

Northumberland County Council Resolution

The Corporation of the County of Northumberland

555 Courthouse Road Cobourg, ON, K9A 5J6

Corporate Services Department Legislative Services Division				
Date & Time Received:	January 08, 2025 1:23 pm			
Original To:	CIP			
Copies To:				
Take Appropriate Action File				
Notes/Comments:				

January 7, 2025

Honourable Doug Ford (Premier of Ontario)

Honourable Andrea Khanjin (Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks)

Honourable Rob Flack (Minister of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness)

Honorable David Piccini (Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development and MPP for Northumberland-Peterborough South)

Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA)

Northumberland Federation of Agriculture

All Ontario municipalities

SENT VIA EMAIL

Re: Correspondence, 'Protection of Agricultural Lands and Sustainable Development'

At a meeting held on December 18, 2024 Northumberland County Council approved Council Resolution # 2024-12-18-909, adopting the below recommendation from the December 2, 2024 Public Works Committee meeting:

Moved by: Councillor Mandy Martin **Seconded by:** Councillor Robert Crate

"That the Public Works Committee, having considered the correspondence from the Township of Puslinch regarding 'Protection of Agricultural Lands and Sustainable Development', recommend that County Council support the correspondence and direct staff to send a copy of this resolution to key stakeholders."

Council Resolution # 2024-12-18-909

Carried

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

Sincerely, Maddison Mather

Manager of Legislative Services / Clerk Northumberland County



Council Resolution

Moved ByR			Agenda Item 15	Resolution Number 2024-12-18- <u>909</u>		
			Council Dat	e: December 18, 2024		
"That Council adopt all recommendations from the five Standing Committees, as contained within the Committee Minutes (meetings held December 2, 3, and 4, 2024), with the exception of the following items (referenced from the Standing Committee Minutes), that will be held for discussion:						
Committee I Name #		escription		Held By		
		tee, Item 8.a, 'F	•	6 'Long-term Care		
And Further That th separate resolution."	e items listed a	above and held	for separate dis	scussion each require a		
Recorded Vot Requested b	У	cillor's Name	Carried	· Warden's Signature		
Deferre		n's Signature	Defeated _	Warden's Signature		



Public Works Committee Resolution

Committee Meeting Date: December 2, 2024

Agenda Item: 7.d

Resolution Number: 2024-12-02- 860

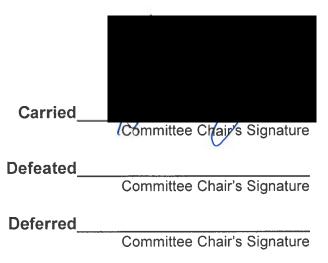
Moved by: <u>J. Logel</u>

Seconded by:

B. Ostrander

Council Meeting Date: December 18, 2024

"That the Public Works Committee, having considered the correspondence from the Township of Puslinch regarding 'Protection of Agricultural Lands and Sustainable Development', recommend that County Council support the correspondence and direct staff to send a copy of this resolution to key stakeholders."





Township of Puslinch

Puslinch, ON NOB 2J0

www.puslinch.ca

November 7, 2024

7404 Wellington Road 34

Hon. Paul Calandra Minister of Environment, Conversation and Parks

VIA EMAIL:

Paul.Calandra@pc.ola.org

Hon. Doug Ford Premier of Ontario VIA EMAIL:

premier@ontario.ca

Hon. Matthew Rae, MPP

VIA EMAIL:

Matthew.Rae@pc.ola.org

Hon. Rob Flack

Minister of Agriculture, Food, and Agribusiness

VIA EMAIL:

minister.omafra@ontario.ca

Hon. Ted Arnott, MPP

VIA EMAIL:

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Barclay Nap

Wellington Federation of

Agriculture

VIA EMAIL:

napbarclay@gmail.com

RE: Motion for the Protection of Agricultural Lands and Sustainable Development in Relation to Provincial Projects and Excess Soil Management Practices

Please be advised that Township of Puslinch Council, at its meeting held on October 23, 2024 considered the aforementioned topic and subsequent to discussion, the following was resolved:

Resolution No. 2024-378: Moved by Councillor Hurst and

Seconded by Councillor Sepulis

Whereas the provincial government is undertaking:

- a) significant road and underground projects over the next ten years which will generate significant excess soil to be managed and disposed; and
- b) studies of underground projects that if implemented will also generate significant excess soil: and



Whereas landfill sites across Ontario are already near capacity, necessitating amendments to legislation to allow certain quality soil to be disposed at excess soil reuse sites instead of being disposed of in landfills effective January 1, 2025; and

Whereas the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) is currently under resourced and lacks the capacity to effectively manage the additional enforcement and oversight required for the relocation of excess soil; and

Whereas the responsibility to enforce and oversee excess soil regulations is being downloaded onto municipalities, which have limited enforcement capabilities and face the risk of significant costs being passed on to local taxpayers; and

Whereas contamination of existing soil and groundwater is a significant concern, particularly in rural municipalities with valuable agricultural lands and reliance on groundwater for its residents; and

Whereas agricultural lands must be prioritized equally with housing needs, roads and underground infrastructure; failure to adequately protect these lands could exacerbate the ongoing food crisis in Ontario; and

Whereas Ontario is not alone in navigating the challenges of sustainable development, and the United Nations provides guidance through its Sustainable Development Report, which includes goals focused on economic growth, infrastructure, sustainable communities, hunger, clean water and sanitation, climate action, and life on land; and

Whereas it is critical that governments consider the comprehensive impacts on all of these areas when conducting feasibility studies and implementing projects which generate excess soil; and

Whereas neglecting to account for the broader implications of projects may lead to negative outcomes;

Therefore Be It Resolved that the Council of the Township of Puslinch calls on the provincial government to:



- Prioritize the protection of agricultural lands in the management of excess soil from roads and underground projects and in the planning and feasibility studies related to such projects.
- 2. Ensure that adequate resources are allocated to the MECP to support effective enforcement and oversight of excess soil regulations.
- 3. Collaborate with municipalities to provide necessary support and funding for enforcement activities related to excess soil management, minimizing financial burdens on local taxpayers.
- 4. Conduct a comprehensive impact assessment that considers all aspects of sustainable development, in alignment with the United Nations Sustainable Development Report, before proceeding with the traffic tunnel project and any further amendments to excess soil legislation; and

That the Township of Puslinch Council direct staff to send a copy of this resolution to the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks; the Premier of Ontario; all Ontario municipalities; MPP Arnott; MPP Rae; the Wellington Federation of Agriculture; and OMAFRA requesting support for the protection of agricultural lands and sustainable development practices in Ontario.

CARRIED

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

Sincerely,

Justine Brotherston Municipal Clerk

CC: All Ontario Municipalities