



COUNCIL INFORMATION PACKAGE

Friday, September 25, 2026

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor, Council and Residents

FROM: Tara Stephens, Director of Legislative Services/City Clerk

DATE: September 25, 2026

SUBJECT: 2026 Municipal Election – Voter Notification Cards

The City of Welland's voter notification cards for the 2026 Municipal Election began mailing on September 24, 2026 and are expected to begin arriving in voters' mailboxes during the week of September 28th.

Voter notification cards provide important information to help electors prepare to vote in the upcoming municipal election. Residents are encouraged to review their card upon receipt and keep it in a safe location until they are ready to cast their ballot.

Information Included on Voter Notification Cards

Each voter notification card contains information specific to the elector and includes:

- Open polling locations;
- Advance voting dates, times, and locations;
- A reminder to bring the voter notification card when voting; and
- Information regarding the identification required when attending a voting location.

Bringing a voter notification card to the voting location can help speed up the voting process; however, the card itself is not considered identification.

Review Your Information

Upon receiving a voter notification card, electors are encouraged to carefully review the information contained on the card, including:

- Name;
- Residential address;
- Date of birth; and
- School support designation.

Confirming the accuracy of this information in advance will help ensure a smooth voting experience and reduce the need for revisions at voting locations.

Updating Voter Information

Residents can review or update their voter information by visiting the Clerk's Office at City Hall, 60 East Main Street, during regular business hours.

Residents who identify an error on their voter notification card should contact the City Clerk's Office at 905-735-1700, and press 0 for Reception. If changes are required, the elector will be required to attend City Hall in person and provide acceptable identification.

Electors may also update their voter information at an advance voting location or on Election Day by presenting acceptable identification and completing the necessary documentation.

If You Do Not Receive a Voter Notification Card

Residents who do not receive a voter notification card may still be eligible to vote. Eligible electors can be added to the voters' list when attending an advance voting opportunity or on Election Day, provided they meet the eligibility requirements and present acceptable identification.

Voters are reminded that identification is required when voting, regardless of whether they received a voter notification card or are already listed on the voters' list.

Voters' List

The voters' list used for municipal elections is derived from information maintained through Elections Ontario's Permanent Register of Electors.

The register contains information for individuals who are eligible to vote in provincial and municipal elections throughout Ontario. Residents are encouraged to ensure their information is current to avoid delays when voting.

School Support Designation

A voter's school support designation determines which school board trustee candidates they are eligible to vote for during the municipal election.

In Ontario, property owners are required to support a school system, regardless of whether they currently have children attending school. Residents are encouraged to review the school support information included on their voter notification card and to contact the Clerk's Office if they believe the information is incorrect.

Changes to a voter's school support designation for municipal election purposes can be made through an amendment to the voters' list at the Clerk's Office. However, any change made through the municipal election process will only apply to the voter's election record and will not update the school support designation associated with their property tax account.

Residents who wish to permanently update their school support designation for property tax purposes should contact the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC), as MPAC maintains the school support information associated with a property's assessment and tax records.

For more information regarding school support designations or to update school support information related to property taxes, residents may visit **www.mpac.ca**.

Additional Information

Residents seeking additional information regarding the 2026 Municipal Election, voter eligibility, voting opportunities, or voter information updates are encouraged to visit the City's election webpage at <https://www.welland.ca/city-hall/municipal-elections/>

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of Council

FROM: Jessica Ruddell, Chief Administrative Officer

DATE: September 25, 2026

SUBJECT: 2023–2026 Highlights

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide an overview of the significant corporate achievements realized during the 2023–2026 Council term and demonstrate progress made in advancing the City of Welland's [Strategic Plan](#).

In June 2023, Council adopted a bold and forward-looking [Strategic Plan](#) that established a clear vision for the future of Welland. The Plan identified 20 objectives under four strategic priorities:

- Economic Growth,
- Environmental Stewardship,
- Health and Well-being, and
- Livability.

Through the adoption of the 2024, 2025, and 2026 budgets, Council demonstrated its commitment to implementing the Strategic Plan by allocating resources to advance key initiatives while continuing to maintain effective service delivery and day-to-day municipal operations.

The accomplishments achieved throughout this term reflect the leadership and vision of Council, together with the dedication of City staff, community partners, and residents. Collectively, these efforts have contributed to enhancing the quality of life in Welland and strengthening the community's long-term prosperity and resilience.

The summary below highlights major achievements and milestones realized under each strategic priority. While not intended to be a comprehensive list, these accomplishments represent meaningful progress made during the 2023–2026 Council term. They also demonstrate the City's continued commitment to supporting residents and local businesses through the delivery of core municipal services while advancing strategic priorities.

Strategic Priority: Economic Growth

Described as “Creating a diverse economy through partnerships and emerging markets to ensure sustainable growth and quality employment” in the strategic plan, the following projects and initiatives were completed to support this strategic plan priority:

- Sold city-owned employment lands at 460 River Road to Canadian Metal Buildings to construct 100,000 square foot manufacturing facility and create 75 skilled trades positions.
- Supported the construction of two multi-unit buildings in River Road Industrial Park for several new businesses and creating approximately 75 jobs.
- Supported the opening of Fontheill Lumber in 2024 with buildings totaling 96,000 square feet creating 55 jobs.

- Purchased additional employment lands at 432 and 476 Ridge Road to support development of the City's seventh business park.
- Supported the addition of several commercial developments in Welland, including 3 Rice Road, Niagara Street Longo's Plaza, Leon's, and Vaultra Storage to name a few.
- Supported Vision Green's 10,000 square foot expansion in Enterprise Industrial Park.
- Added approximately 19 new commercial businesses in the Downtown and Health and Wellness area.

Strategic Priority: Environmental Stewardship

Described as "Protecting the ecosystem through a responsible approach to minimize the impact on the environment through supportive decision-making, professional processes, incentives, policies, and operational practices" in the strategic plan, the following projects and initiatives were completed to support this strategic plan priority:

- Installed new sanitary and storm sewer infrastructure on Canal Bank Street.
- Installed four electric vehicle charging stations with another four stations underway achieving more than 56,000 kgs in GHG emission savings.
- Completed numerous environmental planting initiatives, including the planting of more than 1,700 native trees and shrubs through the Mini-Forest Project on Logan Avenue, as well as numerous tree-planting initiatives with the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA) and funding from the Niagara Community Foundation (NCF) and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM).

- Completed construction of a Sand/Salt Storage Dome at the Municipal Service Centre, to protect the product from the elements and prevent contamination.
- Added approximately 4.5km of fully accessible pathways linking Hilda Street, the Welland Canal Parkway Trail, and Niagara College.
- Installed and commissioned a secondary watermain connection to Dain City, improving the security of potable water supply through increased system redundancy, reliability, and operational resilience.

Strategic Priority: Health and Well-being

Described as “Promoting personal health and well-being by offering an abundance of activities that meet the diverse needs and interests all while, advocating for improved health care throughout the city, and supporting the need for safety and security” in the strategic plan, the following projects and initiatives were completed to support this strategic plan priority:

- Opened several new medical clinics such as *Phoenix Medical Clinic*, Intrepid Health, Bridgeview Medical, Ace Medical, Crowland Medical, King Street Medical and 3 Cross Street, expanding access to a range of primary and preventative health services for residents.
- Added 20 new physicians in the city of Welland, improving access to primary care by enrolling 21,200+ patients.
- Received provincial commitment for Welland hospital renovations, as well as the planning grant for a future, newly-built hospital in Welland.
- Provided grant funding to support Foyer Richelieu’s 128-bed long-term care home.

- Implemented a 40 km/h speed limit on all local and minor collector roads, enhancing roadway safety across the community.
- Established the Encampment Taskforce and the Homelessness Working Group, to supporting vulnerable residents and improving community.
- Completed the 2025–2030 Accessibility Plan, an Accessibility Audit of city facilities, along with considerable investment to improve access to city spaces and services.
- Advocated for reforms to Canada’s criminal laws and bail system, contributing to broader efforts aimed at enhancing community safety and safeguarding residents.
- Transitioned Welland Fire & Emergency Services dispatch to St. Catharines Fire Dispatch, strengthening emergency response capabilities and enhancing community safety and support for residents.

Strategic Priority: Livability

Described as “Creating a sense of belonging while enhancing mobility by improving access to recreation and community events, ensuring adequate housing options, encouraging job growth, and improving ways to efficiently move people throughout the city” in the strategic plan, the following projects and initiatives were completed to support this strategic plan priority:

- Implemented Digital Parking Permits, streamlining and modernizing a previously manual process.
- Adopted the Affordable Rental Housing Community Improvement Program.
- Approved an 83-unit affordable and attainable housing development on City-owned lands north of Broadway.

- Exceeded Building Faster Fund projections for housing approvals in 2023, 2024, and 2025, ensuring adequate housing options for all.
- Completed the sale of the Northern Reach lands (to be rebranded “Lock and Quay”), ensuring brownfield remediation and opportunities for future development and community vibrancy.
- Adopted the *Transportation Master Plan*, improving long-term mobility and infrastructure planning.
- Reopened the Forks Road Bridge, restoring a critical transportation connection to Dain City
- Updated the [Community Grants Program](#), enriching opportunities for local organizations and residents through partnership.
- Completed a city-wide water meter replacement program to upgrade existing meters to new radio frequency (RF) technology to improve accuracy while reducing the need for manual meter reading.
- Redeveloped The Cove (Rob Fulbrook Park), creating another accessible and dynamic park space along the recreation canal.
- Reopened Memorial Park pool, providing residents with an enhanced, modernized aquatic facility that supports recreation, wellness, and community programming.
- Continued progress on Civic Square Project, advancing the detailed design for the development of a vibrant and accessible public space downtown.
- Partnered with the District School Board of Niagara (DSBN) to build a new community space within the new elementary school in Dain City.

- Opened the new Fire Station #3, and constructed a new Fire Training Tower, to strengthening firefighter training opportunities, and improving overall community safety and preparedness.
- Launched the new City of Welland brand, which highlights the City's unique geographical and natural amenities and themes of connection.
- Released *Wonders of Welland*, a unique illustrated children's book that celebrates the uniqueness of the community and welcomes new residents.
- Launched the *Engage Welland* website, a dedicated online public engagement platform for residents to share their thoughts on city projects, initiatives and programs.
- Launched *Virtual City Hall*, a new secure online platform that gives property owners convenient, around-the-clock access to their tax and water accounts.
- Expanded community programming and engagement, growing from 117 events in 2023 to approximately 260 events by 2026, while strengthening partnerships with community organizations and neighbourhood groups to activate parks, facilities, waterfront spaces, and public gathering places across the city.
- Enhanced neighbourhood involvement through the adoption of the Neighbourhood Association Policy, formally recognizing neighbourhood associations as key partners in community building and local engagement.
- Developed [Affordable Housing communications](#) resources to increase public awareness, support informed community discussions, and communicate the City's role in addressing housing needs.
- Delivered 220+ recreation programs annually, serving more than 6,000 registered and drop-in participants.

Strengthening Good Governance

Strong communities are supported by strong governance, and this Council term included significant work to modernize policies, strengthen accountability, and create greater operational efficiency across the organization. These projects including the following initiatives:

- Launched the [Strategic Plan Dashboard](#) to improve transparency and accountability, allowing Council and residents to track actions and progress of strategic initiatives in real time.
- Developed a new [Investment Policy](#) that strengthens stewardship of municipal funds while supporting sound financial decision-making.
- Updated the [Purchasing By-law](#) to reflect modernize procurement practices, improve efficiency, and ensure greater consistency, transparency, and accountability in purchasing decisions.
- Updated the [Non-Union Compensation Policy](#) to ensure fairness, transparency, and alignment with municipal best practices.
- Launched the [Non-Union Performance Management Policy](#) to foster accountability, professional development, and employee success.
- Updated Council's [Procedural By-law](#) to clarify governance processes, enhance meeting effectiveness, and support transparent and accountable decision-making.
- Completed a comprehensive [Records Classification and Retention By-law](#) to strengthen records management practices, support legislative compliance, and improve access to corporate information.
- Introduced [Corporate Partnership Policy](#) to improve consistency, transparency, and community collaboration.

- Completed the [Ward Boundary Review](#) to ensure equitable representation across the municipality and position the City for future growth and demographic changes.
- Completed an audit of the *Municipal Act, 2001*, successfully verifying municipal operations align with statutory requirements.
- Additional governance improvements included the introduction of [Council Information Packages](#), workshops, committee training requirements, and enhanced public reporting mechanisms.

While not all of these accomplishments may be visible to residents day to day, they create the foundation for effective service delivery and responsible government.

Maximizing Every Dollar

During the 2023–2026 Council term, the City successfully secured significant external funding to support strategic initiatives and infrastructure investments:

- 2023: \$9,029,536
- 2024: \$30,484,824
- 2025: \$10,576,645
- 2026 (Year-to-Date): \$22,351,448

Much of this funding was awarded for specific projects and incorporated into the City's approved budgets accordingly. Funding agreements typically include implementation timelines, reporting requirements, and funding milestones. Actual funding received may vary based on final project costs and eligible expenditures.

External funding secured during this term has supported a wide range of initiatives, with a significant focus on capital infrastructure renewal and growth-related investments, including:

- \$20.4 million through the Housing-Enabling Water Systems Fund (HEWSF) for the Ontario Road project (2024);
- \$10.6 million through the Health and Safety Water Stream (HSWS) for the Broadway project (2026); and
- Building Faster Fund allocations of \$1.72 million (2023), \$1.46 million (2024), and \$1.67 million (2025).

These investments have strengthened the City's ability to deliver critical infrastructure improvements, support future growth, and enhance service delivery for residents and businesses.

Celebrating the City's Progress

As this Council term draws to a close, sincere appreciation is extended to Members of Council for your leadership, and commitment to serving the Welland community. With your support, the City has made significant strides in advancing key priorities that support growth, sustainability, and quality of life for residents. The accomplishments highlighted throughout this memorandum reflect your shared vision for Welland's future and your commitment to creating opportunities that will benefit the community for generations to come.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and Council

FROM: Jessica Ruddell, Chief Administrative Officer

DATE: September 25, 2026

SUBJECT: Customer Experience (CX) Project – Phase 1 Update

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide members of Council and the public with an update on the City of Welland's Customer Experience (CX) project that is currently underway. The project launched in July 2026 with the goal of strengthening how residents, businesses, visitors, community partners, and members of Council interact with and experience municipal services. The project is designed to establish a consistent, resident-focused approach to service delivery while creating a roadmap for future improvements across the organization.

Project Scope

The CX Project was initiated to evaluate the City's current customer experience practices and identify opportunities to improve service delivery across the organization. Key objectives include:

- Assessing the City's current customer experience maturity and benchmarking against municipal best practices.
- Reviewing existing customer service policies, procedures, service channels, performance data, and feedback mechanisms.

- Examining how customers interact with the City through phone, email, in-person visits, websites, mobile applications, and online services.
- Establishing a Customer Experience Steering Committee and Customer Experience Working Group to guide organizational improvements.
- Developing corporate customer service standards and staff training programs.
- Identifying opportunities to simplify, modernize, and improve customer journeys.
- Creating a long-term "Service Welland" roadmap to support continuous improvement.

Work Completed to Date

The project's first phase, known as the Foundation Phase, has now been completed.

During July and August 2026, extensive research, engagement, and analysis activities were undertaken across the organization. Major accomplishments include:

Organizational Assessment and Research

- Comprehensive review of customer-facing policies, procedures, service standards, branding materials, and customer service practices.
- Evaluation of all major service channels, including:
 - Phone services
 - Email communications
 - In-person customer interactions
 - Website and digital services
 - Mobile application services
- Analysis of available customer service data, trends, and service volumes.

- Site visits and field observations at City Hall, the Welland Community Centre, LIV Communities Arena, and other customer service locations.

Employee and Stakeholder Engagement

- Interviews with senior leaders, managers, staff, elected officials, and key stakeholders.
- Engagement with over 45 individuals including employees, members of Council, and the Mayor's Office.
- Customer journey mapping workshops focused on the City's highest-volume and highest-frustration customer experiences.
- Development of customer personas to better understand the needs and expectations of different customer groups.
- Establishment of a shared organizational definition of customer experience and increased awareness of Customer Experience principles amongst staff.

Benchmarking

- Comparison of Welland's customer experience practices with leading municipalities including Niagara Falls, St. Catharines, Port Colborne, Guelph, and Milton.

Maturity Assessment

- Completion of a formal Customer Experience Maturity Assessment.
(Establishment of a baseline maturity score of 1.4 out of 4, indicating that the City is progressing from an "Aware" stage toward a more "Tactical" customer experience approach).

The maturity assessment identified a number of important strengths:

- Highly engaged leadership committed to improving customer experience.
- Strong organizational values and brand foundation.
- Recent investments in the City's website, mobile application, and digital services.
- Staff enthusiasm and willingness to improve customer interactions.

The maturity assessment also identified several opportunities for improvement:

- Customer interactions are spread across multiple departments, systems, and service channels.
- Limited customer experience performance measures and reporting exist.
- Customers often experience multiple entry points and service pathways, creating confusion and duplication.
- Physical wayfinding and customer navigation within facilities can be improved.
- There is an opportunity to strengthen service standards, staff training, customer feedback collection, and organizational coordination.

Quick Wins and Improvement Opportunities

More than 50 improvement opportunities were identified through research, employee engagement, and customer journey mapping activities. Priority opportunities include:

- Creating a Customer Experience governance structure.
- Launching customer feedback and sentiment measurement tools.
- Establishing customer service standards and performance indicators.

- Enhancing customer communications through plain language and expectation-setting.
- Expanding customer experience training for staff.
- Improving wayfinding and signage at City facilities.
- Standardizing customer communication practices and auto-replies.
- Exploring future Service Welland and customer relationship management (CRM) opportunities.

Next Steps

With the Foundation Phase now complete, the project is transitioning into the Blueprint Phase, which will continue through October 2026. Focus areas for the next phase include:

Governance and Leadership

- Finalize Terms of Reference for the Customer Experience Steering Committee and Working Group.
- Establish regular meeting schedules and accountability structures.
- Integrate customer experience considerations into ongoing corporate planning activities.

Training and Culture

- Deliver a pilot City-wide customer experience training program.
- Increase employee awareness of customer service best practices.
- Reinforce the connection between employee experience and customer experience.
- Celebrate Customer Service Week and Customer Experience Day in October.

Voice of the Customer

- Launch a pilot customer feedback program.
- Begin collecting customer satisfaction, customer effort, and customer sentiment data.
- Establish future customer experience performance indicators and reporting mechanisms.

Service Improvements

- Begin implementation of selected quick-win initiatives.
- Continue benchmarking and learning from leading municipalities.
- Refine customer journey improvement opportunities and prioritize future investments.
- Develop the longer-term Service Welland roadmap that will guide future customer service transformation efforts through 2027 and beyond.

The Customer Experience Project remains on schedule, and on budget. Significant foundational work has been completed, including a comprehensive assessment of current customer experience practices, establishment of a baseline maturity score, staff engagement activities, benchmarking, customer journey mapping, and identification of more than 50 improvement opportunities. The City is now well-positioned to move from assessment and discovery towards implementation, enabling a more consistent, accessible, responsive, and resident-focused service experience across the organization.

September 25, 2026

CL 16-2026, September 24, 2026
PHSSC 7-2026, September 8, 2026

DISTRIBUTION LIST

SENT ELECTRONICALLY

Motion Respecting Asbestos Investigation – Former General Motors Site

Regional Council, at its meeting held on September 24, 2026, passed the following motion:

WHEREAS asbestos-containing materials were extensively used throughout the former General Motors manufacturing facility;

WHEREAS the site is subject to a Property Standards Order requiring remediation or demolition, creating the potential for asbestos fibres to become airborne if the site is disturbed;

WHEREAS the City of St. Catharines is responsible for issuing building demolition permits;

WHEREAS The Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) is the primary regulatory agency with the legal jurisdiction, technology and expertise to monitor and identify potential environmental hazards;

WHEREAS Niagara Region Public Health (NRPH) is in direct contact with MECP and will take appropriate action using established, evidence-based scientific methods and public health protocols should evidence of a health hazard be found;

WHEREAS the Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development (MLITSD) enforces the Occupational Health and Safety Act with respect to worker safety as well as regulatory requirements for asbestos and hazardous substances management while workers are onsite;

WHEREAS the property owner (BayShore Groups or 2390541 Ontario Inc.) and contractor are responsible for ensuring all applicable regulations and permit requirements are followed throughout the demolition;

WHEREAS residents have shared their concerns to NRPH about the possible health hazards from the site;

WHEREAS, pursuant to section 10 of the *Health Protection and Promotion Act*, Niagara Region Public Health is responsible for conducting a human health risk assessment when contaminants are identified as having migrated off-site and may result in public exposure; and

WHEREAS, in such circumstances where contaminants are identified as having migrated off-site and may result in public exposure, Niagara Region Public Health coordinates with the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, as the lead agency, and takes appropriate action in accordance with established, evidence-based scientific methods and public health protocols.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That Niagara Regional Council **REQUEST** the Medical Officer of Health to continue working with MECP, Public Health Ontario (PHO), MLITSD and the City of St. Catharines to ensure that if a future health hazard is identified, Niagara Region Public Health (NRPH) can work quickly to reduce the impact to the surrounding neighbourhood and Environmental Health team at NRPH, MECP, the City of St. Catharines, and MLITSD will touch base at least every two weeks;
2. That Niagara Regional Council **REQUEST** the City of St. Catharines to take all reasonable steps within its authority to ensure NRPH is provided notice of demolition and remediation plans and **REQUEST** NRPH review and provide public health feedback prior to demolition or other site disturbances;
3. That Niagara Regional Council **REQUEST** NRPH work with the City of St. Catharines to provide public health FAQs for their external website that are up to date regarding any public health information related to site activities, environmental investigations, remediation efforts, and enforcement actions throughout the Property Standards compliance process; and
4. That copies of this resolution **BE CIRCULATED** to the City of St. Catharines and its Council, the other local area municipalities within Niagara Region, the Ontario Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, Todd McCarthy; the Ontario Minister of Health, Sylvia Jones; and the local Members of Provincial Parliament and Members of Parliament.

Yours truly,



Ann-Marie Norio

Regional Clerk

:rh

CLK-C 2026-073

cc: Dr. A. Kasmani, Medical Officer of Health and Commissioner, Public Health & Emergency Services
G. Kramer, Executive Assistant, Public Health & Emergency Services

Distribution List: City of St. Catharines Council
 Local Area Municipalities
 Ontario Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
 Ontario Minister of Health
 Local Members of Parliament
 Local Members of Provincial Parliament

September 18, 2026



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

Dear Mr. Premier,

RE: Council motion passed September 15, 2026

Please be advised that on September 15, 2026, during a City Council meeting, Guelph City Council passed the following resolution in regard to a Review of the Ontario Land Tribunal and Enhancing Deference to Municipal Planning Decisions

Moved By: Councillor Downer
Seconded By: Councillor Caton

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.
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.

Carried

Dylan McMahon, General Manager, City Clerk's
Office/City Clerk Corporate Services, **City Clerk's
Office**

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Copy:

Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario

Hon. Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal
Affairs and Housing

Mike Schreiner, MPP for Guelph

Association of Municipalities of
Ontario

Municipalities of Ontario

September 15, 2026

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

The Honourable Prabmeet Singh Sarkaria,
Minister of Transportation
minister.mto@ontario.ca

Re: Establish Regulatory Framework for e-Scooters

Please be advised the Council of the Municipality of Chatham-Kent, at its regular meeting held on September 14, 2026 supported the following resolution from the Town of Parry Sound regarding the above noted matter;

WHEREAS electric kick-style scooters (e-scooters) have become an increasingly popular and affordable form of transportation in Chatham-Kent and across Ontario; and

WHEREAS e-scooters can provide an accessible, low-emission transportation option and help address transportation needs in communities such as Chatham-Kent that do not have conventional public transit; and

WHEREAS Ontario's current e-scooter pilot program places responsibility on individual municipalities to determine how e-scooters may operate locally, creating administrative and enforcement challenges, particularly for smaller municipalities with limited resources; and

WHEREAS the continued use of a pilot framework has resulted in uncertainty and inconsistent approaches to e-scooter regulation across the Province.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Municipality of Chatham-Kent requests that the Province of Ontario establish a province-wide regulatory framework for e-scooters that recognizes their unique operating characteristics, maintains appropriate safety standards, and provides municipalities with authority to address local needs; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Municipality of Chatham-Kent requests the support of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and the Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) in advocating for a framework that reduces unnecessary administrative and enforcement burdens on local municipalities; and

FI NALLY BE IT RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be circulated to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA), the Premier of Ontario, Doug Ford, the Minister of Transportation, Prabmeet Singh Sarkaria, Local MPPs, and all municipalities across Ontario.

Sincerely,

Judy Shantz

Digitally signed by Judy
Shantz
Date: 2026.09.16
10:46:38 -04'00'

Judy Shantz, CMO
Director Municipal Governance/Clerk

C
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA)
Local MPPs
Ontario Municipalities

September 22, 2026

Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario

Delivered via email: premier@ontario.ca

Re: Vacant Commercial Storefront Tax

Dear Premier Ford,

Please be advised that at their Regular Meeting on September 16, 2026, Council of the Town of Aylmer adopted the following resolution:

Resolution No. 200-26

Moved by Councillor Desrosiers and seconded by Councillor Rauhe:

That the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Aylmer receive the correspondence from the Town of Ingersoll, Town of Plympton-Wyoming, and Prince Edward County regarding Vacant Commercial Storefront Tax; and,

That Council support the resolution regarding Vacant Commercial Storefront Tax; and,

That the resolution be forwarded to other municipalities in Ontario, Elgin-Middlesex-London MPP and Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Hon. Rob Flack, all relevant ministries and the provincial government.

CARRIED

Regards,

Owen Jaggard
Director of Legislative Services/Clerk

Cc: Hon. Rob Flack, Ontario Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Andrew Lawton, Member of Parliament for Elgin-St. Thomas-London South
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
All municipalities in Ontario

May 18, 2026

Please be advised that during the regular Council meeting of May 12, 2026 the following resolution regarding exploring the feasibility of a Vacant Commercial Storefront Tax was carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-207

DATE: May 12, 2026

MOVED BY: Councillor Braney

SECONDED BY: Councillor Engelsdorfer

WHEREAS the vitality of Prince Edward County's main streets is essential to the economic, social, and cultural health of our community;

WHEREAS there are numerous long-term vacant commercial storefronts, which detracts from the character of the community, reduces pedestrian traffic, discourages business investment, and negatively impacts the viability of surrounding small businesses;

WHEREAS the current Municipal Act, 2001 does not provide municipalities with the explicit legal authority to implement a "Vacant Commercial Storefront Tax," although other jurisdictions are actively advocating for such tools to address similar challenges;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT The Council of the Corporation of the County of Prince Edward:

1. **THAT** staff be directed to report back to Council on the feasibility of implementing a Vacant Commercial Storefront Tax, including an analysis of the necessary provincial legislative changes required, recommendations for stakeholder consultation, and to concurrently explore potential enforceable mechanisms available under current legislation;
2. **THAT** the Council of the Corporation of the County of Prince Edward hereby requests that the Government of Ontario amend the Municipal Act, 2001 to grant Ontario municipalities the permissive authority to implement a "Vacant Commercial Storefront Tax" or similar levy to encourage the productive use of long-term vacant retail properties;
3. **THAT** this resolution be forwarded to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Premier of Ontario, and the Member of Provincial Parliament representing the Corporation of the County of Prince Edward for their immediate consideration; and

4. **THAT** this resolution be forwarded to all 444 Municipalities in Ontario, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) for their endorsement and advocacy.

CARRIED

Yours truly,



Catalina Blumenberg, **CLERK**

cc: Mayor Steve Ferguson, Councillor Braney, Councillor Engelsdorfer

September 22, 2026

Via Email

The Honourable Sylvia Jones, Minister of Health, Province of Ontario
The Honourable Marjorie Michel, Minister of Health, Government of Canada
The Honourable Jill Dunlop, Minister of Emergency Preparedness and Response and
MPP for Simcoe North
Adam Chambers, MP for Simcoe North

**Re: Support for Continued Research, Clinical Guidance, and Access to Care for
Individuals Experiencing Persistent Lyme-Related Illness**

At its meeting held on September 14, 2026, the Council of the Township of Ramara adopted the following resolution regarding persistent Lyme-related illness and access to care. Council respectfully requests your consideration and support of this resolution.

Resolution Number CR.221.2026

Moved by Jennifer Fisher

Seconded by Joe Gough

WHEREAS Lyme disease is a growing public health concern in Ontario and across Canada due to the expanding range of tick populations and increasing incidence of tick-borne illnesses;

AND WHEREAS early diagnosis and treatment of Lyme disease are essential to reducing the risk of long-term health complications;

AND WHEREAS some individuals continue to experience persistent, debilitating symptoms following recommended treatment for Lyme disease, significantly affecting their quality of life, ability to work, and overall well-being;

AND WHEREAS Lyme disease is recognized and insured under the Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP), but Canada has not adopted a nationally accepted clinical definition of "chronic Lyme disease," and current Canadian clinical guidance instead recognizes Post-Treatment Lyme Disease Syndrome (PTLDS);

AND WHEREAS the absence of a nationally accepted definition for persistent Lyme-related illness may contribute to inconsistencies in diagnosis, treatment options, physician education, access to care, and publicly funded services for affected patients;

AND WHEREAS municipalities have an interest in advocating for equitable access to healthcare services that improve the health and well-being of their residents;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Township of Ramara calls upon the Province of Ontario and the Government of Canada to collaborate with medical experts, researchers, healthcare providers, and patient representatives to:

- Continue research into persistent symptoms following Lyme disease and emerging evidence related to long-term outcomes;
- Review existing clinical guidance as new scientific evidence becomes available;
- Enhance physician education and awareness regarding the diagnosis and management of patients experiencing persistent Lyme-related symptoms;
- Improve access to multidisciplinary assessment and care for individuals experiencing ongoing symptoms following Lyme disease; and
- Review current funding policies and access to medically necessary diagnostics and treatments, where supported by emerging evidence and best clinical practice;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Council requests the Province of Ontario advocate to the Government of Canada for continued national leadership in developing evidence-informed guidance on persistent Lyme-related illness;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to request support from:

- Sylvia Jones, Minister of Health, Province of Ontario;
- Marjorie Michel, Minister of Health, Government of Canada;
- Public Health Agency of Canada;
- Association of Municipalities of Ontario;
- Rural Ontario Municipal Association;
- Jill Dunlop, Minister of Emergency Preparedness and Response and MPP for Simcoe North;
- Adam Chambers, MP for Simcoe North; and
- All Ontario municipalities.

CARRIED.

The Township of Ramara respectfully requests your support for this resolution.

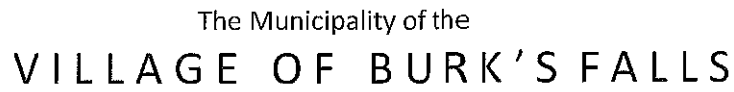
Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

Nate Harrington
Assistant Clerk

Cc. Public Health Agency of Canada
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA)

Bcc. All Ontario Municipalities



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**CORPORATION OF THE
TOWNSHIP OF NORTH GLENGARRY**

Council Meeting

Date: Monday September 14, 2026

Resolution No. 9

MOVED BY: Jeff Manley

SECONDED BY: Michael Madden

Whereas the Provincial government has shown interest and allocated financial resources to certain municipalities to implement alternative measures to photo radar, reaffirming its ongoing commitment to addressing public safety issues;

Whereas the commitment currently applies only to municipalities utilizing photo radar as a deterrent;

And Whereas such funding support would assist municipalities with limited financial resources in protecting their citizens - especially seniors and school-aged children;

Now Therefore, be It Resolved that Council of the Township of The Township of North Glengarry hereby support the Huronia West O.P.P. Detachment Board in their request for the Province of Ontario to expand their stated interest and financial commitment to include all municipalities in Ontario, adopting a province-wide approach to public safety and thereby ensuring the well-being of all Ontarians;

And That this resolution be sent to the following: Premier Doug Ford . Minister of Transportation. Minister of Finance MPP Brian Saunderson . AMO . ROMA . All 444 Municipalities in Ontario



DEFEATED

DEFERRED


MAYOR / DEPUTY MAYOR

Deputy Mayor: Carma Williams

Councillor: Jacques Massie

Councillor: Brian Caddell

Councillor: Jeff Manley

Councillor: Michael Madden

Councillor: Gary Martin

Mayor: Jamie MacDonald

YEA

NEA
