



COUNCIL INFORMATION PACKAGE

Friday, October 2, 2026

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor, Council and Residents

FROM: Andrea Daisley, Chief Human Resources Officer

DATE: October 2, 2026

SUBJECT: Response to Notice of Motion - Indigenous Reconciliation Action Plan Review Update

At its meeting of September 23, 2025, Council directed staff to review the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Indigenous Reconciliation Action Plan and identify actions the City of Welland could undertake to further advance reconciliation within the organization and community. [Notice of Motion - September 23, 2025 - Councillor Setaram](#)

Following Council's direction to review the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Indigenous Reconciliation Action Plan and identify actions that may further advance reconciliation within the City of Welland, staff have commenced work in support of this initiative. This memo provides an update on one of the actions currently underway as part of the broader review and evaluation of opportunities identified through the AMO Indigenous Reconciliation Action Plan.

As an initial step, Human Resources has arranged Indigenous Awareness Training for all City employees. The training will be delivered by CultureAlly on October 1, 2026, in recognition of Orange Shirt Day. The session will focus on Indigenous histories, cultures, contemporary issues, and reconciliation. Employees will be able to participate in the live virtual session or access a recording following the training.

This initiative aligns with the Education and Awareness pathway identified within the AMO Indigenous Reconciliation Action Plan and represents an important step in fostering greater understanding and awareness across the organization.

Staff will continue to review the plan and assess initiatives, opportunities, and best practices that may be appropriate for implementation within the City of Welland.

As this work progresses, additional initiatives may be identified and undertaken. Staff will continue to evaluate potential actions and will bring forward recommendations for Council's consideration where appropriate.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and Council

FROM: Andrea Daisley, Chief Human Resources Officer

DATE: October 2, 2026

SUBJECT: 2027-2028 Holiday Closure

Since 1993, City Hall operations have been closed between Christmas Day and New Year's Day. With advance planning and early communication, this annual practice has consistently occurred with minimal disruption to municipal services and residents.

To continue this longstanding practice, City Hall will be closed from the close of business on Friday, December 24, 2027, through Friday, December 31, 2027, with regular business operations resuming on Monday, January 3, 2028. This represents a total of five (5) regular business days.

Providing advance notice supports effective operational planning across departments, ensures continuity of essential services, and allows for timely communication with employees and the public.

Essential services, including Fire and Emergency Services and other operational areas that provide continuous service, will continue to operate in accordance with established schedules.

The closure dates are outlined in the chart below.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
29	30	01	02	03	04	05
06	07	08	09	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day	26 Boxing Day
27 Christmas Day Observed	28 Boxing Day Observed	29 Floater	30 Vacation/Lieu	31 New Years Day Observed	01 New Years Day	02
03 Return to normal hours	Actual Holiday Closure Day Normal Operations					

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council

FROM: Adam Beres, Manager of Procurement

DATE: October 01, 2026

SUBJECT: Authorized Purchase Update September 2026

In accordance with Procurement Policy & By-Law 2025-110, this memo provides Council with a summary of competitive procurement results for capital projects awarded between June 5, 2026, and September 16, 2026.

The attached summary outlines procurement activities completed during the reporting period and reflects awards made through the City's competitive purchasing processes. All associated procurement reports were prepared by staff and reviewed, approved, and signed by the appropriate member of the Leadership Team in accordance with the City's Purchasing Policy prior to award.

Should members of Council require additional information regarding any project listed in the attached summary, including project scope, timelines, or other project-specific details, they are encouraged to contact the respective Department Head directly to ensure accurate and timely information is provided through the appropriate staff resource.

Authorized Purchase Update September 2026

Report Date	Project Name	Account	Budget Book Page #	Budget Approval Year	Original Approved Budget	Remaining Budget at time of award	Awarded To	Amount Includes City Portion of Tax
June 10	2026 Road Resurfacing Contract	10-330-26167 10-320-26167 10-327-26167 10-316-26167	188 188 188 188	2026 2026 2026 2026	\$895,723	\$895,723	Circle P Paving Inc.	\$348,978
June 11	Sidewalk Condition Related Replacements & Missing Links Program	10-316-26102	196	2026	\$275,000	\$275,000	Sacco Construction Ltd.	\$215,214
June 29	Gas Main Relocations, Ontario Rd	10-330-25701 10-330-26701	104 182	2025 2026	\$27,954,875 (Note 1)	\$17,280,565 (Note 2)	Enbridge Gas (Note 3)	\$174,857
July 3	Cooks Mills Community Centre and Park Detailed Design	10-448-26474	153	2026	\$300,000	\$300,000	Quartek Group Inc.	\$241,700
July 13	2026 Asphalt Patching Program	10-320-26154	192	2026	\$240,000	\$240,000	Circle P. Paving Inc.	\$203,097
July 6	Stage 3 Archeological Assessments, Ridge Rd	10-825-26653	166	2026	\$700,000	\$696,162	Stantec Consulting Ltd.	\$360,950
July 24	Ditching and Culvert Replacement	10-327-26351	199	2026	\$500,000	\$495,438	CRL Campbell	\$109,463
July 28	Braden Ave, McNab Drive, Tamarack St and Diffin Dr Infrastructure Renewals Consultation	10-316/320/327/330/910-26169	186	2026	\$4,282,600	\$4,282,600	JGE Limited	\$121,725
Aug 17	Replacement of Straight Truck, Water Dept	10-910-26301	213	2026	\$199,806	\$199,806	Kenworth Truck Sales	\$177,571
Sept 9	Seasonal rental of loaders, Winter Control (Nov 2026 to March 2027)	20-322-520040	90	2026	\$120,000	\$99,648 (Note 4)	Brandt Tractor	\$105,576

Please refer to notes below.

Note 1 – The Ontario Road Trunk Sanitary Sewer multi-asset project was approved through the 2025 and 2026 budget processes. The budget was further refined in ENG-2026-12 on June 16, 2026.

Note 2 – The budget remaining at June 30, 2026, is outlined in Capital Progress Report FIN-2026-25 on August 11, 2026. This amount is before the award of the Phase II tender outlined in ENG-2026-16 on July 28, 2026. Sufficient funds are available in the project to support all committed purchases.

Note 3 - This Work is exempt from our procurement practices in accordance with Appendix "A" Goods and Services Exempt From This Purchasing Policy, as it is a utility relocation.

Note 4 – New operating budget would be established for 2027 to support remaining months.

September 29, 2026

To: Alectra Utilities
sent via email:

Re: Electricity Bill Relief for Flood Affected Residents
Our File: 10.12.1

At its meeting of September 14, 2026, St. Catharines City Council approved the following motion:

WHEREAS the recent flooding in St. Catharines caused significant damage to homes and required many residents to operate sump pumps, dehumidifiers, fans, air conditioners, water pumps and other equipment continuously to remove water, dry their homes and prevent further damage; and

WHEREAS these necessary flood recovery measures resulted in significant increases in electricity consumption for many affected households, with some residents reporting electricity bills that increased by 100% or more compared with their normal usage; and

WHEREAS these increased electricity costs were incurred through no fault of affected residents and add an additional financial burden at a time when many households are already facing substantial costs to repair and restore their homes;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that St. Catharines City Council formally request that the Ontario Energy Board establish a one time flood relief credit, refund or other financial assistance program for St. Catharines residential customers who can demonstrate a significant increase in electricity consumption directly associated with flood cleanup and recovery; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Council request that, where required, the Ontario Energy Board work with local Utilities to identify and authorize an appropriate mechanism to provide this relief; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the requested program prioritize households whose electricity consumption or bill increased by 100% or more during the flood recovery period compared with an appropriate previous billing period or historical household usage; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Ontario Energy Board be requested to make the application process simple and accessible, recognizing that affected residents are already dealing with significant flood related recovery costs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to local Utilities, affected Niagara municipalities, the Ontario Energy Board, the Minister of Energy and Mines, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, and Niagara Area Members of Provincial Parliament for their support.

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



Kristen Sullivan, City Clerk
ksullivan@stcatharines.ca
:av

cc: Niagara Municipalities
Ontario Energy Board
Ministry of Energy and Mines
Federation of Canadian Municipalities
Niagara Area MPP's

A background image of the Niagara City skyline at dusk, featuring the Skylon Tower and other high-rise buildings. The image is partially obscured by dark blue and white geometric shapes that frame the text.

NIAGARA GO LOOP

GO TRANSIT EXPANSION
PROPOSAL

PROPOSED BY :

Josh Bieuz-Yasyszczuk

Executive Summary

DISCLAIMER

This community-led, non-commercial public transit expansion proposal is conceptual in nature. Financial and capital cost breakdowns are subject to an additional AACE Class 5 Disclaimer.

PROPOSAL SUMMARY

The Niagara Region generates approximately 10% of Ontario's total tourism revenue and serves as a vital economic and population hub. The Niagara Region also generates an estimated 2.2-2.3% of Ontario's total GDP. However, students, workers, low-income residents, and tourists collectively face critical barriers travelling within the shared regional community. This proposal outlines a multi-tiered partnership framework between Metrolinx, the Niagara Region, local municipalities, and private rail operators—including Canadian National Railway Company (CN), Canadian Pacific Kansas City (CPKC), and GIO Railways Corporation. By prioritizing strategic land acquisition, dedicated parallel infrastructure, and regional loop connections, this initiative expands GO Transit passenger rail while protecting commercial freight interests, controlling capital costs, and driving regional growth for both residents and tourists.

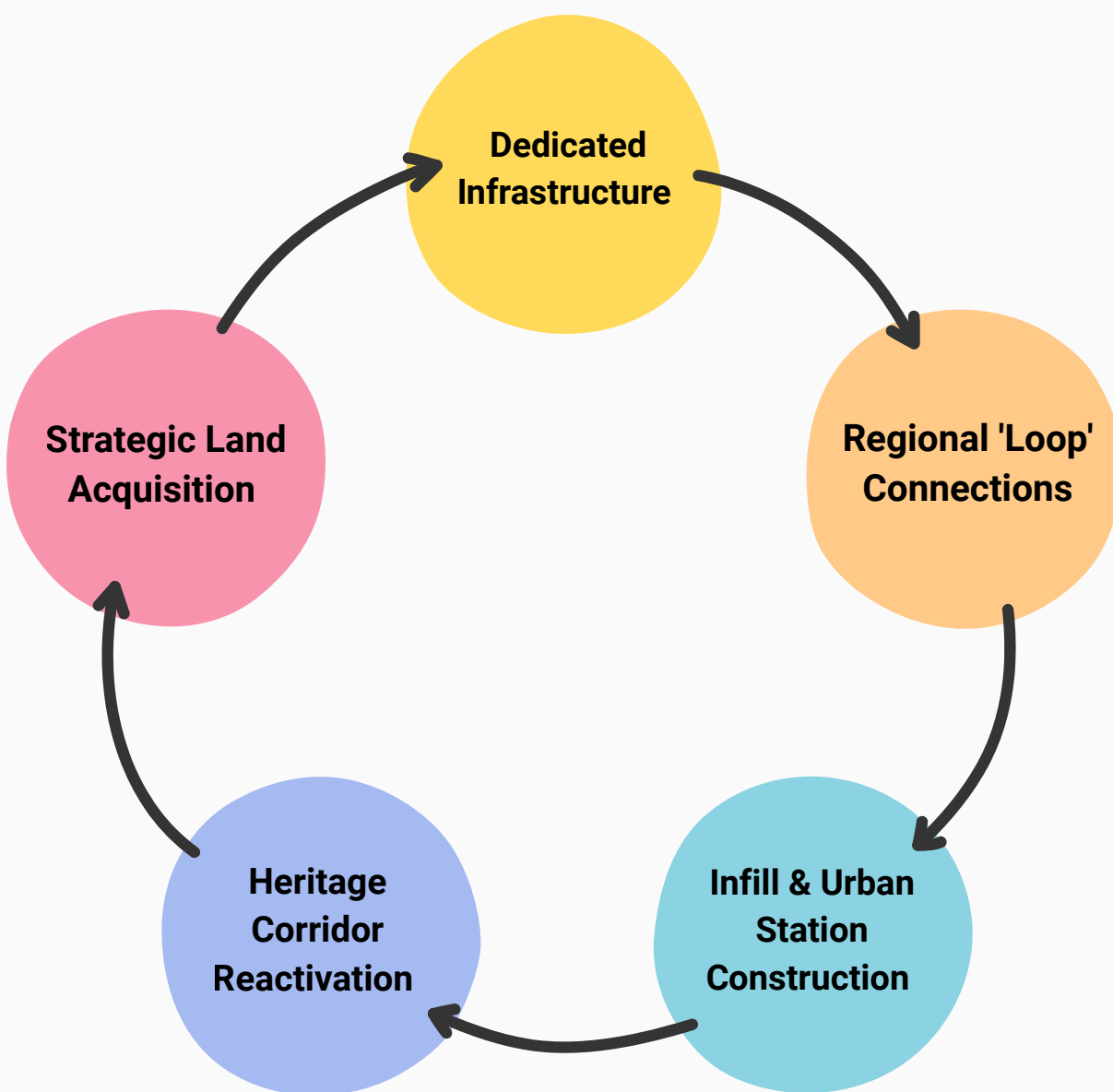
STATEMENT OF NEED

Sustainable long-term growth cannot be achieved without the connection of Niagara's decentralized communities. The current limitations of regional mobility directly impact education, healthcare access, gainful employment, and residential development. Key challenges include:

- Rail slot fee dependencies which severely limit passenger rail service.
- Disconnection between major population and employment nodes across Niagara Falls, St. Catharines, Thorold, Welland, and Niagara-on-the-Lake.
- High reliance on automobile travel for student, workforce, and tourism populations who lack access to efficient public transit networks.

Proposed Infrastructure Plan

The proposed framework controls capital expenditure by expanding within existing or historical railway corridors rather than creating entirely new greenfield developments. The phased engineering and construction approach includes:



Proposed Infrastructure Plan



Strategic Land Acquisition

Metrolinx acquires targeted strips of land parallel to the CN, CPKC, and GIO/Trillium Railway tracks throughout the Niagara Region, alongside strategic land plots at chosen nodes to serve as future GO Stations, and various plots of land to be used as new railway connections.

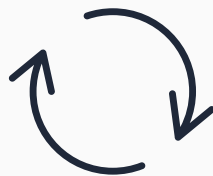
Proposed Infrastructure Plan



Dedicated Infrastructure Construction

Metrolinx-owned passenger rail lines are constructed directly parallel to existing commercial tracks wherever possible. This eliminates ongoing GO Transit rail slot fees along existing Niagara rights-of-way and allows for increased train service, including simultaneously-run passenger trains.

Proposed Infrastructure Plan

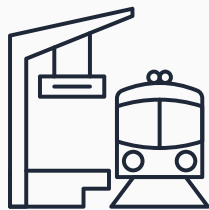


Regional 'Loop' Connections

Metrolinx-owned passenger rail lines are interconnected at crucial junctions to establish a functional, high-capacity regional loop system:

- 1) CN Stamford Subdivision linking to the GIO Rail Port Colborne Harbour Railway.
- 2) CPKC Montrose Spur linking to the CN Stamford Subdivision.
- 3) CN Grimsby Subdivision linking to the CPKC Hamilton Subdivision.

Proposed Infrastructure Plan



Infill & Urban Station Construction

Modern, accessible GO Transit stations are established along the newly constructed parallel passenger corridors:

FALLSVIEW GO, NIAGARA FALLS (CPKC Montrose Spur)

MAROTTA GO, STC (CN Grimsby Subdivision)

MERRITON GO, STC (CN Grimsby Subdivision)

GLENRIDGE GO, THOROLD (CPKC Hamilton Subdivision)

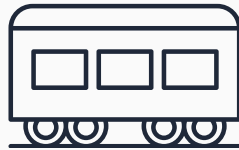
CANAL GO, WELLAND (GIO Rail Feeder/Harbour Spur)

GLENDALE GO, NIAGARA FALLS (CN Grimsby Subdivision)

PROMENADE GO, PORT COLBORNE (GIO Rail Port
Colborne Harbour Railway)

BRIDGEBURG GO, FORT ERIE (CN Stamford Subdivision)

Proposed Infrastructure Plan



Heritage Corridor Reactivation

Historical rights-of-way are partially reactivated and reconnected to establish a future Virgil station:

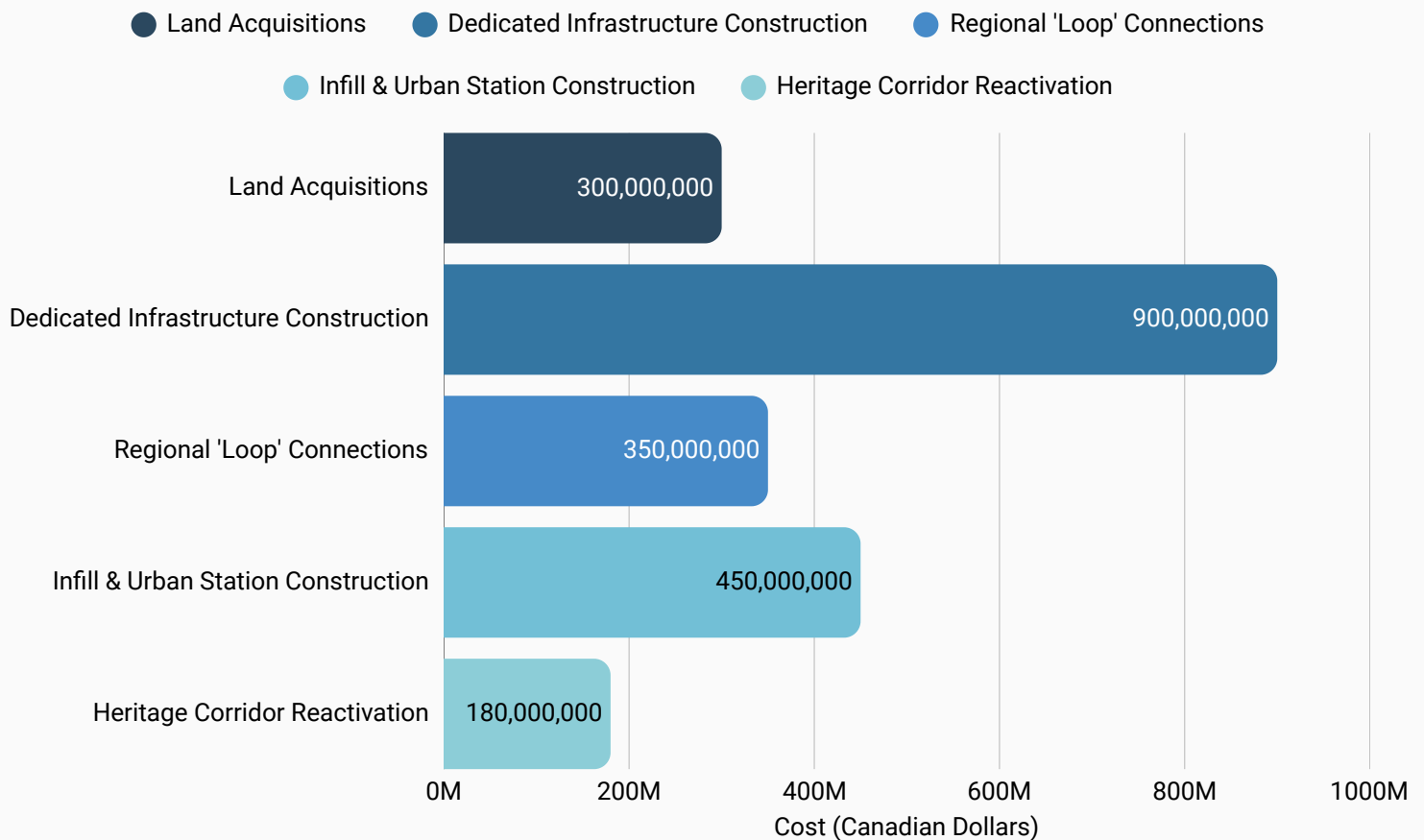
VIRGIL GO, NOTL (Historic NS&T Railway)

Capital Cost Projections

Capital Cost Estimate Methodology and Disclaimer: *this capital cost outline represents an AACE International Class 5 Conceptual Estimate (0%–2% design definition) derived from regional surface-rail benchmarks, public right-of-way data, and comparable Ontario transit investments. Figures are intended strictly for concept screening, order-of-magnitude budgeting, and strategic policy discussion.*

Capital Cost Projections

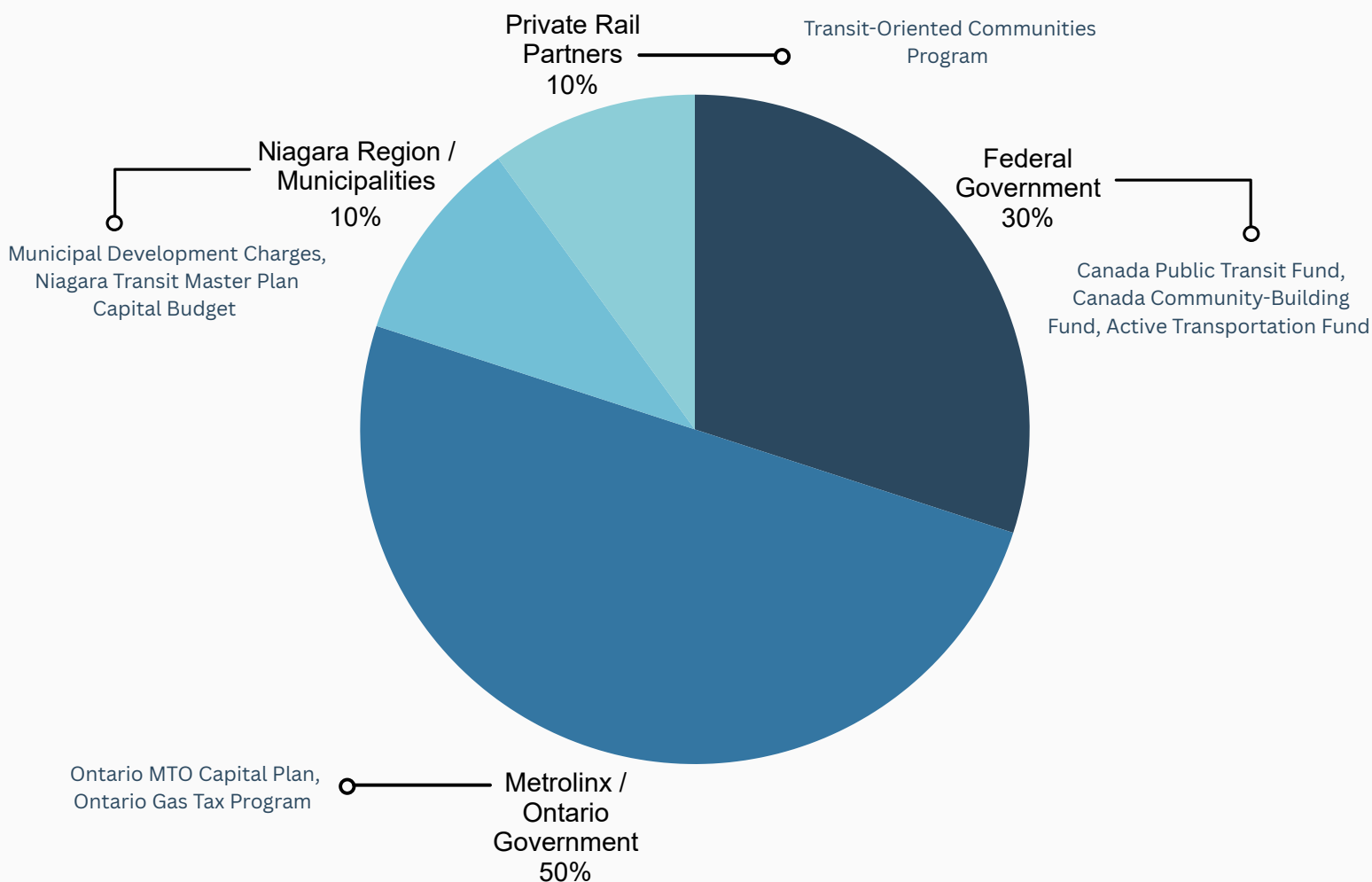
Total Capital Cost: \$2.2 Billion CAD



Sources: HICC, Ontario MTO, Niagara Region

Proposed Potential Funding Channels

Potential Funding Channels
based on applicable laws, infrastructure standards, and
comparable transit frameworks



Sources: Housing, Infrastructure, and Communities Canada (HICC), Ontario
Ministry of Transportation (MTO), Niagara Region

Strategic Governance & Multi-Tiered Partnership

Implementation requires a collaborative governance model uniting provincial and municipal stakeholders alongside private freight partners:

NIAGARA REGION

Regional planning alignment, integration with Niagara Region Transit bus networks, and municipal infrastructure coordination.

PRIVATE RAIL PARTNERS

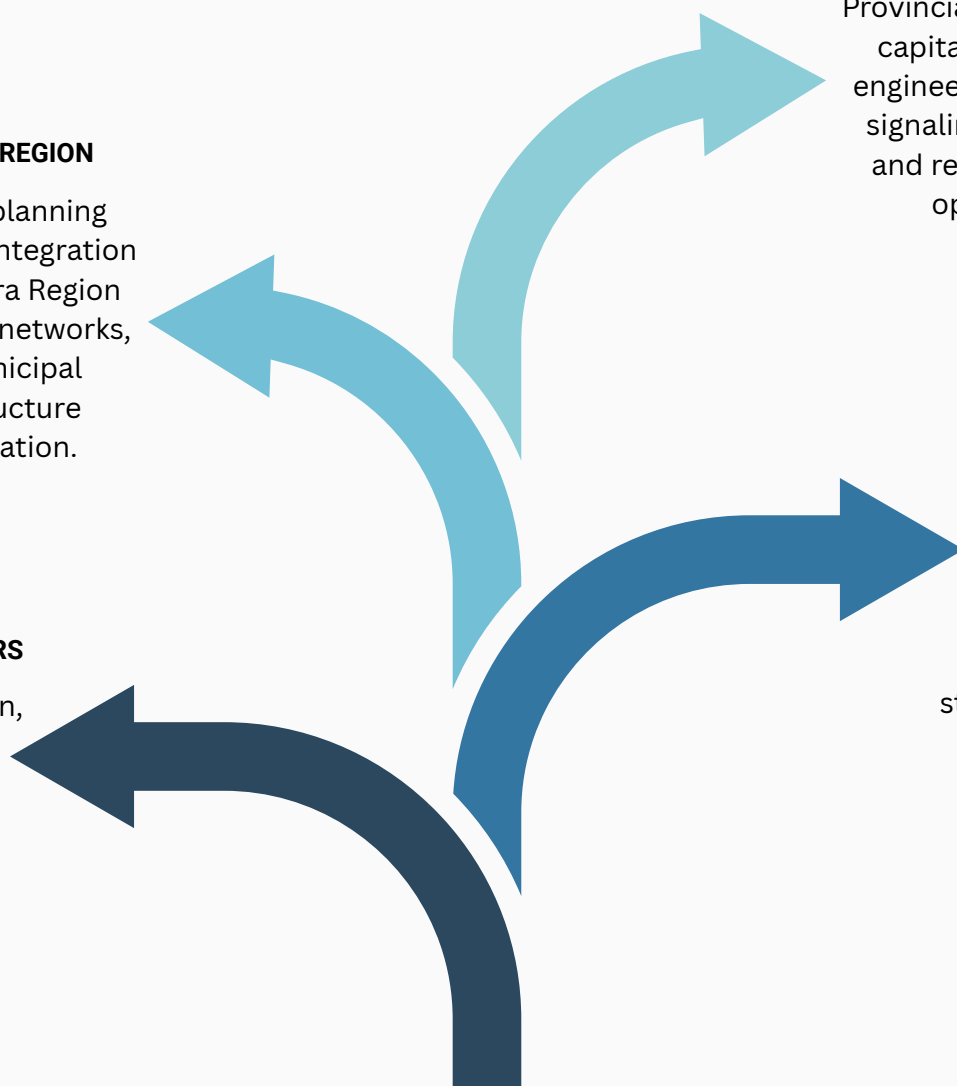
Corridor coordination, track-sharing agreements, and freight traffic protection.

METROLINX / ONTARIO GOVERNMENT

Provincial leadership for capital funding, rail engineering standards, signaling integration, and regional service operations.

LOCAL MUNICIPALITIES

Urban planning, municipal zoning approvals, active transportation connections, and station-area community development.



Expected Regional Benefits & Strategic Alignment

The proposed regional rail strategy delivers profound socio-economic and logistical benefits:

MINIMIZES COMMUNITY DISRUPTION

Limits the displacement of local housing and urban neighbourhoods by utilizing established transportation corridors.

ECONOMIC & SOCIAL IMPACT

Connects key population and employment centres, positively impacting education accessibility, healthcare access, gainful employment, and regional housing developments.

BALANCED FREIGHT & PASSENGER PRIORITIES

Prioritizes GO Transit passenger rail expansion while strictly protecting CN, CPKC, and GIO Rail commercial freight interests, most notably by completely removing passenger rail interference along rail lines used for freight.

RIDERSHIP GROWTH

Supports a 250-400% increase in intra-regional and outbound GO ridership, accounting for an estimated 2.5-4 million annual unique boardings, strengthening the economic use-case for future transit investments. Ridership numbers garnered using current GO baselines, local transit ridership, density of residential development around proposed stations, and other data streams.

CONCLUSION & NEXT STEPS

Investing in Niagara's rail infrastructure is an urgent economic and social imperative. By establishing a multi-tiered partnership between provincial agencies, regional leadership, municipalities, and private rail operators, Ontario can secure a connected, competitive, and accessible future for all residents and visitors.



STATEMENT OF INTEREST:
CN, CPKC, GIO RAIL



STATEMENT OF INTEREST:
METROLINX



STATEMENT OF INTEREST:
*NIAGARA REGIONAL COUNCIL,
NIAGARA TRANSIT COMMISSION*



**FORMALIZE A NIAGARA GO LOOP
EXPANSION COMMITTEE**

September 24, 2026

Re: Request for the Expansion of Ontario's Deposit-Return Program

Hamilton City Council, at its meeting held on Wednesday, September 9, 2026, passed the following resolution that was included in the minutes of the Public Works Committee meeting from August 31, 2026:

10.2 Request for the Expansion of Ontario's Deposit-Return Program

(Cassar/Hwang)

WHEREAS, Ontario operates a successful deposit-return system for alcohol, seeing an average of 75 percent of all empties returned to Beer Stores each year, and deposit-return provides a consumer incentive to consciously recycle;

WHEREAS, Ontario has the lowest beverage container recovery rate in Canada—at roughly 50% of containers being recycled, and is one of only two provinces in Canada without a deposit-return program for non-alcoholic beverages;

WHEREAS, on average these systems in other provinces achieve a recovery rate of 75% for plastic bottles and 78% for all beverage containers, with Alberta achieving 83% recovery;

WHEREAS, Ontario relies on a residential-only blue box system to collect non-alcoholic containers;

WHEREAS, as much as 30% of beverage products that consumers purchase are consumed away from home and therefore disposed of in public and commercial trash bins and then sent to landfill where those valuable materials are lost;

WHEREAS, according to the Canadian Beverage Association (CBA), recent polling suggests 80% of Ontarians want a deposit-return system and the Ontario government proposed expanding the deposit return program to include non-alcoholic containers in 2023;

WHEREAS, not only do deposit-return systems have high return rates for consumers at home, they also retrieve beverage containers from industrial, commercial and institutional sectors who are incentivized to redeem the deposit value;

WHEREAS, Ontario is uniquely positioned to accelerate the modernization of beverage container recycling since a deposit-return program for alcohol containers, managed by the Beer Store, already exists and could be leveraged for this purpose;

WHEREAS, time is of the essence as Beer Stores are closing, reducing accessibility to locations already outfitted to return beverage containers, and diminishing collection capacity;

WHEREAS, the Government has set 2030 recovery targets, as outlined in Ontario Regulation 391/21 under the Resource Recovery and Circular Economy Act, 2016. These targets include an 80% recovery target for non-alcoholic beverage containers;

WHEREAS, without a deposit-return system, the increased costs to producers could be passed on to consumers;

WHEREAS, AMO "supports broader industry efforts to increase waste diversion rates. This includes industry efforts to establish a model for an expanded and more effective Deposit Return System that includes non-alcoholic beverage containers. A workable solution to reform the existing Deposit Return System will help boost the province's beverage recovery rate and support overall diversion of recycling materials away from landfills.";

WHEREAS, the Canadian Beverage Association is in full support of a deposit-return system because according to the CBA the transition to Circular Materials has not resulted in an increase in materials being recycled, and a deposit-return system promotes higher recycling rates, reduces litter and environmental impact, and helps ensure valuable beverage containers are collected, recycled, and reintegrated into a circular economy; and

WHEREAS, Peel Region, City of Toronto, City of Ottawa, the City of Waterloo and Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative (of which Hamilton is a member) have passed recent motions supporting deposit-return for non-alcoholic beverages.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Corporation of the City of Hamilton urges the province of Ontario to immediately implement a deposit-return program to manage non-alcoholic beverage containers; and
- (b) That this resolution will **be distributed** to: the Canadian Minister of Internal Trade and One Canadian Economy, Dominic LeBlanc, the Canadian Minister of Environment and Climate Change, Julie Dabrusin, the Premier of Ontario, Doug Ford, the Ontario Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade, Victor Fedeli; the Ontario Minister of the Environment,

Conservation and Parks, Todd McCarthy, Hamilton-area MPPs, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), and 444 Municipalities in Ontario.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matthew Trennum', with a stylized, cursive script.

Matthew Trennum
City Clerk

Cc. Hon. Dominic LeBlanc, Minister of Internal Trade and One Canadian Economy
Hon. Julie Dabrusin, Minister of Environment and Climate Change
Premier Doug Ford
Hon. Victor Fedeli, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade
Hon. Todd McCarthy, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
Jeff Beattie, MPP, Hamilton East - Stoney Creek
Robin Lennox, MPP, Hamilton Centre
Monica Ciriello, MPP, Hamilton Mountain
Donna Skelly, MPP, Flamborough - Glanbrook
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
Ontario Municipalities
Councillor Craig Cassar
Councillor Tammy Hwang



THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF PARRY SOUND
RESOLUTION IN COUNCIL

NO. 2026 – 110

DIVISION LIST

YES NO

DATE: September 15, 2026

Councillor **G. ASHFORD**
Councillor **J. BELESKEY**
Councillor **P. BORNEMAN**
Councillor **B. KEITH**
Councillor **D. McCANN**
Councillor **C. McDONALD**
Mayor **J. McGARVEY**

MOVED BY:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, likely belonging to a councillor, written over a horizontal line.

SECONDED BY:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, likely belonging to the Mayor, written over a horizontal line.

CARRIED: _____ DEFEATED: _____ Postponed to: _____

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council for the Corporation of the Town of Parry Sound supports the Township of Tudor & Casher's resolution regarding a request for review of extended producer responsibility for one-pound single-use propane cylinders; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that this resolution be forwarded to the Premier of Ontario, the Resource Productivity & Recovery Authority (RPRA) and all municipalities in Ontario.

A large, stylized handwritten signature in blue ink, identified as Mayor Jamie McGarvey, written over a horizontal line.

Mayor Jamie McGarvey



CORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF SOUTH HURON

322 Main Street South P.O. Box 759

Exeter Ontario

N0M 1S6

Phone: 519-235-0310 Fax: 519-235-3304

Toll Free: 1-877-204-0747

www.southhuron.ca

September 25, 2026

Via email; doug.fordco@pc.ola.org

Premier Doug Ford
Room 281
Main Legislative Building, Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1A5

RE: OPP 2027 Policing Costs

Please be advised that South Huron Council passed the following resolution at their September 21, 2026, Regular Council Meeting:

Motion: 367-2026
Moved: W. McLeod-Haggitt
Seconded: T. Oke

**Whereas the Municipality of South Huron is policed by the Ontario Provincial Police and has budgeted \$2,140,181 for its 2026 annual OPP policing contract; and
Whereas this represents approximately 15% of South Huron's 2026 tax levy supported operating costs; and**

Whereas the Municipality has received correspondence dated August 14, 2026 from the Honourable Michael S. Kerzner, Solicitor General, advising that for the 2027 calendar year no OPP-policed municipality will experience an increase of more than 11% in its total amount payable for OPP policing compared with 2026, excluding services separately acquired through an agreement with the OPP; and

Whereas a projected increase of 11% in 2027 would result in an additional municipal cost of up to \$235,420 increasing South Huron's annual OPP cost to as much as \$2,375,601; and

Whereas this projected increase in 2027 would result in annual OPP policing costs changing significantly over the past two years, with total costs rising from 2025 to 2027 by approximately \$447,510, or 23%, placing sustained pressure on the Municipality's property tax supported operating budget; and

**Whereas municipalities must balance legislated infrastructure, service-delivery, affordability and fiscal-responsibility obligations, while having limited revenue tools and a primary reliance on property taxation;
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Municipality of South Huron:**

- 1. Acknowledges the Province of Ontario's action to limit the 2027 OPP municipal policing cost increase to no more than 11%;**
- 2. Expresses concern that an increase of up to 11% in a single year remains significant for small and rural municipalities and is not, by itself, a sustainable long-term solution;**
- 3. Requests that the Province of Ontario establish a permanent, transparent and sustainable multi-year framework for OPP municipal policing costs that :**
 - includes a reasonable and predictable maximum annual increase in municipal OPP policing costs, taking into consideration municipal revenue growth, inflation, assessment growth, population growth, fiscal capacity and the affordability impacts on local property taxpayers, including cost of living; and,**
 - that municipalities receive a clear and itemized annual explanation of changes to their OPP policing costs, including, where applicable, changes attributable to staffing levels, salaries, benefits, calls for service, time standards, fleet, accommodation, support services, detachment administration and other provincial cost allocations; and**
 - that the permanent framework recognize the limited fiscal capacity of small, rural and OPP-policed municipalities and ensure that municipal policing cost increases do not disproportionately affect property taxpayers or compromise the municipality's ability to deliver other essential services and infrastructure; and**
 - that the Province recognize that municipalities have limited ability to control policing costs arising from provincial legislation, regulatory, staffing, compensation, collective bargaining, operational or policy decisions and that the Province provide appropriate provincial funding or cost-sharing where significant policing cost pressures arise primarily from such provincial decisions; and**
- 4. that this resolution be circulated to the Premier of Ontario; the Solicitor General; the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing; MPP Lisa Thompson; the Association of Municipalities of Ontario; Rural Ontario Municipal Association; all Ontario municipalities policed by the OPP; and the Huron OPP Detachment Board.**

Disposition: Carried



CORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF SOUTH HURON

322 Main Street South P.O. Box 759

Exeter Ontario

N0M 1S6

Phone: 519-235-0310 Fax: 519-235-3304

Toll Free: 1-877-204-0747

www.southhuron.ca

Please find attached the originating correspondence for your reference.

Respectfully,

Sue Johnson, Administrative Assistant
Municipality of South Huron
sjohnson@southhuron.ca
519-235-0310 x. 225

Encl.

cc: Minister.solgen@ontario.ca ; minister.mah@ontario.ca ; lisa.thompson@pc.ola.org
resolutions@amo.on.ca ; roma@roma.on.ca ; jdietrich@southhuron.ca ;
manderson@centralhuron.ca ; avanhittersum@northhuron.ca ; frayne@hay.net ;
glamport@municipalityofbluewater.ca ; jaredpetteplace@me.com ;
jasmine.clark@torontomu.ca ; jwalker@bmross.net ; jennettewalker@hay.net ;
john.steffler@huroneast.com ; tbazinet@goderich.ca and all Ontario municipalities
policed by OPP.



Staff Memo

To: South Huron Council
From: Rebekah Msuya-Collison, CAO
Date: September 21, 2026
Re: 2027 OPP Policing Costs – Request for Resolution expressing Concerns

Purpose:

For information and consideration.

Background and Analysis:

Council received correspondence from the Ministry of Solicitor General at the September 8, 2026 Council meeting regarding the 2027 OPP Municipal Policing Costs. Council passed the following resolution:

“That a staff memo be brought back to the September 21, 2026 Council meeting with a proposed resolution regarding concerns to the proposed increase in OPP municipal policing costs.”

Please see attached draft resolution regarding concerns to the proposed increase in OPP municipal policing costs.

Link to Correspondence - [Ministry of Solicitor General - 2027 OPP Municipal Policing Costs](#)

Resolution: Sustainable and Predictable OPP Municipal Policing Costs

Whereas the Municipality of South Huron is policed by the Ontario Provincial Police and has budgeted \$2,140,181 for its 2026 annual OPP policing contract; and

Whereas this represents approximately 15% of South Huron's 2026 tax levy supported operating costs; and

Whereas the Municipality has received correspondence dated August 14, 2026 from the Honourable Michael S. Kerzner, Solicitor General, advising that for the 2027 calendar year **no OPP-policed municipality will experience an increase of more than 11% in its total amount payable for OPP policing compared with 2026**, excluding services separately acquired through an agreement with the OPP; and

Whereas a projected increase of 11% in 2027 would result in an additional municipal cost of up to \$235,420 increasing South Huron's annual OPP cost to as much as \$2,375,601; and

Whereas this projected increase in 2027 would result in annual OPP policing costs changing significantly over the past two years, with total costs rising from 2025 to 2027 by approximately \$447,510, or 23%, placing sustained pressure on the Municipality's property tax supported operating budget; and

Whereas municipalities must balance legislated infrastructure, service-delivery, affordability and fiscal-responsibility obligations, while having limited revenue tools and a primary reliance on property taxation;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Municipality of South Huron:

1. Acknowledges the Province of Ontario's action to limit the 2027 OPP municipal policing cost increase to no more than 11%;
2. Expresses concern that an increase of up to 11% in a single year remains significant for small and rural municipalities and is not, by itself, a sustainable long-term solution;
3. Requests that the Province of Ontario establish a permanent, transparent and sustainable multi-year framework for OPP municipal policing costs that:
 - limits year-over-year municipal cost increases to a level aligned with municipal revenue growth and affordability;
 - clearly identifies the cost drivers behind annual changes, including salaries, benefits, fleet, accommodation, detachment administration, calls for service and other provincial cost allocations;

- recognizes the limited fiscal capacity of small, rural and OPP-policed municipalities; and
 - considers enhanced provincial funding or cost-sharing for provincially directed policing cost pressures;
4. Directs that this resolution be circulated to the Premier of Ontario; the Solicitor General; the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing; MPP Lisa Thompson; the Association of Municipalities of Ontario; Rural Ontario Municipal Association; all Ontario municipalities policed by the OPP; and the Huron OPP Detachment Board.

September 28, 2026

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

Re: Township of East Zorra-Tavistock Resolution - Review of OLT and Enhancing Deference to Municipal Planning Decisions

Dear Premier Ford,

Please be advised that at their regular meeting on September 16, 2026, Council of the Corporation of the Township of East Zorra-Tavistock adopted the following resolution:

Moved by: Jeremy Smith
Seconded by: Scott Rudy

THAT Council receive the correspondence from the Town of Ingersoll regarding the Review of OLT and Enhancing Deference to Municipal Planning Decisions;

AND THAT Council support the resolution regarding the Review of OLT and Enhancing Deference to Municipal Planning Decisions;

AND THAT a copy of the resolution be forwarded to other municipalities in Ontario, Oxford MPP Ernie Hardeman, all relevant ministries, and the provincial government.

CARRIED

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Kind regards,

Ashley Gerencser
Deputy Clerk

cc: Hon. Rob Flack, Ontario Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Ernie Hardeman, Member of Provincial Parliament for Oxford
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
All municipalities in Ontario

August 13, 2026

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

Re: Town of Ingersoll Resolution - Review of OLT and Enhancing Deference to Municipal Planning Decisions

Dear Premier Ford,

Please be advised that at their regular meeting on August 10, 2026, Council of the Corporation of the Town of Ingersoll adopted the following resolution:

Resolution # 2026-230

Moved by Councillor Eus; seconded by Councillor Bowman

THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Ingersoll receive the correspondence from the Town of the Blue Mountains regarding Review of OLT and Enhancing Deference to Municipal Planning Decisions;

AND THAT Council support the resolution regarding Review of OLT and Enhancing Deference to Municipal Planning Decisions;

AND THAT the resolution be forwarded to other municipalities in Ontario, Oxford MPP Ernie Hardeman, all relevant ministries, and the provincial government.

CARRIED

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Kind regards,

Julie Clayton

Julie Clayton
Deputy Clerk

cc: Hon. Rob Flack, Ontario Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Ernie Hardeman, Member of Provincial Parliament for Oxford
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
All municipalities in Ontario



The Town of The Blue Mountains Council Meeting

Title: Kathryn Douglas, Supervisor, Legislative Services, Town of Whitby
Date: Monday, July 13, 2026
Time: 6:16 PM

Moved by: Councillor Hope
Seconded by: Councillor Porter

THAT Council of the Town of The Blue Mountains receives for information the June 25, 2026, correspondence from Kathryn Douglas, Supervisor, Legislative Services, Town of Whitby, and supports the June 22, 2026 Town of Whitby Council resolution regarding a Review of Ontario Land Tribunal and Enhancing Deference to Municipal Planning Decisions;

AND THAT Council directs staff to circulate this resolution of support to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Local Members of Provincial Parliament, the Association of Municipalities (AMO) and all Ontario Municipalities for consideration and support

YES: 6

NO: 0

ABSENT: 1

The motion is Carried

YES: 6

Deputy Mayor Bordignon	Councillor Ardiel	Councillor Hope	Councillor Maxwell
Councillor McKinlay	Councillor Porter		

NO: 0

ABSENT: 1

Mayor Matrosovs

June 25, 2026

Via Email

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

Re: Review of the Ontario Land Tribunal and Enhancing Deference to Municipal Planning Decisions

Please be advised that at its meeting held on June 22, 2026, the Council of the Town of Whitby adopted the following as Resolution # 166-26:

Whereas local councils are elected by residents to make planning decisions that reflect the needs and priorities of their communities;

Whereas municipalities rely on extensive public consultation, professional planning advice, engineering studies, and technical reports when making land-use decisions;

Whereas the Ontario Land Tribunal (OLT) has the authority to overturn municipal planning decisions, often requiring municipalities to spend significant taxpayer dollars defending decisions that have already undergone a thorough local review process;

Whereas lengthy and costly appeals can delay housing projects, consume municipal resources, and reduce the ability of municipalities to focus on delivering services to residents; and,

Whereas local governments should have greater certainty and authority when decisions are consistent with approved Official Plans, provincial policies, and sound planning principles.

Now Therefore be it Resolved:

1. That the Government of Ontario be requested to review the role and mandate of the Ontario Land Tribunal to ensure greater respect for municipal planning decisions that are supported by evidence, public consultation, and approved planning policies;

2. That the Province consider amendments to the Planning Act and Ontario Land Tribunal Act to provide stronger deference to municipal decisions that align with provincial planning frameworks and Official Plans;
3. That the Province improve transparency and accountability within the Ontario Land Tribunal by requiring clear and detailed reasoning when municipal decisions are overturned;
4. That the Province explore measures to reduce the financial burden on municipalities defending planning decisions before the OLT, helping to protect taxpayer dollars and improve the efficiency of the planning process; and,
5. That Staff be directed to circulate this resolution to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Local Members of Provincial Parliament, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), and all Ontario municipalities for consideration and support.

Should you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact the Office of the Town Clerk at 905-430-4300.



Kathryn Douglas
Supervisor, Legislative Services
clerk@whitby.ca

Copy: C. Harris, Director of Legislative Services/Town Clerk - clerk@whitby.ca

The Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing - minister.mah@ontario.ca
Peter Bethlenfalvy, MPP, Pickering-Uxbridge - peter.bethlenfalvy@pc.ola.org
Lorne Coe, MPP, Whitby - lorne.coe@pc.ola.org
Jennifer K. French, MPP, Oshawa - jfrench-co@ndp.on.ca
Todd J. McCarthy, MPP, Durham - todd.mccarthy@pc.ola.org
Rob Cerjanec, MPP, Ajax - rcerjanec.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org
Laurie Scott, MPP, Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock - laurie.scott@pc.ola.org
Robin Jones, President, Association of Municipalities of Ontario - amopresident@amo.on.ca
All Ontario Municipalities