RE: Cemetery Transfer/Abandonment Administration & Management Support**

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

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

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

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

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

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

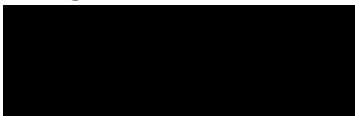
Now Therefore Be It Resolved that Council of the Township of Clearview requests that the Province through the Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery and the Bereavement Authority of Ontario (BAO) consider the following to assist municipalities in this growing concern of cemetery transfers:

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

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

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

Regards,



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

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



---

**To:** Mayor and Council

**From:** Sasha Helmkey, Clerk/Director of Legislative Services

**Date:** December 11, 2023

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

---

## Recommendation

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

## **Background**

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

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

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

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

### Township Owned Cemeteries

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

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

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

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

## Comments and Analysis

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

### Administrative Impact

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

- **Incomplete records**

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

- **Lack of human resources**

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

- Increased regulatory processes

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

- Inconsistent cemetery regulations

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

## **Operational Impact**

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

- High maintenance costs

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

- Cost of cemetery management software

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

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

- **Inadequate Care and Maintenance funds**

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

### **Support Request**

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

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

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

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

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

### **Clearview's Strategic Plan**

The above initiative supports the following strategic pillars:

- Governance

### **Financial Implications**

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

### **Report Appendices**

Not applicable.

### **Approvals**

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

# TAY TOWNSHIP

450 Park Street  
PO Box 100  
Victoria Harbour, Ontario  
L0K 2A0



December 21, 2023

Hon. Todd McCarthy  
Minister of Public and Business Service Delivery  
5th Floor  
777 Bay St.  
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3

sent via email [Todd.McCarthy@pc.ola.org](mailto:Todd.McCarthy@pc.ola.org)

Dear Hon. Todd McCarthy,

## **Re: Provincial Cemetery Management Support Request – Tay Township**

Tay Township Council passed the following resolution during the December 20, 2023 Council Meeting regarding the Provincial Cemetery Management Support Request:

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

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

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

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

# TAY TOWNSHIP

450 Park Street  
PO Box 100  
Victoria Harbour, Ontario  
L0K 2A0



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

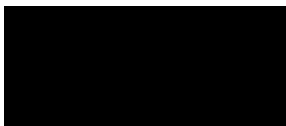
Now Therefore Be It Resolved that Council of the Township of Tay requests that the Province through the Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery and the Bereavement Authority of Ontario (BAO) consider the following to assist municipalities in this growing concern of cemetery transfers:

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

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

Sent on behalf of Tay Township Council.

Yours truly,



Katelyn Johns, MPPA  
Municipal Clerk

Cc: Jim Cassimatis, BAO Interim CEO/Registrar, Hon. Jill Dunlop, Minister of Colleges and Universities/MPP, and all Ontario municipalities.





Corporate Services Department  
Legislative Services Division

Date & Time Received:	February 26, 2024 8:38 am
Original To:	CIP
Copies To:	
Take Appropriate Action	<input type="checkbox"/> File <input type="checkbox"/>
Notes/Comments:	



Hon. Doug Ford  
Premier of Ontario  
823 Albion Road  
Etobicoke, ON  
M9V 1A3  
VIA EMAIL:  
[doug.fordco@pc.ola.org](mailto:doug.fordco@pc.ola.org)

Hon. David Piccini  
Minister of Labour,  
Immigration, Training and Skills  
Development  
117 Peter St.  
Port Hope, ON L1A 1C5  
VIA EMAIL:  
[David.Piccini@pc.ola.org](mailto:David.Piccini@pc.ola.org)

Township of Puslinch  
7404 Wellington Road  
34  
Puslinch, ON N0B 2J0  
[www.puslinch.ca](http://www.puslinch.ca)  
February 23, 2024

Hon. Paul Calandra  
Minister of Municipal Affairs and  
Housing  
VIA EMAIL:  
[minister.mah@ontario.ca](mailto:minister.mah@ontario.ca)

MPP France Gelinis  
MPP for Nickel Belt  
Suite 15  
5085 Hwy. 69 N  
Hanmer, ON P3P 1P7  
VIA EMAIL: [Fgelinas-co@ndp.on.ca](mailto:Fgelinas-co@ndp.on.ca)

MPP Jamie West  
MPP for Sudbury  
Unit 4B  
555 Barrydowne Rd.  
VIA EMAIL: [JWest-CO@ndp.on.ca](mailto:JWest-CO@ndp.on.ca)

RE: 6.5 City of Greater Sudbury Amendment to the Occupational Health and Safety Act

Please be advised that Township of Puslinch Council, at its meeting held on January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024 considered the aforementioned topic and subsequent to discussion, the following was resolved:

**Resolution No. 2024-004:**

Moved by Councillor Hurst and  
Seconded by Councillor Sepulis

That the Consent Agenda item 6.5 listed for January 10, 2023 Council meeting be received for information; and



Whereas Puslinch Council supports the Resolution from the City of Greater Sudbury that staff be directed to send a support resolution accordingly.

**CARRIED**

As per the above resolution, please accept a copy of this correspondence for your information and consideration.

Sincerely,

Justine Brotherston  
Municipal Clerk

CC: Association of Municipalities Ontario, Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities, Ontario's Big City Mayors, Mayors and Regional Chairs of Ontario, Northern Ontario Large Urban Mayors, Council of Ontario Construction Association, Ontario Chamber of Commerce

December 12, 2023

**\*Sent Via Email\***

Municipalities of Ontario

Re: Amendment to the Occupational Health and Safety Act to Clarify the Definition of “Employer”

The following resolution was passed by Council of the City of Greater Sudbury on December 5, 2023:

*CC2023-303: WHEREAS in 2015 the City of Greater Sudbury (the “City”) entered into a contract with a contractor experienced in road construction projects to complete a project on Elgin Street in the City’s downtown core;*

*AND WHEREAS the contract provided that the contractor would be the constructor for the project as that term is defined in the Occupational Health and Safety Act (the “Act”);*

*AND WHEREAS an employee of the constructor operating a grader on the project struck and killed a pedestrian;*

*AND WHEREAS the City was charged with offences under the Act as the constructor and the employer;*

*AND WHEREAS after being acquitted at trial and on appeal, the Ontario Court of Appeal, in a decision issued on April 23, 2021, found the City to be liable for contraventions of the Construction Regulations as an employer as it employed quality control inspectors to monitor the quality of work on the project from time-to-time;*

*AND WHEREAS the Supreme Court of Canada, in a decision issued on November 10, 2023, was evenly divided 4-4 on the issue resulting in dismissal of the City’s appeal;*

*AND WHEREAS the consequence of this decision is that municipalities in Ontario, as well as all other owners of property in the province, who wish to undertake construction, are subject to being charged and convicted as an employer for offences in relation to project sites for which they have no control and have, in accordance with the Act, contracted with an entity to assume plenary oversight and authority over the work on such site as the constructor; AND WHEREAS the potential of an owner being charged as an employer as that term is defined in the Act in circumstances where it has engaged a constructor disregards and renders meaningless the owner-constructor provisions contained in the Act and presents an unacceptable level of increased risk and confusion for owners and contractors throughout the province;*

PO BOX 5000 STN A  
200 BRADY STREET  
SUDBURY ON P3A 5P3

CP 5000 SUCCA  
200, RUE BRADY  
SUDBURY ON P3A 5P3

705.671.2489

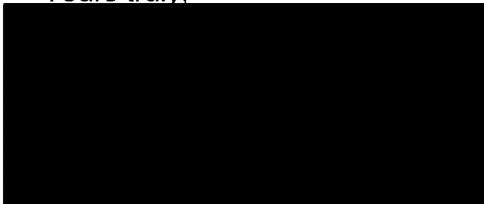
www.greatersudbury.ca  
www.grandsudbury.ca

*AND WHEREAS the City believes that the safety of workers is paramount however the safety of workers on construction projects in Ontario is not increased by placing liability on parties that do not have control of and are not responsible for the conduct of the work on such sites;*

*NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council for the City of Greater Sudbury requests that the province amend the Occupational Health and Safety Act to clarify the definition of "employer" to exclude owners that have contracted with a constructor for a project;*

*AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this motion be provided to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, the Honourable David Piccini, Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development, the Honourable Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, France Gelin, MPP for Nickel Belt, Jamie West, MPP for Sudbury, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities, Ontario's Big City Mayors, Mayors and Regional Chairs of Ontario, Northern Ontario Large Urban Mayors, the Council of Ontario Construction Associations, the Ontario Chamber of Commerce and all Ontario municipalities.*

Yours truly,



Brigitte Sobush  
Manager of Clerk's Services/Deputy City Clerk

- c. Members of City Council  
Eric Labelle, City Solicitor and Clerk



Date & Time Received:	February 27, 2024 11:04 am
Original To:	CIP
Copies To:	
Take Appropriate Action	<input type="checkbox"/> File <input type="checkbox"/>
Notes/Comments:	

Hon. Ted Arnott, MPP  
181 St. Andrew St. East  
2nd Floor, Fergus  
ON N1M 1P9  
VIA EMAIL:  
[ted.arnottco@pc.ola.org](mailto:ted.arnottco@pc.ola.org)

Hon. Sylvia Jones, MPP  
180 Broadway 3rd Floor  
Suite A  
Orangeville, ON L9W 1K3  
VIA EMAIL:  
[sylvia.jones@pc.ola.org](mailto:sylvia.jones@pc.ola.org)

Township of Puslinch  
7404 Wellington Road 34  
Puslinch, ON N0B 2J0  
[www.puslinch.ca](http://www.puslinch.ca)

February 27, 2024

Hon. Doug Ford  
Premier of Ontario  
823 Albion Road  
Etobicoke, ON  
M9V 1A3  
VIA EMAIL:  
[premier@ontario.ca](mailto:premier@ontario.ca)

Hon. Paul Calandra  
Minister of Municipal Affairs  
and Housing  
VIA EMAIL:  
[minister.mah@ontario.ca](mailto:minister.mah@ontario.ca)

RE: 6.3 The Association of Municipalities of Ontario Policy Update regarding Social and Economic Prosperity Review

Please be advised that Township of Puslinch Council, at its meeting held on February 7, 2024 considered the aforementioned topic and subsequent to discussion, the following was resolved:

**Resolution No. 2024-037:** Moved by Councillor Bailey and  
Seconded by Councillor Sepulis

That the Consent Agenda item 6.3 listed for February 7, 2024 Council meeting be received for information; and

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

THAT a copy of this motion be sent to the Premier of Ontario ([premier@ontario.ca](mailto:premier@ontario.ca)); Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing ([minister.mah@ontario.ca](mailto:minister.mah@ontario.ca)); the Minister of Finance ([minister.fin@ontario.ca](mailto:minister.fin@ontario.ca)); the County Clerk, MPP Arnott, MPP Rae, and to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario ([amo@amo.on.ca](mailto:amo@amo.on.ca)).

**CARRIED**

As per the above resolution, please accept a copy of this correspondence for your information and consideration.



Sincerely,

Justine Brotherston  
Municipal Clerk

CC: Association of Municipalities of Ontario ([amo@amo.on.ca](mailto:amo@amo.on.ca)), MPP Matthew Rae  
[Matthew.Rae@pc.ola.org](mailto:Matthew.Rae@pc.ola.org), the Minister of Finance ([minister.fin@ontario.ca](mailto:minister.fin@ontario.ca))

**Corporate Services**

January 26, 2024

**Re: Social and Economic Prosperity Review**

Please be advised that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Orangeville, at its Regular Council Meeting held on January 22, 2024, approved the following resolution:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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


**FURTHER THAT a copy of this motion is sent to the Premier of Ontario, Doug Ford; the MPP, Sylvia Jones; and all municipalities in Ontario.**

**Carried.**

Yours truly,



Raylene Martell  
Town Clerk

 Corporate Services Department <b>Legislative Services Division</b>	
Date & Time Received:	February 22, 2024 9:18 am
Original To:	CIP
Copies To:	
Take Appropriate Action	<input type="checkbox"/> File <input type="checkbox"/>
Notes/Comments:	

**Resolution Number** 2024-046  
**Title:** Support Resolution - Fire Apparatus Life Span  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 20, 2024

**Moved by** Councillor Jaworski  
**Seconded by** Deputy Mayor Long

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Council of the Township of South Glengarry hereby supports the resolution passed by the County of Prince Edward and the creation of a new community fire-protection and fire prevention insurance system that does not put all municipalities under the same umbrella, with distinct categories for rural and urban municipalities  
**AND FURTHERMORE** that this resolution be sent to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus and the County of Prince Edward.

**CARRIED**                      **TIED**                      **DEFEATED**                      **POSTPONED**

  
 Mayor Lachlan McDonald



The Corporation of the Municipality of Wawa

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

RESOLUTION

Tuesday, February 6, 2024

Resolution # RC24016	Meeting Order: 5
Moved by: <i>M. Hatfield</i>	Seconded by: <i>John W. Opeto</i>

**WHEREAS** By-Law 1070-96, being a By-Law to continue and regulate a Fire Department for the Corporation of the Municipality of Fire Department;

**AND WHEREAS** apparatus and equipment are directly tied to the delivery of fire protection services authorized by Council in By-Law 1070-96, and a safe, reliable and diverse fleet is required to serve operational needs;

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

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

**AND WHEREAS** on January 24, 2024, Council of the Corporation of the Municipality of Wawa received the 2024 Wawa Fire Service Review by The Loomex Group that identifies and evaluates Wawa's current and anticipated fire protection needs, Fire Apparatus Fleet Report and noted the budgetary pressures of meeting FUS replacement schedules;

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

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

p.2...



The Corporation of the Municipality of Wawa

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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: \_\_\_\_\_

DEPUTY MAYOR – JIM HOFFMANN	CLERK – MAURY O'NEILL

This document is available in alternate formats.



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


Office of the Town Clerk  
160 Livingston Avenue, Grimsby, ON L3M 0J5  
**Phone:** 905-945-9634 Ext. 2171 | **Fax:** 905-945-5010  
**Email:** vsteele@grimsby.ca

February 26, 2024

SENT VIA E-MAIL

4800 South Service Road  
Beamsville, On, L3J 1L3

Attention: Town of Lincoln

 Corporate Services Department <b>Legislative Services Division</b>	
Date & Time Received:	February 27, 2024 8:41 am
Original To:	CIP
Copies To:	
Take Appropriate Action	<input type="checkbox"/> File <input type="checkbox"/>
Notes/Comments:	

**RE: Correspondence Endorsement – Support of Bill C-310 and Amendments to Subsections 118.06(2) and 118.07(2) of the Income Tax Act (Tax Credit for Volunteer Firefighters)**

Please be advised that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Grimsby at its meeting held on February 20, 2024, received, and endorsed the correspondence from the Town of Lincoln dated February 7, 2024, regarding Support of Bill C-310 and Amendments to Subsections 118.06(2) and 118.07(2) of the Income Tax Act (Tax Credit for Volunteer Firefighters) with the following motion:

Moved: Councillor Korstanje

Seconded: Councillor Charrois

Resolved that Council endorse the Town of Lincoln's resolution regarding Support of Bill C-310 and Amendments to Subsections 118.06(2) & 118.07 (2) of the Income Tax Act (Tax Credit for Volunteer Firefighters).

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

Regards,

Victoria Steele  
Town Clerk

Cc: Association of Fire Chiefs of Ontario  
The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)  
All Ontario Municipalities



4800 SOUTH SERVICE RD  
BEAMSVILLE, ON L0R 1B1

905-563-8205

February 7, 2024

SENT VIA EMAIL: [eflynn@plympton-wyoming.ca](mailto:eflynn@plympton-wyoming.ca)

Ella Flynn  
Deputy Clerk  
Town of Plympton-Wyoming  
546 Niagara Street, P.O. Box 250  
Wyoming, ON N0N 1T0

**RE: Town of Lincoln Council Resolution – Support of Bill C-310 and Amendments to Subsections 118.06 (2) & 118.07 (2) of the Income Tax Act (Tax Credit for Volunteer Firefighters)**

Please be advised that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Lincoln at its Council Meeting held on February 5, 2024, received and supported correspondence from the Town of Plympton-Wyoming dated December 1, 2023, regarding Support of Bill C-310 and Amendments to Subsections 118.06 (2) & 118.07 (2) of the Income Tax Act (Tax Credit for Volunteer Firefighters) with the following motion:

Resolution No: RC-2024-06

Moved by Councillor JD Pachereva; Seconded by Councillor Mike Mikolic

THAT Council support and endorse the resolution within the correspondence received re: Tax Credit for Volunteer Firefighters.

**CARRIED**

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

Regards,

Julie Kirkelos  
Town Clerk

[jkirkelos@lincoln.ca](mailto:jkirkelos@lincoln.ca)

JK/dp

Cc: Association of Fire Chiefs of Ontario  
The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)  
All Ontario Municipalities



Lianne Rood  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

December 1<sup>st</sup> 2023

Sent via e-mail: [Lianne.Rood@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Lianne.Rood@parl.gc.ca)

**Re: Support of Bill C-310 and Amendments to Subsections 118.06 (2) & 118.07 (2) of the *Income Tax Act* (Tax Credit for Volunteer Firefighters)**

Dear Ms. Rood,

Please be advised that at the Regular Council Meeting on November 29<sup>th</sup> 2023, the Town of Plympton-Wyoming Council passed the following motion, supporting the attached resolution from the Municipality of Wawa regarding Support of Bill C-310 and Amendments to Subsections 118.06 (2) & 118.07 (2) of the *Income Tax Act* (Tax Credit for Volunteer Firefighters).

***Motion 13***

*Moved by Councillor Mike Vasey*

*Seconded by Councillor Bob Woolvett*

*That Council support item 'R' of correspondence from the Municipality of Wawa regarding Tax Credit for Volunteer Fire Fighters.*

***Carried.***

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

Sincerely,

Ella Flynn  
Deputy Clerk  
Town of Plympton-Wyoming

cc: Sent via e-mail  
Association of Fire Chiefs of Ontario – [info@oafc.on.ca](mailto:info@oafc.on.ca)  
The Association of Ontario Municipalities (AMO) – [resolutions@amo.on.ca](mailto:resolutions@amo.on.ca)  
All Ontario Municipalities





The Corporation of the Municipality of Wawa

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

RESOLUTION

Tuesday, November 7, 2023

Resolution # RC23265	Meeting Order: 10
Moved by: <i>Cathy Fannon</i>	Seconded by: <i>J. Mal</i>

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

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

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

**WHEREAS** in 2013, the federal government initiated a tax credit recognizing these individuals, and calling on the federal government to increase this tax credit from \$3,000 to \$10,000; and;

**WHEREAS** volunteer firefighters account for 71% of Canada's total firefighting essential first responders;

- The tax code of Canada currently allows volunteer firefighters and search and rescue volunteers to claim a \$3,000 tax credit if 200 hours of volunteer services were completed in a calendar year;
- This works out to a mere \$450 per year, which we allow these essential volunteers to keep of their own income from their regular jobs, \$2.25 an hour;
- If they volunteer more than 200 hours, which many do, this tax credit becomes even less;
- These essential volunteers not only put their lives on the line and give their time, training and efforts to Canadians, but they also allow cities and municipalities to keep property taxes lower than if paid services were required;

*p.2...*



The Corporation of the Municipality of Wawa

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

RESOLUTION

- It would also help retain these volunteers in a time when volunteerism is decreasing.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Council of the Corporation of the Municipality of Wawa call upon the Government of Canada to support Bill C-310 and enact amendments to subsections 118.06 (2) and 118.07 (2) of the Income Tax Act in order to increase the amount of the tax credits for volunteer firefighting and search and rescue volunteer services from \$3,000 to \$10,000; and;

**FURTHERMORE THAT** a copy of the resolution be shared with the Association of Fire Chiefs of Ontario, Algoma Mutual Aid Association, Association of Municipalities of Ontario and all Ontario municipalities.

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

Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and the general nature thereof.

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


Clerk: \_\_\_\_\_

MAYOR - MELANIE PILON	CLERK - MAURY O'NEILL

This document is available in alternate formats.



# Northumberland County Council Resolution

 Corporate Services Department Legislative Services Division	
Date & Time Received:	February 26, 2024 8:33 am
Original To:	CIP
Copies To:	
Take Appropriate Action	<input type="checkbox"/> File <input type="checkbox"/>
Notes/Comments:	

**SENT VIA EMAIL**

**February 22, 2024**

Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario  
Honorable David Piccini, Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development  
Honorable Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing  
All Ontario Municipalities

**Re: Northumberland County Resolution –  
'Support for Amendment to the Occupational Health and Safety Act to Clarify  
the Definition of Employer'**

At a meeting held on February 21, 2024 Northumberland County Council approved the following Council Resolution # 2024-02-21-109 adopting the below recommendation from the February 6, 2024 Corporate Support Committee meeting.

**Moved by:** Councillor Lucas Cleveland  
**Seconded by:** Deputy Warden Olena Hankivsky

"**That** the Corporate Support Committee, having considered correspondence from the Town of Plympton-Wyoming and Township of Larder Lake regarding 'Support for Amendment to the Occupational Health and Safety Act to Clarify the Definition of Employer', recommend that County Council support this correspondence and attached motion from the City of Greater Sudbury; and

**Further That** the Committee recommend that County Council direct staff to send a copy of this resolution to the Honourable Doug Ford (Premier of Ontario), the Honorable David Piccini (Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development), and the Honorable Paul Calandra (Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing), and all Ontario Municipalities.

**Council Resolution # 2024-02-21-109**

**Carried**

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



**The Corporation of the  
County of Northumberland**

555 Courthouse Road  
Cobourg, ON, K9A 5J6

Sincerely,  
Maddison Mather

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "M. Mather".

Manager of Legislative Services / Clerk  
Northumberland County

# Council Resolution

Moved By L. Cleveland Agenda Item 10 Resolution Number 2024-02-21- 109  
 Seconded By O. Ankwilaga

Council Date: February 21, 2024

"That Council adopt all recommendations from the four Standing Committees, as contained within the Committee Minutes (meetings held February 6 and 7), with the exception of the following items (referenced from the Standing Committee Minutes), that will be held for discussion:

Committee Name	Item #	Description	Held By
		- Social Services Committee, Item 7.a, 'Correspondence, '310 Division Street, Cobourg' – Held by Councillor Cleveland	

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

Recorded Vote Requested by \_\_\_\_\_  
 Councillor's Name

Deferred \_\_\_\_\_  
 Warden's Signature

Carried  \_\_\_\_\_  
 Warden's Signature

Defeated \_\_\_\_\_  
 Warden's Signature

## Corporate Support Committee Resolution

---

**Committee Meeting Date:** February 6, 2024

**Agenda Item:** 7.b

**Resolution Number:** 2024-02-06-077

**Moved by:** S. Dibb

**Seconded by:** B. Ostrander

**Council Meeting Date:** February 21, 2024

---

"**That** the Corporate Support Committee, having considered correspondence from the Town of Plympton-Wyoming and Township of Larder Lake regarding 'Support for Amendment to the Occupational Health and Safety Act to Clarify the Definition of Employer', recommend that County Council support this correspondence and attached motion from the City of Greater Sudbury; and

**Further That** the Committee recommend that County Council direct staff to send a copy of this resolution to the Honourable Doug Ford (Premier of Ontario), the Honorable David Piccini (Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development), and the Honorable Paul Calandra (Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing), and all Ontario Municipalities.

**Carried**   
Committee Chair's Signature

**Defeated** \_\_\_\_\_  
Committee Chair's Signature

**Deferred** \_\_\_\_\_  
Committee Chair's Signature



---

The Honourable Doug Ford  
Premier of Ontario  
[premier@ontario.ca](mailto:premier@ontario.ca)  
*DELIVERED VIA EMAIL*

January 15<sup>th</sup> 2024

**Re: Amendment to the Occupational Health and Safety Act to Clarify the Definition of 'Employer'**

Dear Premier Ford,

Please be advised that at the Regular Council Meeting on January 10<sup>th</sup> 2024, the Town of Plympton-Wyoming Council passed the following motion, supporting the resolution from the City of Greater Sudbury re. Amendment to the Occupational Health & Safety Act to Clarify the Definition of 'Employer'.

***Motion 14***

*Moved by Councillor Bob Woolvett*

*Seconded by Councillor Kristen Rodrigues*

*That Council support item 'L' of correspondence from the City of Greater Sudbury re. Amendment to the Occupational Health & Safety Act to Clarify the Definition of 'Employer'.*

***Carried.***

If you have any questions regarding the above motion, please do not hesitate to contact me by phone or email at [ekwarciak@plympton-wyoming.ca](mailto:ekwarciak@plympton-wyoming.ca).

Sincerely,

Erin Kwarciak  
Clerk  
Town of Plympton-Wyoming

cc: Honourable David Piccini, Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development  
Honourable Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing  
Bob Bailey, MPP – Sarnia-Lambton  
Association of Municipal Affairs and Housing  
Ontario's Big City Mayors  
Mayors and Regional Chairs of Ontario  
Council of Ontario Construction Associations  
Ontario Chamber of Commerce  
All Ontario Municipalities

December 12, 2023

**\*Sent Via Email\***

Municipalities of Ontario

Re: Amendment to the Occupational Health and Safety Act to Clarify the Definition of "Employer"

The following resolution was passed by Council of the City of Greater Sudbury on December 5, 2023:

*CC2023-303: WHEREAS in 2015 the City of Greater Sudbury (the "City") entered into a contract with a contractor experienced in road construction projects to complete a project on Elgin Street in the City's downtown core;*

*AND WHEREAS the contract provided that the contractor would be the constructor for the project as that term is defined in the Occupational Health and Safety Act (the "Act");*

*AND WHEREAS an employee of the constructor operating a grader on the project struck and killed a pedestrian;*

*AND WHEREAS the City was charged with offences under the Act as the constructor and the employer;*

*AND WHEREAS after being acquitted at trial and on appeal, the Ontario Court of Appeal, in a decision issued on April 23, 2021, found the City to be liable for contraventions of the Construction Regulations as an employer as it employed quality control inspectors to monitor the quality of work on the project from time-to-time;*

*AND WHEREAS the Supreme Court of Canada, in a decision issued on November 10, 2023, was evenly divided 4-4 on the issue resulting in dismissal of the City's appeal;*

*AND WHEREAS the consequence of this decision is that municipalities in Ontario, as well as all other owners of property in the province, who wish to undertake construction, are subject to being charged and convicted as an employer for offences in relation to project sites for which they have no control and have, in accordance with the Act, contracted with an entity to assume plenary oversight and authority over the work on such site as the constructor; AND WHEREAS the potential of an owner being charged as an employer as that term is defined in the Act in circumstances where it has engaged a constructor disregards and renders meaningless the owner-constructor provisions contained in the Act and presents an unacceptable level of increased risk and confusion for owners and contractors throughout the province;*

PO BOX 5000 STN A  
200 BRADY STREET  
SUDBURY ON P3A 5P3

CP 5000 SUCCA  
200, RUE BRADY  
SUDBURY ON P3A 5P3

705.671.2489

www.greatersudbury.ca  
www.grandsudbury.ca

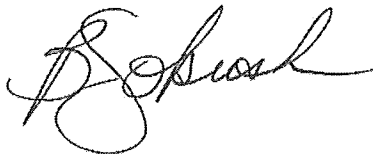


*AND WHEREAS the City believes that the safety of workers is paramount however the safety of workers on construction projects in Ontario is not increased by placing liability on parties that do not have control of and are not responsible for the conduct of the work on such sites;*

*NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council for the City of Greater Sudbury requests that the province amend the Occupational Health and Safety Act to clarify the definition of "employer" to exclude owners that have contracted with a constructor for a project;*

*AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this motion be provided to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, the Honourable David Piccini, Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development, the Honourable Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, France Gelin, MPP for Nickel Belt, Jamie West, MPP for Sudbury, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities, Ontario's Big City Mayors, Mayors and Regional Chairs of Ontario, Northern Ontario Large Urban Mayors, the Council of Ontario Construction Associations, the Ontario Chamber of Commerce and all Ontario municipalities.*

Yours truly,

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

Brigitte Sobush  
Manager of Clerk's Services/Deputy City Clerk

- c. Members of City Council  
Eric Labelle, City Solicitor and Clerk



**THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LARDER LAKE**  
69 FOURTH AVENUE, P. O. BOX 40, LARDER LAKE, ON P0K 1L0  
PH: 705-643-2158 FAX: 705-643-2311  
LARDERLAKE.CA

January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024

*\*Sent Via Email\**

Re: Amendment to the Occupational Health and Safety Act to Clarify the Definition of "Employer"

Please be advised that at the Township of Larder Lake Regular Council Meeting held Tuesday, January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024, the following resolution of support was adopted:

**Resolution: 4**

Moved by: Councillor Kelly

Seconded by: Mayor Quinn

BE IT RESOLVED, that Larder Lake Council hereby supports the City of Greater Sudbury regarding an amendment to the Occupational Health and Safety Act to clarify the definition of "Employer" And

FURTHER, that this resolution be forwarded to the Honorable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, the Honorable David Piccini, Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development, the Honorable Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, John Vanthof, Timiskaming-Cochrane MPP, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities, Ontario's Big City Mayors, Mayors and Regional Chairs of Ontario, Northern Ontario Large Urban Mayors, the Council of Ontario Construction Associations, the Ontario Chamber of Commerce and all Ontario municipalities.

**Carried**

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

Sincerely,

**Crystal Labbe**  
CAO/ Clerk Treasurer

**THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LARDER LAKE**

**69 Fourth Avenue, Larder Lake, ON**

Phone: 705-643-2158 Fax: 705-643-2311



MOVED BY:

- Thomas Armstrong
- Patricia Hull
- Paul Kelly
- Lynne Paquette

SECONDED BY:

- Thomas Armstrong
  - Patricia Hull
  - Paul Kelly
  - Lynne Paquette
- Mayor Quinn*

Motion #: 4

Resolution #: 4

Date: January 9, 2024

BE IT RESOLVED, that Larder Lake Council hereby supports the City of Greater Sudbury regarding an amendment to the Occupational Health and Safety Act to clarify the definition of "Employer" And

FURTHER, that this resolution be forwarded to the Honorable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, the Honorable David Piccini, Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development, the Honorable Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, John Vanthof, Timiskaming-Cochrane MPP, the Association of Municipalities OF Ontario, the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities, Ontario's Big City Mayors, Mayors and Reginal Chairs of Ontario, Northern Ontario Large Urban Mayors, the Council of Ontario Construction Associations, the Ontario Chamber of Commerce and all Ontario municipalities.

Recorded vote requested:

	For	Against
Tom Armstrong		
Patricia Hull		
Paul Kelly		
Lynne Paquette		
Patty Quinn		

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)

Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest*

Chair: *[Signature]*

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




# Township of Perry

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

PHONE: (705)636-5941

FAX: (705)636-5759

[www.townshipofperry.ca](http://www.townshipofperry.ca)

 Corporate Services Department Legislative Services Division	
Date & Time Received:	February 26, 2024 11:09 am
Original To:	CIP
Copies To:	
Take Appropriate Action	<input type="checkbox"/> File <input type="checkbox"/>
Notes/Comments:	

February 26, 2024

Via Email

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

Dear Premier Ford,

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

---

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

**"Resolution #2024-52**  
**Moved by: Paul Sowrey**  
**Seconded by: Jim Cushman**

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

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

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

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

...2

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

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

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

**Carried.”**

Your attention to this matter is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



Beth Morton  
Clerk-Administrator

BM/ec

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



Date & Time Received:	February 22, 2024 8:45 am
Original To:	CIP
Copies To:	
Take Appropriate Action	<input type="checkbox"/> File <input type="checkbox"/>
Notes/Comments:	

Box 608, Little Current, Ontario, POP 1K0  
705-368-3500

Please find below a motion of support for the recent motion shared by Renfrew County. We would also like to bring to everyone's attention a motion that we recently passed and forwarded on.

This is an issue that seems to be affecting many small communities and in these tight economic times an important factor to keeping residents in their homes and our water systems safe.

**Resolution No. 38-02-2024**

Moved by: D. Orr

Seconded by: L. Cook

RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands supports the resolution put forth by the County of Renfrew to advocate to the provincial and federal levels of government to make them aware that rural and small urban water and wastewater systems are financially unsustainable; and advocate to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the Rural Ontario Municipalities Association (ROMA) and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) to examine of the unaffordability of water and wastewater system operational costs is systemic provincially and nationally.

Carried

**Resolution No. 29-02-2024**

Moved by: D. Orr

Seconded by: M. Erskine

where they do not have sufficient financial resources to meet the ongoing demands of everyday living. This has created a situation where residents who are struggling to pay their daily expenses lack the financial resources to maintain the critical infrastructure required to sustain the water and wastewater systems that service their homes. It is critically important that the other levels of government recognize this fact and provide funding assistance that can be accessed based on operational and financial need. Whereas the current housing accelerator fund provides financial support for small communities and water and distribution systems are considered eligible under the program guidelines, And whereas one of the primary criteria for this funding is the ability to prove that the funds will accelerate the development of housing stock on the water or distribution system, And whereas many smaller communities are not experiencing the level of growth necessary to meet the requirements of the program for growth in housing stock, And whereas the water and wastewater systems in those communities represents a higher cost to operate per capita than the systems in larger built-up areas, And whereas the cost of maintaining those systems on a user-pay basis is creating undo financial hardship for the limited number of residents on those systems Therefor be it resolved that the Council for the Town of Northeastern Manitoulin and the Islands requests that the Province of Ontario implement a funding stream for water and wastewater systems that primarily utilizes operational and financial need as a criteria. And furthermore that a copy of this motion be forwarded to Premier Ford, the Ministry of Housing, the Ministry of the Environment and Michael Mantha, MPP

Carried

If this information is required in an accessible format, please contact 1-800-372-1102 ext. 2097.

## The Regional Municipality of Durham

### MINUTES

#### 9-1-1 MANAGEMENT BOARD

January 30, 2024

A regular meeting of the 9-1-1 Management Board was held in Meeting Room 1-B, Regional Municipality of Durham Headquarters, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby, at 11:03 AM. Electronic participation was permitted for this meeting.

#### 1. Roll Call

Present: M. Berney, Scugog Fire & Emergency Services\*, Chair  
G. O'Blenes, Durham Regional Police\*  
W. Spindler, Oshawa Central Ambulance Communications Centre, Ministry of Health – Emergency Health Program Management & Delivery Branch\*  
B. Garrod, Durham Regional Council  
M. Simpson, Director of Risk Management, Economic Studies and Procurement, Durham Region  
J. Wichman, Communications/9-1-1 Technical Manager  
\* **denotes members of the Committee participating electronically**

Absent: T. Cheseboro, Region of Durham Paramedic Services

#### Staff

Present: R. Inacio, Systems Support Specialist, Corporate Services – IT  
N. Prasad, Assistant Secretary to Council, Legislative Services Division – Corporate Services Department

#### 2. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

#### 3. Appointment of Chair

N. Prasad advised that in accordance with the provisions contained in the 9-1-1 Joint Powers Agreement, it is required that a representative of either the Police or Fire Agencies Chair the meetings on a rotating annual basis.

It was the consensus of the Board that M. Berney will assume the position of Chair for the 2024 9-1-1 Management Board meetings.

M. Berney assumed the Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

**4. Approval of Minutes**

Moved by M. Simpson, Seconded by G. O'Blenes,

(1) That the minutes of the 9-1-1 Management Board meeting held on September 26, 2023, be adopted.

CARRIED

**5. Introduction of New Representative, Oshawa Central Ambulance Communications Centre**

Wayne Spindler introduced himself and advised that since June 2023 he has been the Acting Manager for the Central Ambulance Communications Centre (CAC) in Oshawa and has been with the CAC since 2010.

**6. 9-1-1 Call Statistics**

J. Wichman provided the statistics for calls transferred for 2023 provided by Bell Canada 9-1-1. He stated that the total calls for Durham Region was 256,983, approximately a 7.4% increase from 2022. He also stated that 7% has been the standard increase for call volume over the last several years.

J. Wichman responded to questions with regards to the difference between no-answer and wireless hangups and was asked to narrow down the call volume locally.

Discussion ensued with regards to the positive trend over the years.

**7. DRPS Update re: 9-1-1 System**

J. Wichman advised that there were no complaints since the last meeting.

**8. Regional Municipality of Durham 9-1-1 Policy and Procedure Manual – “Answering Procedure”**

J. Wichman and G. O'Blenes provided an overview of the discussion from the September 26, 2023 meeting with regards to the answering procedure in the Durham 9-1-1 Policy and Procedure Manual.

It was stated that clarity is needed on the procedure for 911 transfers to allow for call takers to stay on the line and to further monitor the call rather than quickly disconnecting.

G. O'Blenes stated that the flow chart says a clear line disconnect but would prefer that it be changed to be more reflective of what is stated in the policy manual. He stated that this change would mean going from a “clear line disconnect” to a “clear line disconnect once it is determined that police is no longer required”. It was noted that updating the flow chart would avoid the unintended consequences of the call taker wanting or feeling the need to disengage too fast.



Moved by M. Simpson, Seconded by G. O'Blenes,  
(2) That the 2020 9-1-1 Policy and Procedure Manual be amended  
administratively as follows:

That the Flow Chart on page 6 of the Manual be updated to reflect the  
language on pages 9 and 13 of the Manual to better depict the required  
response.

CARRIED

## 9. 2024 Budget Presentation

J. Wichman provided an overview of the 2024 9-1-1 Emergency System  
Business Plans and Budget. M. Simpson stated that the budget meets the  
Regional Council guidelines and has been approved by the Regional  
Treasurer.

Highlights of the presentation included:

- Durham Budget 2024
- 9-1-1 Emergency System
- Major Programs and Services
- Strategic Priorities
- Key Targets for 2024
- Financial Details: Summary by Account
- Financial Details: Summary by Program
- Financial Details: Summary by Capital
- Details of Budget Changes
- Staffing Details
- Appendix A: 2024 9-1-1 Emergency Service System Capital Projects

J. Wichman responded to questions with regards to clarification of the  
economic increases listed under the details of budget changes.

It was requested that the presentation be provided at the February 8<sup>th</sup>  
Regional Fire Chiefs Meeting in Whitby at 10 am.

Moved by Councillor Garrod, Seconded by J. Wichman,  
(3) That we recommend to the Finance and Administration Committee  
for subsequent recommendation to Regional Council:

That the 2024 Business Plans and Budget for the 9-1-1 Emergency  
Service System be approved.

CARRIED

**10. Update on 9-1-1 Call Diversion Program**

J. Wichman advised that there are currently two programs within DRPS. He stated that one program started over two years ago and was a response initiative where officers would respond to mental health calls with a mental health nurse, which was successful. He advised that in September 2022, DRPS started an initiative with Lakeridge Health to bring in a crisis call diversion clinician within the 911 Centre. He advised that the clinician has been running for over a year and provided some statistics of the calls that were diverted to them. He advised that the clinician is not 24/7 and call takers work Monday to Friday, for 10 to 12 hours per day. The callers are well known callers to the Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) so it frees up time for the call takers to work on other emergency calls. Now that the program has been running for over a year, they are currently doing a review on the sustainability and viability of crisis call diversion.

Discussion ensued with regards to the success of the program and it was stated that it is a proactive measure to address the current mental health crisis in the community.

**Other Departments - Comments/Concerns**

a) Comments/Concerns – Regional Council

Councillor Garrod thanked G. O’Blenes and W. Spindler for their assistance in helping a local resident that was in distress and for the significant effort that was put into the investigation. He stated that the level of attention and detail is reflective of their commitment to their roles.

Councillor Garrod also advised of an accident that took place in Uxbridge on January 29<sup>th</sup> at Sandford and Concession Road 6. He stated that the outstanding response to the accident reflects the emergency service that is available throughout the Durham.

Councillor Garrod also thanked all members of the Board for their guidance and support in assisting him with better understanding the 9-1-1 Management Board.

b) Comments/Concerns – Durham Police

J. Wichman provided an overview of a new Dashboard with regards to wireless hangups. He stated that the Dashboard was created by their Planning Department and is based off numbers from the Computer Assisted Dispatch (CAD) system, broken down by municipality, and is based on statistics entered by the call takers.

J. Wichman also advised that National Public Safety Telecommunicator Week is taking place from April 14<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup>.

G. Oblenes welcomed W. Spindler to the Board and thanked the Central Ambulance Communications Centre for their tremendous efforts.

c) Comments/Concerns – Fire Departments

M. Berney advised that the two dispatch centres for fire across Durham Region are unifying and coming together in the Central Operations Depot (COD) for the City of Oshawa and will be operated by the City of Oshawa. He advised that the anticipated completion date is March 31<sup>st</sup> and the move is a transition from Crisis as the CAD provider to Hexagon as the CAD provider.

d) Comments/Concerns – Oshawa Central Ambulance Communications Centre

W. Spindler stated that the Central Ambulance Communications Centre has added some Operations Managers which will allow them to better prepare for NG 9-1-1 and Medical Priority Dispatch System (MPDS). He advised that MPDS is the algorithm that is used to triage calls.

e) Comments/Concerns – Durham Finance

M. Simpson requested that DRPS provide an update on cyber security and staying current on cyber security. J. Wichman advised that there will be a presentation at the next meeting.

f) Comments/Concerns – Region of Durham Paramedic Services

T. Cheseboro was absent.

**11. Other Business**

a) Start Time for Next Meeting

Discussion ensued and it was the consensus of the Board to start the next meeting at 11 AM.

**12. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the 9-1-1 Management Board will be held on Tuesday, April 23, 2024 at the Regional Municipality of Durham Headquarters, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby, in Council Chambers.

**13. Adjournment**

Moved by G. O'Blenes, Seconded by Councillor Garrod  
(4) That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 12:01 PM

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M. Berney, Chair

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N. Prasad, Assistant Secretary to  
Council

If this information is required in an accessible format, please contact 1-800-372-1102 ext. 2097.

## The Regional Municipality of Durham

### MINUTES

#### DURHAM AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

February 13, 2024

A meeting of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee was held on Tuesday, February 13, 2024 in Meeting Room 1-B, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby, Ontario at 7:30 PM. Electronic participation was offered for this meeting.

#### 1. Roll Call

Present: T. Barrie, Clarington  
Z. Cohoon, Member at Large, Chair  
R. Death, Whitby  
N. Guthrie, Ajax  
Councillor Neal, Regional Councillor Alternate  
G. O'Connor, Member at Large  
D. Risebrough, Member at Large, Vice-Chair  
H. Schillings, Member at Large  
M. Shiers, Durham Region Federation of Agriculture  
B. Smith, Uxbridge, Vice-Chair  
D. Stevenson, Oshawa  
N. Swain, Scugog  
T. Watpool, Brock

Absent: B. Hulshof, Uxbridge  
J. McKay, Durham Farm Fresh  
M. Somerville, Member at Large  
G. Taylor, Pickering  
W. Wotten, Regional Councillor

#### Staff

Present: A. Chung, Systems Support Specialist, Corporate Services – IT  
C. Goodchild\*, Director of Planning  
M. Scott, Project Planner, Department of Planning and Economic Development  
K. Smith, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services  
L. Talling, Acting Manager, Agricultural & Rural Economic Development, Department of Planning and Economic Development  
**\* denotes staff participating electronically**

**2. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**3. Adoption of Minutes**

Moved by B. Smith, Seconded by M. Shiers,  
That the minutes of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting  
held on Tuesday, January 13, 2024, be adopted.

CARRIED

**4. Discussion Items**

A) Agriculture 101 Training

L. Talling advised that the Agriculture 101 Training presentation was provided by Z. Cohoon and N. Guthrie to Town of Ajax Council on January 29, 2024; by M. Sommerville to City of Pickering Council on February 5, 2024; and by T. Barrie to Municipality of Clarington Council on February 12, 2024. L. Talling provided a brief overview of the discussion items brought forward during each of the presentations.

Discussion ensued with regards to the length of the presentation; how the Provincial Policy Statement is not consistent across municipalities; how to address questions from the local municipalities; and when the backyard chicken resolution will be presented to Regional Council.

M. Scott advised that questions from the presentations related to Planning can be provided to him to assist with answering.

L. Talling advised that the Agriculture 101 Training presentation will be delivered to the Township of Uxbridge and City of Oshawa Councils on February 26, 2024, and to Town of Whitby Council on March 3, 2024.

B) Rural and Agricultural Economic Development Update

L. Talling provided the following update:

- Canadian Agriculture Day takes place on February 13, 2024 and Durham Region has posted on social media to show its support and appreciation for the agricultural industry and the food they produce.
- The North Durham Agriculture-Related and On-Farm Diversified Uses (OFDU) policy and development application process project is currently in the Request for Proposal (RFP) phase and are looking to engage with consultants.
- The Agriculture Tour for municipal planners, economic developers and building staff has been set for March 27, 2024 and will take place at

Mustards Dairy Farm and Soybean Roaster, St. Lawrence Grains & Farm Supply, and Slabtown Cider.

- The application process for the Agri Food Gateway Program, delivered by Durham College with support from National Research Council Canada, Industrial Research Assistant Program and Durham Region application process is now open until March 31, 2024.

C) Agriculture Advisory Committee Clarington Update

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T. Barrie stated that at the February 8, 2024 meeting of the Clarington Agriculture Advisory Committee, there was a presentation from Todd Brown of Monteith Brown Planning Consultants and they were looking for advice on rural development and how to develop rural areas to be more socially favourable.

Discussion ensued with regards to entertainment available in the rural areas of Clarington.

D) Durham Farm Fresh Update

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Rob Alexander, Chair, Durham Farm Fresh was in attendance in J. McKay's absence. He advised that the annual membership renewal is underway and is expected to be consistent with previous membership levels at 65-70 members. He further advised that Durham Farm Fresh received Provincial funding to hire a joint coordinator.

E) Greater Golden Horseshoe Food and Farming Alliance Update

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M. Scott advised that there is no Greater Golden Horseshoe Food and Farming Alliance update at this time.

M. Scott responded to questions with regards to who are the Regional representatives for the Greater Golden Horseshoe Food and Farming Alliance and who the current Chair is.

F) Durham Region Federation of Agriculture Update

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M. Shiers stated that at the last meeting there was discussion on putting together a joint meeting between the Durham, Lindsay and Peterborough Associations.

M. Shiers raised a concern received from a member regarding traffic lights installed in the Municipality of Clarington at Regional Road 34 and Concession 7 as there was not a lot of public consultation done and the space is very tight.

Discussion ensued with regards to the location of the traffic lights; whether Durham Region installed the traffic lights; and providing advice to the Works Department for driving large vehicles through roundabouts and intersections.

M. Scott advised that he having discussions with Works Department staff to provide an annual presentation to the Committee.

G) Growing North Durham Plan Annual Activity Report

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Report #2024-EDT-4 of the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development – Growing North Durham Plan Annual Activity Report was provided as Attachment #2 to the Agenda and received.

L. Talling advised that the purpose of Report #2024-EDT-4 was to provide an annual update on the Growing North Durham: Rural Economic Development Action Plan. The Report was accompanied by staff presentations from Stacey Jibb and Glen Macfarlane to Committees of Council of each of the three Northern municipalities, as well as to the Planning and Economic Development Committee on February 6, 2024.

L. Talling stated that the action plan is structured into three pillars being People, Places and Prosperity, and the report and presentation provided an update on the activities within each pillar.

H) 2024 Farm Tour Planning

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D. Risebrough advised there does not seem to be any interest from the suggested farmer to host this year's Farm Tour and suggested seeking another host.

Z. Cohoon asked Committee members for their feedback on the following questions:

- What do you think is the most important aspect or issue of agriculture that the Committee wants to highlight in today's political and social environment?

Committee members suggested lack of processing plants; transportation issues; innovation or succession shown in rural areas; food security; and education for students and youth.

- How can that be showcased at a farm tour and which would provide the best learning experience for Regional staff and those invited?

Committee members suggested Rekker's Greenhouse; Algoma Orchards; Tara Hills Stud Farm; Richter Herbs; Greenwood Mushroom Farm, potato farmers; Hamilton Oshawa Port Authority; Twin Erin Farms; and Mulders Potato Farm.

The Committee discussed past farm tour locations; farm tour community location; potential keynote speakers; and potential dates for the farm tour.



**5. Information Items**

- A) Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee Resolution re: Bill C-234: An Act to Amend the Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act

Correspondence with regards to Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee Resolution, re: Bill C-234: An Act to Amend the Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act was provided as Attachment #3 to the Agenda and received.

- B) Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee Resolution re: Independent Electricity Systems Operator (IESO) Battery Storage Sites

Correspondence with regards to Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee Resolution, re: Independent Electricity Systems Operator (IESO) Battery Storage Sites was provided as Attachment #4 to the Agenda and received.

- C) Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee 2023 Annual Report and 2024 Workplan (2024-P-1)

Correspondence with regards to Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee 2023 Annual Report and 2024 Workplan (2024-P-1) was provided as Attachment #5 to the Agenda and received.

- D) Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee (DECAC) Minutes – January 18, 2024

Durham Environment and Climate Advisory Committee (DECAC) minutes dated January 18, 2024 was provided as a link to the Agenda and received.

- E) Ontario Farmland Trust – Farmland Forum

M. Scott advised that registration is now open for the Farmland Forum that will be taking place on March 21, 2024.

**6. Other Business**

- A) Accommodations on a Bona Fide Farm in North Oshawa

Councillor Neal raised a concern received from a farmer who is having an issue with a potential by-law infraction in the City of Oshawa related to a mobile dwelling. Councillor Neal asked Committee members if there is anything they can do to assist.

Discussion ensued with regards to why the City of Oshawa is having issues with the site; whether the proper rules and permits were followed; and whether the issue is within the scope of Durham Region or the City of Oshawa.

B) Railway Crossing

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H. Schillings raised a concern received from a farmer in Clarington regarding a railway track crossing on their property and the railway company wanting the upkeep of the tracks to be paid for by the landowners.

Discussion ensued with regards to similar issues in other municipalities and whether the cost of the upkeep should fall on the railway company or landowner.

C) Oshawa's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

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Councillor Neal advised that the City of Oshawa is celebrating its 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year.

D) Director of Sustainability

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Z. Cohoon requested to have the Director of Sustainability invited to a future meeting for discussion on agriculture and sustainability.

E) Stormwater Management Fees

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Z. Cohoon advised that the Town of Ajax has implemented stormwater management fees that are being charged to tax bills and it is significantly impacting farmers.

Z. Cohoon requested to have staff provide a presentation to the Committee regarding stormwater management fees.

Discussion ensued with regards to who is being impacted by the change; the fee being for where water cannot percolate into the ground; putting forward a motion to exempt farms from the stormwater management fees due to the nature of the business; and how many municipalities in Ontario have implemented this fee.

**7. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee will be held on Tuesday, March 19, 2024 starting at 7:30 PM.

**8. Adjournment**

Moved by D. Risebrough, Seconded by B. Smith,  
That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 9:02 PM

Respectfully submitted,

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Z. Cohoon, Chair

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K. Smith, Committee Clerk

If this information is required in an accessible format, please contact 1-800-372-1102 ext. 2097.

## The Regional Municipality of Durham

### MINUTES

#### TRANSIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

February 20, 2024

A meeting of the Transit Advisory Committee was held on Tuesday, February 20, 2024 in Meeting Room 1-B, Regional Municipality of Durham Headquarters, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby at 7:00 PM. Electronic participation was offered for this meeting.

#### 1. Roll Call

Present: Commissioner Crawford, Chair  
M. Bonk, Brock  
R. Claxton-Oldfield\*, Member at Large  
P. Gunti\*, Clarington, Vice-Chair  
W. Henshall\*, AAC  
J. McEwen\*, AAC  
T. Ralph, Whitby  
T. Smale, Member at Large  
R. Smith, Community Group, Durham Association for Family Resources  
**\* denotes members of the Committee participating electronically**

Absent: A. Ali, Ajax  
A. Andrus, Community Group, Participation House  
I. Giffin, Uxbridge  
A. Mujeeb, Pickering

#### Staff

Present: F. Amin\*, Administrative Assistant, Durham Region Transit  
S. Ciani\*, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services  
S. Dessureault, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services  
B. Holmes, General Manager, Durham Region Transit  
R. Inacio, Systems Support Specialist, Corporate Services – IT  
N. Lysaght\*, Manager, Policy and Planning, Durham Region Transit  
Z. Osime-Fakolade\*, Program Manager, Engagement and Change Management, Durham Region Transit  
**\* denotes staff participating electronically**

#### 2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

**3. Adoption of Minutes**

Moved by T. Smale, Seconded by J. McEwen,  
That the minutes of the regular Durham Region Transit Advisory  
Committee meeting held on Tuesday November 21, 2023, be adopted.  
CARRIED

**4. Presentations**

A) January Service Optimization

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B. Holmes, General Manager, Durham Region Transit, provided a PowerPoint presentation with regards to January Service Optimization.

Highlights of the presentation included:

- Network Performance, January Service Change
- Reliability – Early January 2024
- Capacity – Early January 2024
- 3 Route Adjustments Implement

B. Holmes responded to questions with regards to the effects of the network optimization; the relocation of routes from the Harmony terminal in Oshawa; the communication process for informing Durham Region Transit (DRT) ridership about route changes; delivery of new buses to replace the buses lost during the fire in August and nine leased buses that will be added to the DRT fleet, and if this addition supports the resumption of service on routes that have been impacted by optimization; the process followed by DRT when receiving requests for new or revised routing requests through Customer Service; and a concern that optimization of the network supporting cross boundary services between Durham and Toronto have caused diminishing service levels within urban areas across the Region of Durham.

Discussion ensued with regards to carbon taxes on DRT diesel fuel; and ensuring DRT service information is available in a more accessible way.

**5. Delegations**

There were no delegations.

**6. Correspondence Items**

There were no communication items to be considered.

**7. Information Items**

There were no information items to be considered.

**8. Discussion Items**

A) AODA Standards

W. Henshall advised that the Ontario government has released revisions to the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) and questioned if DRT is meeting the new requirements.

B. Holmes advised that DRT complies to the requirements of the Integrated Accessibility Standards of the AODA, and the bus stop hard surfacing program is planned to meet the 2025 deadline.

B) TAC Action Plan

W. Henshall requested that the Transit Advisory Committee (TAC) establish a concise list of priorities for this term of the TAC.

B. Holmes advised that DRT could support the initiative by scheduling a special TAC meeting and provide an independent facilitator to assist TAC to discuss and agree to their priorities.

C) On Demand vehicles currently experiencing delays due to traffic and the possible use of bus lanes

R. Smith requested an update with regards to the ability for On Demand vehicles to use transit lanes due to the Region of Durham's Traffic and Parking By-law.

B. Holmes advised DRT staff will review the matter and provide a response to the committee at a future meeting.

D) Accessibility Awareness Training Program for Durham Region Transit Employees and Contractors

R. Smith raised concerns regarding the specific training DRT staff and staff of the On Demand contractor, Voyago, receive related to assisting riders with accessibility issues, and who provides this training to staff.

B. Holmes advised that DRT has identified the required training to be provided and delivered by Voyago, which is consistent with the standards expected by DRT for its staff. B. Holmes also advised that more details related to the specifics of accessibility training can be provided at the May 21, 2024, Transit Advisory Committee meeting.

Discussion ensued regarding enhanced tactics that could assist both DRT staff and riders with identifying an individual with an accessibility issue. Staff advised that in 2024 they will implement the Sunflower program, where transit users can choose to wear a sunflower pin or lanyard when using transit which signals to the bus operator and others that the person has a hidden disability and may require additional support or understanding. Staff identified that options are being explored to enhance DRT staff awareness and understanding of the transit

experience of persons with various disabilities, which is being considered to coincide with the launch of the Sunflower program.

E) Transit Fare Rates

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T. Smale raised concerns regarding affordability with the fare increase that is proposed for 2024, and the sustainability of annual fare increases to support DRT's growth model.

B. Holmes advised that Report #2024-DRT-03 2024: Transit Fares, has been approved by the Transit Executive Committee and will be on the agenda for the February 28, 2024, Regional Council meeting. The proposed fare increase for this year is 7.5% and ensures the DRT fare table remains consistent with fares across the Greater Toronto Hamilton Area (GTHA). The proposed fare increase considers the 2024 budget guideline and will ensure DRT can maximize the 2024 revenue service hours to respond to record ridership demands across both scheduled and On Demand services and reliability challenges experienced across the network.

**9. Other Business**

A) Ten Year Expansion Plan

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T. Ralph raised concerns with regards to an article in the media that stated that the DRT 10-year transit growth strategy is being negatively impacted by budget decisions at the Region which do not fully fund DRT to reach the intended service targets.

Staff advised some articles may not accurately reflect decisions or expected outcomes. Staff also advised that the 2024 DRT Business Plan and Budget will be presented at the Transit Executive Committee scheduled on March 6, 2024.

**10. Date of Next Meeting**

Tuesday, May 21, 2024 at 7:00 PM

**11. Adjournment**

Moved by T. Smale, Seconded by M. Bonk,  
That the meeting be adjourned.  
CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 8:39 PM.

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M. Crawford, Chair, Transit Advisory Committee

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S. Dessureault, Committee Clerk