



COUNCIL INFORMATION PACKAGE

Friday, October 9, 2026

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MEMORANDUM

TO: City Council

FROM: Laura Illingworth, Economic Development Coordinator

DATE: October 8, 2026

SUBJECT: *Made in Welland: The Innovation Issue*

Made in Welland Magazine - 2026 Edition

The *Made in Welland* magazine is the City's flagship economic development publication. Produced annually, it showcases Welland's growth, investment opportunities, business success stories, and competitive advantages. The magazine is designed to support investment attraction, business retention and expansion, workforce development, and community pride. Distributed digitally and in print, it reaches investors, developers, businesses, site selectors, residents, government partners, and industry stakeholders across Ontario and beyond.

Highlights of the 2026 Edition

- **Innovation Issue Theme:**

This year's edition explores the people, companies, and projects driving innovation across Welland's economy. Through a collection of feature stories, the magazine highlights how local businesses are investing, expanding, adopting new technologies, developing talent, and contributing to the city's ongoing economic growth.

- **Business Success Stories:**

The publication profiles leading employers and growing companies from across key sectors, including advanced manufacturing, steel production, industrial services, research and innovation, and construction. These stories demonstrate the confidence businesses have in Welland as a place to invest, innovate, and grow.

- **Investment and Development Momentum:**

Features throughout the magazine highlight significant industrial investments, development activity, infrastructure improvements, and strategic initiatives that continue to strengthen Welland's position as one of Niagara's premier locations for business growth and investment attraction.

- **Strategic Messaging:**

The publication supports Council's strategic priorities by promoting economic growth, investment readiness, workforce development, innovation, and long-term community prosperity. It reinforces Welland's reputation as a business-friendly community with competitive advantages for employers and investors.

- **Distribution and Use:**

The magazine is leveraged at tradeshow, conferences, investment missions, business meetings, and community events. It is actively used by Council, staff, economic development partners, and industry stakeholders to promote Welland's economic strengths and showcase investment opportunities.

The *Made in Welland* magazine remains a cornerstone of the City's investment attraction and business retention strategy, providing a professional, high-impact marketing tool that communicates Welland's story to a broad audience. The 2026 edition demonstrates the innovation, resilience, and entrepreneurial spirit shaping the city's future and highlights the businesses, institutions, and leaders contributing to Welland's continued success.

We welcome you to view the 2026 edition of *Made in Welland: The Innovation Issue* at:

<https://madeinwelland.ca/resources/publications/>



4800 SOUTH SERVICE RD.,
BEAMSVILLE, ON L3J 1L3
905-563-2799

October 2, 2026

SENT VIA EMAIL: OEBmedia@oeb.ca

Ontario Energy Board
2300 Yonge St., 27th fl.
P.O. Box 2319
Toronto, ON M4P 1E4

RE: Town of Lincoln Council Resolution – Request to the Ontario Energy Board for a Flood Relief Program

Please be advised that Council of the Corporation of the Town of Lincoln at its Special Council Meeting held on September 30, 2026, passed the following resolution regarding a request to the Ontario Energy Board for a Flood Relief Program:

Resolution Number: SC-2026-74

Moved by: Councillor Lynn Timmers; Seconded by: Councillor Tony Brunet

WHEREAS the recent flooding in the Town of Lincoln 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 substantially 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 Lincoln Council endorse the resolution passed by the City of St. Catharines requesting that the Ontario Energy Board establish a one-time flood relief credit, refund, or other financial assistance

program for affected residential electricity 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 electricity utilities to identify and authorize an appropriate mechanism to provide such relief; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the requested program prioritize households whose electricity consumption or bill increased 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 any application process simple and accessible, recognizing that affected residents are already dealing with significant flood-related recovery costs, or apply it across the municipality; and

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

CARRIED

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

Regards,



Julie Kirkelos
Town Clerk

jkirkelos@lincoln.ca

cc: The Minister of Energy and Mines
The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)
Niagara MPPs
Niagara municipalities
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
Niagara Peninsula Energy

Good morning,

Please be advised that at its regular meeting held October 6, 2026, the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Wainfleet passed the following motion:

“THAT Correspondence Item C226 from the City of Thorold respecting sustainable provincial grant funding for fire services in Ontario be received and supported.”

Thank you.



Amber Chrastina

Municipal Clerk

905-899-3463 Ext. 224

31940 Highway 3, P.O. Box 40 Wainfleet, ON
L0S 1V0

www.wainfleet.ca

The Township values and respects flexible work arrangements. Although I have sent this at a time convenient for me, I do not expect you to read, respond to, or follow up on this email outside your work hours.

The Township of Wainfleet Confidentiality Notice

The information contained in this communication including any attachments may be confidential, is intended only for the use of the recipient(s) named above, and may be legally privileged. If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution, disclosure, or copying of this communication, or any of its contents, is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please resend this communication to the sender and permanently delete the original and any copy of it from your computer system. Thank you

Good morning,

Please be advised that at its regular meeting held October 6, 2026, the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Wainfleet passed the following motion:

“THAT Correspondence Item C228 from the Village of Burk’s Falls respecting sustainable provincial funding for Ontario public libraries be received and supported.”

Thank you.



Amber Chrastina

Municipal Clerk

905-899-3463 Ext. 224

31940 Highway 3, P.O. Box 40 Wainfleet, ON
L0S 1V0

www.wainfleet.ca

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From: Josh Bieuz <business.yasyszcjosh@gmail.com>

Sent: October 7, 2026 12:24 PM

To: Bill Matson <billmatson@niagarafalls.ca>; Clerk <clerk@forterie.ca>; clerks@stcatharines.ca; clerk <clerk@welland.ca>; Charlotte Madden <charlotte.madden@portcolborne.ca>

Subject: An Update for Local Municipalities on the Niagara GO Loop Proposal

Welland Security Warning: This is an external email. Please do not click links or

Good afternoon everyone,

I am reaching out to your municipalities to share an update on my proposal for expanded GO Transit passenger rail service in Niagara.

I have received an appeared indication of interest from Metrolinx and CN, and confirmation from Ontario Premier Doug Ford that this proposal has been routed to the Ontario Ministry of Transportation.

In order to keep local councils and representatives informed, I would request that this information be included in councillors' information packets (CIPs), or whichever memo your specific municipality uses for non-urgent updates to councillors and the mayor.

Thank you, and have a great day!

Warm regards,

Josh Bieuz-Yasyszczuk

This email has been scanned for spam and viruses by Proofpoint Essentials. Click [here](#) to report this email as spam.

September 16, 2026

Town of Plympton-Wyoming
546 Niagara St.
Wyoming, ON
N0N 1T0

Sent via email

To whom it may concern:

Re: Resolution 2026-625

Please be advised that the following resolution was passed at the September 16, 2026 meeting of the Council of the Municipality of Grey Highlands.

2026-625

That Council receive the Sustainable Provincial Grant Funding for Fire Services for information; and

That Council of the Municipality of Grey Highlands Support Resolution No. 15 passed by the Town of Plympton-Wyoming regarding the sustainable Provincial grant funding for fire services in Ontario; and

That this resolution be sent to the Premier of Ontario, Minister of Solicitor General, the Minister of Municipal Affairs, Paul Vickers MPP, and all Ontario Municipalities.

CARRIED.

If you require anything further, please contact this office.

Sincerely,

Amanda Fines-VanAlstine
Manager of Legislative Services/Municipal Clerk
Municipality of Grey Highlands

cc. Premier Doug Ford, Minister Michael Kerzner, Minister Rob Flack, MPP Vickers and all Ontario Municipalities

Via Email

Transport Canada
Hon. Steven MacKinnon, Minister of Transport
Adam Chambers, MP Simcoe North

**Re: Request for Transport Canada Review and Amendment of Water Aerodrome
Public Consultation Requirements**

At its meeting held on September 28, 2026, the Council of the Township of Ramara adopted the following resolution:

Resolution Number CR.234.2026

Moved by Dana Tuju
Seconded by Sherri Bell

WHEREAS the Aeronautics Act defines an aerodrome as any area of land water (including frozen surfaces thereof), or other supporting surface used, designed, prepared, equipped, or set apart for use either in whole or in part for the arrival, departure, movement, or servicing of aircraft and includes any buildings, installations, and equipment situated thereon or associated therewith;

AND WHEREAS Transport Canada's public consultation framework for the establishment and operation of aerodromes, as reflected in Canadian Aviation Regulation 307, recognizes the importance of public interest considerations, including compatibility with surrounding land uses, community impacts, and aviation safety;

AND WHEREAS the current regulatory framework expressly excludes water aerodromes from certain public consultation requirements that apply to land aerodromes;

AND WHEREAS the impacts associated with aerodrome operations, including aviation safety, noise, environmental considerations, compatibility with existing land and water uses, and community well-being, are equally relevant to water aerodromes and may, in some circumstances, be more significant due to the shared use of waterways by residents, recreational users, commercial operators, and emergency services;

AND WHEREAS municipalities possess critical local knowledge regarding land use planning, navigation patterns, environmental constraints, recreation, tourism, community safety, and potential conflicts with existing transportation infrastructure that may not otherwise be available during federal decision-making processes;

AND WHEREAS a regulatory framework that requires public consultation for land aerodromes but not water aerodromes creates an inconsistency that may limit opportunities for affected municipalities, Indigenous communities, interest-holders, and residents to provide meaningful input regarding proposed aviation operations within their communities;

AND WHEREAS municipalities should have a formal opportunity to identify potential safety concerns, including conflicts between proposed water aerodrome operations and established aircraft flight paths, existing airport traffic circuits, heavily used waterways, and other local operational considerations;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of The Corporation of the Township of Ramara respectfully requests that Transport Canada undertake a review of the consultation requirements contained within Canadian Aviation Regulation 307 and related policies and guidance documents respecting the exclusion of water aerodromes from public consultation requirements;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Transport Canada be requested to amend the applicable regulations and policies to require an appropriate public consultation process for the establishment or significant expansion of water aerodromes, particularly where commercial operations are proposed or where there may be impacts on surrounding communities, public safety, navigation, or existing aviation infrastructure;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Transport Canada be requested to ensure that municipalities, Indigenous communities, airport authorities, conservation authorities where appropriate, and affected interest-holders receive meaningful notice and opportunity to comment on proposed water aerodrome developments before operational approvals or registrations are finalized;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Township of Ramara requests that the federal government recognize the importance of municipal input in assessing the suitability of water aerodrome locations and the potential cumulative impacts of aviation activity on local communities and waterways;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to:

- Transport Canada;
- The Honourable Minister of Transport;
- The local Member of Parliament;
- The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM);
- The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO);
- The Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA);
- All Ontario municipalities; and
- The Chippewas of Rama First Nation.

CARRIED.

The Township of Ramara respectfully requests your consideration and support of the enclosed resolution, which calls upon Transport Canada to review the current regulatory framework governing water aerodromes and establish appropriate public consultation requirements to ensure meaningful municipal, Indigenous, stakeholder, and public input.

Respectfully submitted,

Nate Harrington
Assistant Clerk

Cc. Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
Rural Ontario Municipalities Association (ROMA)
The Chippewas of Rama First Nation

Bcc. All Ontario Municipalities



The Corporation of
The Township of Brock
1 Cameron St. E., P.O. Box 10
Cannington, ON L0E 1E0
705-432-2355

September 29, 2026

Honourable Todd McCarthy
Minister of Environment,
Conservation and Parks

Honourable Sylvia Jones, Minister of
Health Ontario

Sent via email: minister.mecp@ontario.ca

sylvia.jones@pc.ola.org

Re: Combating Tick Borne Diseases

Please be advised that Council of the Township of Brock, at their meeting held on September 28, 2026 adopted the following resolution:

C-2026-225

Moved by: Regional Councillor Pettingill
Seconded by: Councillor Canavan
Motion Carried.

“Whereas the prevalence of ticks, including those known to carry Lyme disease, and other Vector borne diseases have increased across Ontario; and

Whereas Lyme disease diagnoses have increased by 27% in 2024 to 2369 (Public Health Agency of Canada, PHAC); and

Whereas residents across the Township of Brock have registered growing concerns about public health risks associated with tick exposure in parks, trails and residential areas; and

Whereas municipalities have limited jurisdiction and resources to effectively manage tick populations on a broad ecological scale; and

Whereas the Government of Ontario is responsible for public health policy, environmental management and vector-borne disease prevention and detection;

Therefore, Be It Resolved That the Township of Brock formally requests the Government of Ontario investigate and implement measures to reduce burgeoning tick populations and to mitigate their associated health risks; and

If this information is required in an accessible format,
please contact the Township at 705-432-2355.

That such measures may include safe and effective tick control methods, public education campaigns and coordinated regional strategies; and

That the Province consider increased funding and support for local public health units to address tick-borne disease prevention; and

That a copy of this motion be sent to Minister of Health, Sylvia Jones, Chief Medical Officer of Health, Kieran Moore, Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks, Todd McCarthy, Durham Region Public Health, Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority, Kawartha Conservation Authority, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and all 444 municipalities across Ontario.”

Should you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact Clerks@Brock.ca.

Yours truly,

THE TOWNSHIP OF BROCK



Fernando Lamanna, C.M.O. Dipl. M.M., B.A.
Acting CAO & Clerk

FL:ss

cc. Kieran Moore, Chief Medical Officer of Health
Durham Region Public Health
Mark Critch, Acting CAO/ General Manager, Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority
Mark Majchrowski , CAO Kawartha Conservation Authority
Association of Municipalities of Ontario

Bcc. All Ontario Municipalities

October 2, 2026

Via Email

Hon. Todd McCarthy, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
Jill Dunlop, MPP Simcoe North

**Re: Support for Enhanced Municipal and Watershed Representation in the
Proposed Regional Conservation Authority Governance Framework**

At its meeting held on September 28, 2026, the Council of the Township of Ramara adopted the following resolution:

Resolution Number CR.238.2026

Moved by Dana Tuju

Seconded by Joe Gough

WHEREAS the Province of Ontario has proposed the consolidation of Ontario's existing conservation authorities into nine Regional Conservation Authorities (RCA), with a proposed transition date of February 1, 2027, or such later date as may be prescribed;

AND WHEREAS Environmental Registry of Ontario Posting No. 026-0740 proposed regulations respecting the method for determining the number of members appointed by participating municipalities to RCAs and additional eligibility criteria for appointments to the Board of Directors of the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency (OPCA);

AND WHEREAS under the proposed governance framework, upper-tier and single-tier municipalities will be responsible for appointing members to RCAs, resulting in lower-tier municipalities no longer having the ability to directly appoint representatives to the governing board;

AND WHEREAS lower-tier municipalities continue to have a direct and significant interest in the programs, services, land use planning matters, natural hazard management, environmental protection and other responsibilities undertaken by conservation authorities within their communities;

AND WHEREAS meaningful local and watershed-based representation will be essential to ensuring that local municipal priorities, knowledge and watershed-specific considerations continue to inform decision-making within the new RCA structure;

AND WHEREAS the geographic size of the proposed RCAs further emphasizes the importance of ensuring that appointed Board members have a meaningful connection to the watershed they are responsible for governing;

AND WHEREAS there remains a need for additional information and guidance respecting several significant aspects of the proposed transition and future operation of the RCAs, including the governance framework, member recruitment and eligibility, travel and time commitments, budgeting, financial responsibility and the future apportionment and payment of conservation authority levies;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Ramara supports continued consultation with municipalities and existing local Conservations Authorities on the development and implementation of the new RCA governance framework;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Province of Ontario be requested to ensure that any individual appointed to a RCA Board of Directors reside within the applicable watershed of the RCA to which they are appointed, in order to ensure that Board members have a direct and meaningful connection to the communities, municipalities and watershed they are responsible for governing;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the future regulations establishing the composition, role, and operation of Watershed Advisory Committees provide meaningful opportunities for lower-tier municipal representation and participation, recognizing that lower-tier municipalities will no longer directly appoint members to RCA Boards;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Province be requested to reconsider the proposed eligibility restrictions for the OPCA Board in order to establish a meaningful connection between the RCAs and the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency, including consideration of providing for at least one representative from each RCA on the OPCA Board, or another formal mechanism to ensure direct communication and coordination between the two levels of governance;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Province be requested to provide clear guidance to upper-tier and lower-tier municipalities respecting the recruitment and appointment of RCA Board members, including eligibility criteria, desired qualifications and expertise, expected roles and responsibilities, anticipated meeting frequency, travel requirements, and the time commitment associated with serving on the larger regional authorities;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Province be requested to provide municipalities with additional information regarding the financial and operational implications of the consolidation, including how RCA budgets will be developed and approved, how municipal levies and apportionment will be determined and collected, whether upper-tier and single-tier municipalities will assume responsibility for levy payments on behalf of lower-tier municipalities, and how costs and financial obligations will be allocated throughout the transition and ongoing operation of the new RCAs;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Province be encouraged to provide this information as soon as possible to allow municipalities sufficient time to understand the governance, operational and financial implications of the new model and to prepare for implementation;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this resolution be forwarded to the Honourable Todd McCarthy, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks; the Association of Municipalities of Ontario; the Rural Ontario Municipal Association; Conservation Ontario; Simcoe North MPP Jill Dunlop; the County of Simcoe; all Ontario municipalities; the Lake Simcoe Regional Conservation Authority (LSRCA); and the Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency (OPCA).

CARRIED.

The Township of Ramara respectfully requests your consideration of the enclosed resolution and encourages support for the continued involvement of municipalities and conservation authorities in the development and implementation of the proposed Regional Conservation Authority governance framework. The Township further believes that meaningful watershed-based representation, opportunities for lower-tier municipal participation, and greater clarity regarding governance and financial implications will be essential to the successful transition to the new model.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

Nate Harrington
Assistant Clerk

Cc. Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA)
Conservation Ontario
County of Simcoe
Lake Simcoe Regional Conservation Authority (LSRCA)
Ontario Provincial Conservation Agency (OPCA)

Bcc. All Ontario municipalities

Title: A.F. & P. 36/2026 - Support for Permanent Doubling of the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (OCIF) - Motion Required

Date: Tuesday, September 22, 2026

Moved by: Lori Sebben

Seconded by: Shelley Wagner

WHEREAS recent municipal infrastructure funding programs by the Government of Canada and Province of Ontario have tended to prioritize growth-related or housing-enabling infrastructure projects over infrastructure renewal needs;

AND WHEREAS the Government of Ontario has regulated municipal infrastructure asset management through O. Reg 588/17 (Asset Management Planning for Municipal Infrastructure) under the *Infrastructure for Jobs and Prosperity Act, 2015*;

AND WHEREAS municipal asset management plans and the Financial Accountability Office of Ontario have identified that municipalities have significant state-of-good-repair backlogs and renewal needs for infrastructure;

AND WHEREAS the Government of Ontario doubled the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (OCIF) from \$200M/year to \$400M/year for 2021-2026 but has not publicly committed to maintaining this level of funding beyond 2026;

AND WHEREAS the OCIF has become a vital and indispensable resource for municipalities, assisting them with improving their asset management programs and meeting community-preserving infrastructure renewal needs;

AND WHEREAS increased geopolitical uncertainty is threatening the economic prosperity of Canada, Ontario, and every municipality;

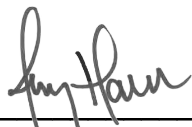
AND WHEREAS municipal infrastructure is a key enabler and preserver of economic prosperity;

AND WHEREAS the Municipal Finance Officers' Association of Ontario (MFOA) has heard from its members and their municipalities concerns regarding the potential erosion of existing municipal infrastructure and thus service levels in light of the ongoing focus on housing-enabling infrastructure by grant funding programs;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council support the Municipal Finance Officers' Association of Ontario (MFOA) request to the Ministry of Infrastructure that the permanent doubling of the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (OCIF) be maintained beyond 2026; and further THAT Council request the Province of Ontario expand OCIF funding beyond the current doubled funding level and consider enhancements to the funding formula that recognize the unique infrastructure challenges faced by small, rural municipalities with large geographic areas, small population bases, and agricultural land comprising a significant majority of the municipal land area; and further

THAT a copy of the resolution and the supporting letter from the Municipal Finance Officers' Association of Ontario be circulated to Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Minister of Finance, the Ministry of Infrastructure, MPP Mike Harris, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), and all Municipalities in Ontario.

CARRIED

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Amy Harron", positioned above a horizontal line.

Municipal Clerk, Amy Harron



STAFF REPORT
Corporate Services

Subject: Support for Permanent Doubling of the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (OCIF)
Report No.: A. F. & P. 36/2026
To: Council
Meeting Date: September 22, 2026
Prepared by: Jeff Dyck, Director of Corporate Services

Recommendation

WHEREAS recent municipal infrastructure funding programs by the Government of Canada and Province of Ontario have tended to prioritize growth-related or housing-enabling infrastructure projects over infrastructure renewal needs;

AND WHEREAS the Government of Ontario has regulated municipal infrastructure asset management through O. Reg 588/17 (Asset Management Planning for Municipal Infrastructure) under the *Infrastructure for Jobs and Prosperity Act, 2015*;

AND WHEREAS municipal asset management plans and the Financial Accountability Office of Ontario have identified that municipalities have significant state-of-good-repair backlogs and renewal needs for infrastructure;

AND WHEREAS the Government of Ontario doubled the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (OCIF) from \$200M/year to \$400M/year for 2021-2026 but has not publicly committed to maintaining this level of funding beyond 2026;

AND WHEREAS the OCIF has become a vital and indispensable resource for municipalities, assisting them with improving their asset management programs and meeting community-preserving infrastructure renewal needs;

AND WHEREAS increased geopolitical uncertainty is threatening the economic prosperity of Canada, Ontario, and every municipality;

AND WHEREAS municipal infrastructure is a key enabler and preserver of economic prosperity;

AND WHEREAS the Municipal Finance Officers' Association of Ontario (MFOA) has heard from its members and their municipalities concerns regarding the potential erosion of existing municipal infrastructure and thus service levels in light of the ongoing focus on housing-enabling infrastructure by grant funding programs;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council support the Municipal Finance Officers' Association of Ontario (MFOA) request to the Ministry of Infrastructure that the permanent doubling of the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (OCIF) be maintained beyond 2026; and further

THAT Council request the Province of Ontario expand OCIF funding beyond the current doubled funding level and consider enhancements to the funding formula that recognize the unique infrastructure challenges faced by small, rural municipalities with large geographic areas, small population bases, and agricultural land comprising a significant majority of the municipal land area; and further

THAT a copy of the resolution and the supporting letter from the Municipal Finance Officers' Association of Ontario be circulated to Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Minister of Finance, the Ministry of Infrastructure, MPP Mike Harris, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), and all Municipalities in Ontario.

Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's support for a resolution requesting the Province of Ontario to permanently maintain the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (OCIF) at its current doubled funding level beyond 2026. The Municipal Finance Officers' Association of Ontario (MFOA) is advocating on behalf of municipalities across Ontario to secure continued investment in municipal infrastructure renewal. Municipal asset management plans continue to identify significant infrastructure replacement and rehabilitation needs, while recent provincial and federal infrastructure funding programs have largely focused on growth-related and housing-enabling projects. Maintaining the enhanced OCIF funding level would assist municipalities in addressing state-of-good-repair infrastructure needs, preserving service levels, supporting economic prosperity, and continuing to deliver housing-enabling infrastructure investments.

Report

1. Background

The Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (OCIF) provides predictable and formula-based funding to municipalities for critical infrastructure projects. In response to growing municipal infrastructure needs, the Province of Ontario increased annual OCIF funding from \$200 million to \$400 million for the period 2021 through 2026.

The Municipal Finance Officers' Association of Ontario (MFOA) has requested municipal support for advocacy efforts directed to the Ministry of Infrastructure seeking a permanent commitment to maintaining the doubled OCIF funding level beyond 2026.

Municipalities across Ontario are subject to asset management requirements established under Ontario Regulation 588/17, Asset Management Planning for Municipal Infrastructure, enacted under the Infrastructure for Jobs and Prosperity Act,

2015. These regulations require municipalities to identify infrastructure assets, assess asset condition, and develop long-term plans for maintaining service levels.

Asset management plans throughout Ontario, as well as reports from the Financial Accountability Office of Ontario, have identified significant infrastructure renewal requirements and state-of-good-repair backlogs.

2. Analysis

Municipal infrastructure networks including roads, bridges, water systems, wastewater systems, and stormwater infrastructure represent significant public investments that require ongoing rehabilitation and replacement. Municipal asset management plans consistently demonstrate that available funding sources are insufficient to fully address long-term infrastructure renewal needs.

Small, rural municipalities face additional infrastructure funding challenges that are not fully reflected in population-based funding formulas. Municipalities with extensive geographic areas and significant agricultural land holdings are responsible for maintaining large road and bridge networks that support agricultural production, goods movement, and rural economic activity. These municipalities often have limited population growth and a smaller tax base over which to distribute infrastructure costs, resulting in disproportionately higher infrastructure costs on a per-capita basis.

In recent years, infrastructure funding programs offered by senior levels of government have generally focused on growth-related and housing-enabling infrastructure projects. While those investments are important, municipalities continue to face considerable challenges in funding the rehabilitation and replacement of existing infrastructure assets.

The enhanced OCIF allocation has become a critical funding source for municipalities by:

- Supporting infrastructure rehabilitation and replacement projects;
- Assisting municipalities in meeting regulatory asset management requirements;
- Helping maintain municipal service levels;
- Preserving existing community infrastructure assets; and
- Complementing local capital funding strategies.

MFOA has noted concerns from municipal finance professionals regarding the potential deterioration of municipal infrastructure and service levels if the enhanced OCIF funding level is not maintained.

Further, current geopolitical and economic uncertainties have increased the importance of maintaining public infrastructure investments that support economic activity, community resilience, and long-term growth. Municipal infrastructure serves as a foundational component of local and provincial economic prosperity.

Without a commitment to continue the doubled OCIF funding beyond 2026, municipalities may face increased challenges in closing infrastructure funding gaps, potentially requiring the deferral of capital renewal projects or increased reliance on property taxation and debt financing.

3. Recommendations and Rationale

It is recommended that Council support the MFOA request for the permanent doubling of the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund beyond 2026.

Continued enhanced OCIF funding would provide municipalities with greater certainty in long-term capital planning and support efforts to address infrastructure renewal requirements identified through asset management planning processes. Maintaining the current funding level would help municipalities continue investing in housing-enabling infrastructure while simultaneously preserving and renewing existing public assets that support economic development and community well-being.

While maintaining the current enhanced OCIF funding level is important, Council may also wish to advocate for a more equitable allocation approach that recognizes the realities of rural Ontario. Municipalities with large geographic areas, low population density, and agricultural land comprising more than 50 percent of the municipal land base maintain infrastructure that is critical to Ontario's agricultural economy. Additional provincial investment targeted to these communities would help address longstanding infrastructure funding gaps and support the sustainability of rural transportation networks and municipal services.

Supporting the resolution aligns with municipal interests across Ontario and reinforces the importance of sustainable infrastructure funding programs that address both growth and state-of-good-repair infrastructure needs.

4. Implementation Plan

Should Council approve the recommendation:

1. Council will adopt the attached resolution supporting MFOA's advocacy initiative.
2. The Clerk's Office will forward the adopted resolution to MFOA, the Ministry of Infrastructure, AMO, and other interested municipalities.
3. Staff will monitor future provincial announcements regarding OCIF funding allocations and update Council as necessary.

4. Staff will continue incorporating anticipated OCIF funding into long-term capital planning and asset management strategies.

Township Strategic Plan Alignment

Supporting stable and predictable infrastructure funding aligns with the Township's strategic objectives related to:

- Responsible asset management;
- Long-term financial sustainability;
- Infrastructure stewardship;
- Service delivery excellence; and
- Economic development and community prosperity.

The continued availability of enhanced OCIF funding supports the Township's ability to maintain and renew critical infrastructure assets in a financially sustainable manner.

Financial Implications

The continuation of the enhanced OCIF funding program beyond 2026 would positively impact municipal capital planning by providing ongoing support for infrastructure rehabilitation and replacement projects. Predictable infrastructure funding assists municipalities in managing asset renewal pressures while reducing reliance on taxation and debt financing.

Other Departments/Agency Comments

The Municipal Finance Officers' Association of Ontario has requested municipal support for this advocacy initiative.

No additional departmental concerns have been identified.

Legal Considerations

N/A

Attachments

1. MFOA Letter to MOI permanent doubling of OCIF
2. History of OCIF

Previous Reports on this Topic

N/A

Reviewed by

Senior Management

Approved by

Rik Louwagie, Chief Administrative Officer

Hon. Todd McCarthy
Acting Minister of Infrastructure
5th Floor
777 Bay St.
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3

June 25, 2026

Dear Minister McCarthy,

RE: Making permanent the doubling of the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (OCIF) that is scheduled to end after the 2026 allocation

I am writing on behalf of the Municipal Finance Officers' Association of Ontario, and the municipalities it serves, to request that the Government of Ontario make permanent the five-year doubling of the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (OCIF) from \$200 million/year to \$400 million/year in advance of the 2027 OCIF allocation calculations.

The Municipal Finance Officers' Association of Ontario (MFOA) is the professional association of municipal finance officers with more than 2,300 individual members. We represent individuals who are responsible for handling the financial affairs of municipalities and who are key advisors to councils. MFOA is a strong advocate for best practices that encourage long-term fiscal sustainability, including long-term financial planning and asset management planning.

In recent years, governments at all levels have reoriented their priorities to address the ongoing housing crisis, with heightened attention on growth-related infrastructure and increasing housing production. Application-based or incentive-based funding programs for municipalities have placed greater emphasis on growth-related or housing-enabling capital projects (e.g., Development Charge Reduction Program, Building Communities Strong Fund – Community Stream, Municipal Housing Infrastructure Program, Building Faster Fund). OCIF remains one of the few federal or provincial funding programs where the focus remains primarily on the preservation and renewal of existing infrastructure to maintain or improve municipal service levels.

With support from the Government of Ontario and MFOA, municipalities have made significant improvements to their municipal asset management plans and programs. The Government of Ontario introduced O. Reg 588/17 (Asset Management Planning for Municipal Infrastructure) in late 2017, which provided a standard framework for infrastructure planning. To support the transition to O. Reg. 588/17, MFOA has partnered with the Government of Ontario on many asset management initiatives, including guides, workshops, direct consulting support and other resources. As a result of these and significant municipal efforts, most municipalities in Ontario have an asset management inventory that identifies their infrastructure assets, including conditions, replacement costs and renewal schedules of those assets.

By leveraging municipal asset management plans in 2020, the Financial Accountability Office of Ontario estimated the state-of-good-repair backlog to be \$52.1 billion for core municipal infrastructure. That is an estimated cost of restoring such infrastructure to a 'good' condition. The report notably focused primarily on core assets and thus likely understated the full extent of the backlog. Addressing this should not be a priority that falls by the wayside due to an increased focus on growth-related capital projects by other funding programs. OCIF's flexible design provides municipalities with the opportunity to fund asset management staff, which can improve data and analysis quality, and it provides a critical means by which municipalities address the infrastructure funding challenges identified in their asset management plans.

In 2021, the Government of Ontario doubled OCIF for a five-year period. Minister Surma, in announcing that initiative, commented that the Government of Ontario was "providing stability and predictability to small, rural and northern communities as they repair, upgrade and modernize their critical infrastructure so that they are safer, healthier and more reliable for all." And Minister Bethlenfalvy said that "by nearly doubling our investment in the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund, our government is supporting public safety, job creation and economic growth." In the current climate of geopolitical uncertainty, tariffs and the resulting economic shocks and instability, the need to provide municipalities predictability and to preserve and enhance the economic activity and benefits provided by well-supported and well-maintained municipal infrastructure is as imperative as it was in 2021.

We have also heard from our members on this matter. Municipalities outside of high-growth regions have expressed concern about the diminishing level of grant funding opportunities for municipalities trying to preserve the economic value of their existing infrastructure. Additionally, while growing municipalities have made significant efforts to emplace new, housing-enabling infrastructure, which has been rewarded through the Building Faster Fund, many of their state-of-good-repair capital plans remain underfunded. To maximize the economic potential of federal and provincial investment in infrastructure, all orders of government must work together to preserve service levels and the public value of existing infrastructure, and permanently doubling OCIF to \$400 million/year will especially help small and rural municipalities preserve that economic foundation throughout Ontario.

By adopting a Team Ontario approach during recent and ongoing economic challenges, we have seen how significant progress can be made when municipalities and the provincial government work together to achieve a common goal. Should you wish to follow up on this letter, please contact MFOA Executive Director, Donna Herridge (donna@mfoa.on.ca).

Sincerely,



Dr. Adam Found, Ph.D., PLE
President and Chair

cc. Hon. Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
cc. Hon. Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance

History and Timeline of the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund

The Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (OCIF) was announced in 2014 to support core infrastructure needs in small, rural and northern municipalities. The program was initially designed to provide \$100 million annually for local road, bridge, water and wastewater projects. At the time, half of the funding was distributed through a formula-based allocation, intended to reflect differences in municipal infrastructure and fiscal needs, while the remaining \$50 million was delivered through an application-based stream. Eligibility was focused on municipalities with populations under 100,000, as well as municipalities located in northern or rural Ontario.¹

OCIF was later expanded through the 2016 Ontario Budget, which committed to increasing the program to \$300 million annually by 2018–19 to further support infrastructure projects in small, rural and northern communities.² Under this expanded structure, formula-based funding increased to \$200 million annually, while the application-based stream was expected to increase to \$100 million annually. However, in 2019, the Province indicated that fiscal circumstances prevented the full expansion of OCIF, resulting in the cancellation of the top-up application component, while maintaining the increase in formula-based funding to \$200 million for that year.³

In 2021, the Province announced a further expansion of OCIF through the Fall Economic Statement, committing an additional \$1 billion over five years. This brought the total OCIF investment to nearly \$2 billion over the 2022-2026 period, or about \$400 million per year. Beginning in 2022, allocations continued to be based on a formula recognizing the different needs and economic conditions of communities across Ontario, with the minimum annual allocation increasing from \$50,000 to \$100,000 per community.⁴

Starting with the 2023 allocations, the Ministry of Infrastructure (MOI) updated the OCIF formula to incorporate current replacement values for eligible core infrastructure, shifting from the use of historic cost data to CRVs. A municipality's core infrastructure was calculated using either asset management plan CRV estimates or MOI's CRV estimates for eligible core infrastructure categories. Starting with the 2024 OCIF cycle, the Ministry introduced a standardized Excel-based CRV template to collect municipal CRV data more consistently, building on the initial 2023 shift from historic cost data to current

¹ [Province Supporting the Infrastructure Needs of Small Communities | Ontario Newsroom](#)

² [2016 Ontario Budget | Background: Building Tomorrow's Infrastructure Now](#)

³ Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO). [Ontario Dedicated Gas Tax Funds for Public Transportation Program Review and the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund, 2019.](#)

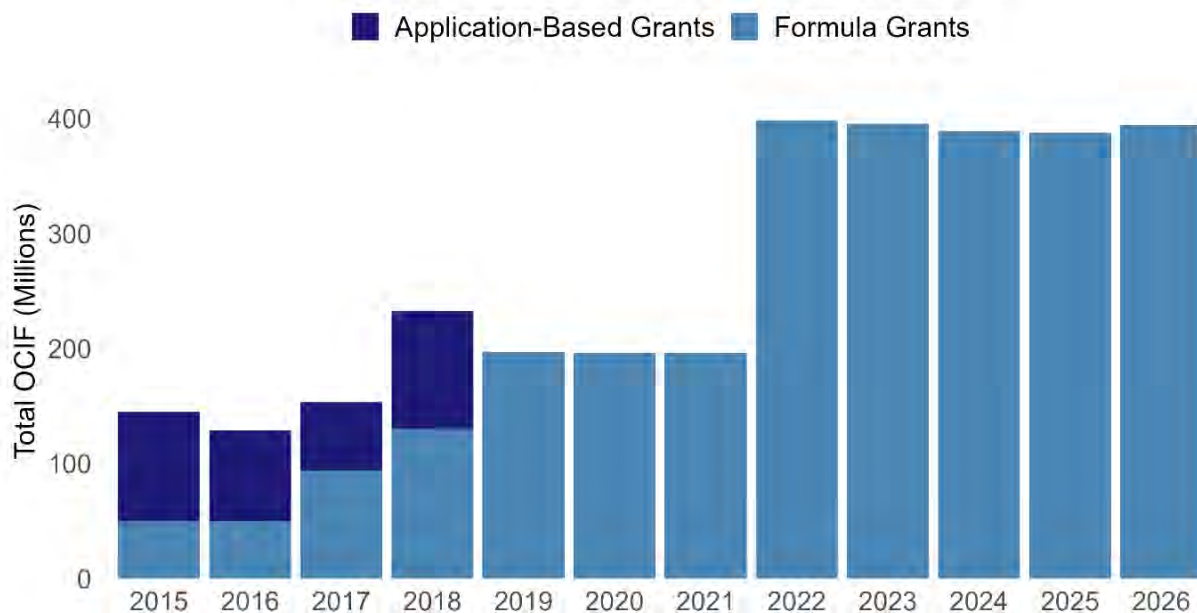
⁴ [Building Ontario with Investments in Critical Infrastructure for Small, Rural and Northern Communities | Ontario Newsroom](#)

replacement values.⁵ A smoothing mechanism was also implemented to generally limit changes in 2023 funding to within ± 15 percent of prior year's allocations.⁶

In 2026, 423 small, rural and northern communities across Ontario are receiving approximately \$400 million in OCIF funding to renew and rehabilitate critical infrastructure. Starting this year, the minimum grant amount has increased from \$100,000 to \$125,000. The smoothing mechanism has also been adjusted, generally limiting year-over-year changes in 2026 allocations to within ± 10 percent of 2025 grants.⁷ However, as 2026 is the final year of the current five-year funding commitment, municipalities are seeking greater clarity on the future of the program.

The graph below shows annual OCIF grants to Ontario municipalities from 2015 to 2026, including both formula-based and application-based grants where applicable. Totals are based on actual approved yearly grants from MOI data and may not fully match announced OCIF allocation amounts.

OCIF Grants to Ontario Municipalities



Source: MFOA chart, based on data from Ontario's Ministry of Infrastructure.

⁵ Ministry of Infrastructure, *Ministry of Infrastructure – Update*, presentation at the 2024 Municipal Finance Officers' Association Annual Conference, September 2024.

⁶ Ministry of Infrastructure, *Information Session: 2023 Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (OCIF) Formula Calculation*, 2023.

⁷ [Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund recipients - Dataset - Ontario Data Catalogue](#)



Resolution Number 189
Title: Communications
Date: Tuesday, September 22, 2026

Moved by Deputy Reeve King
Seconded by Councillor Closs

THAT, Council support the August 25, 2026, correspondence from the Town of Greater Napanee regarding the permanent doubling of Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (OCIF) funding from \$200 million to \$400 million annually beginning in 2027; and

THAT, this supporting resolution and the originating resolution be circulated to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Infrastructure, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Minister of Finance, the Municipal Finance Officers' Association of Ontario, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Member of Provincial Parliament for Lanark-Frontenac-Kingston, and Ontario municipalities.

ADOPTED

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter McLaren", written over a horizontal line.

Reeve, Peter McLaren

September 30, 2026

Executive Director
York Regional Police Services Board

Delivered by email
psb@yrp.ca

The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario

premier@ontario.ca

The Honourable Rob Flack
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

minister.mah@ontario.ca

Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO)

municipal@agco.ca

**Re: Town of Aurora Council Resolution of September 22, 2026
Report No. CS26-022 - Cannabis Retail Review Task Force - Findings and
Recommendations**

Please be advised that this matter was considered by Council at its meeting held on September 22, 2026, and in this regard, Council adopted the following resolution:

1. That **Report No. CS26-022** be received; and
2. That the Local Actions set out in the Recommendations section of the final report of the Cannabis Retail Review Task Force be implemented; and
3. That the final report of the Cannabis Retail Review Task Force be circulated to York Regional Police, the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO), Local Members of Provincial Parliament, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), and all municipalities in Ontario for consideration and support.

The above is for your consideration and any attention deemed necessary.

Sincerely,



Anne Kantharajah
Town Clerk
The Corporation of the Town of Aurora

AK/lb

Attachments (Council meeting extract and final report of the Cannabis Retail Review Task Force)

Copy: Dawn Gallagher Murphy, MPP Newmarket—Aurora
(dawn.gallaghermurphy@pc.ola.org)
Hon. Michael Parsa, MPP Aurora—Oak Ridges—Richmond Hill
(michael.parsaco@pc.ola.org)
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) (resolutions@amo.on.ca)
All Ontario Municipalities



8. Committee of the Whole Meeting Report of September 8, 2026

Moved by Councillor Thompson

Seconded by Councillor Gallo

That the Committee of the Whole Meeting Report of September 8, 2026, be received and the recommendations carried by the Committee approved, with the exception of sub-items 8.4.1, 8.4.2, and 8.9.1, which were discussed and voted on separately as recorded below.

Yeas (7): Mayor Mrakas, Councillor Weese, Councillor Gilliland, Councillor Gaertner, Councillor Thompson, Councillor Gallo, and Councillor Kim

Carried (7 to 0)

8.4 Corporate Services Committee Agenda

8.4.4 CS26-022 - Cannabis Retail Review Task Force - Findings and Recommendations

1. That Report No. CS26-022 be received; and
2. That the Local Actions set out in the Recommendations section of the final report of the Cannabis Retail Review Task Force be implemented; and
3. That the final report of the Cannabis Retail Review Task Force be circulated to York Regional Police, the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO), Local Members of Provincial Parliament, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), and all municipalities in Ontario for consideration and support.

Carried

Cannabis Retail Review Task Force

Final Findings and Recommendations

August 27, 2026

1. Purpose

The Cannabis Retail Review Task Force was established by Council to review the Town of Aurora's experience since opting in to Ontario's retail cannabis framework and to report back to Council with findings and recommendations.

The Task Force reviewed the provincial regulatory framework, previous Council decisions and reports, information from Town staff and York Regional Police, enforcement and complaint information, community concerns, the experience of neighbouring residents and businesses, and feedback received through the 2026 Cannabis Retail Review Survey.

The Task Force recognizes that legal cannabis retailers are legitimate businesses operating within a provincially regulated framework. The purpose of this review is not to reconsider the legalization of cannabis or Aurora's decision to opt in, but to determine what has been learned from Aurora's experience and identify opportunities to better address community impacts.

2. Background

Aurora Council opted in to permit private cannabis retail stores on January 21, 2019.

At the same time, Council recognized potential concerns regarding the location and concentration of cannabis retail stores and requested that the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario consider additional location restrictions.

Specifically, Council requested:

- A minimum 150-metre separation between cannabis retail stores; and
- A minimum 150-metre separation between cannabis retail stores and specified sensitive uses, including daycares, nurseries, parks, group homes, addiction and

counselling facilities, recreation facilities, the Aurora Public Library, Town Hall and similar public gathering uses.

Despite Council's request, these additional criteria were not adopted by the AGCO.

The Province currently requires a 150-metre separation from schools and private schools. Municipalities do not have authority to license private cannabis retailers or regulate cannabis retail as a separate land use. Cannabis stores are otherwise subject to the same applicable municipal zoning requirements as other permitted retail uses.

The Town's 2023 Retail Cannabis Update subsequently confirmed that the number or proximity of cannabis stores is not an objectionable criterion under the provincial framework and that municipalities have no control over their locations beyond the zoning requirements applicable to retail uses generally.

3. Community Survey

Council authorized a Cannabis Retail Review Survey to provide the Task Force with current community feedback.

The survey was conducted from July 14 to August 9, 2026 and was promoted through Town communication channels.

The survey received:

- 479 visits; and
- 154 completed responses.

The survey should be considered an important source of community feedback rather than a statistically representative referendum of all Aurora residents.

Overall, the survey indicates that the principal concern among respondents is not simply the existence of legal cannabis retail stores. Concerns are more strongly associated with:

- The number of cannabis retail stores;
- Concentration and clustering;
- Store locations;
- Proximity to sensitive uses;

- Youth exposure; and
- Neighbourhood impacts.

The Task Force also recognizes that a segment of respondents supports cannabis retail and considers these businesses legitimate and appropriately regulated retail operations.

These results generally reinforce the location and concentration concerns identified by Aurora Council when it opted in to cannabis retail in 2019.

4. Task Force Findings

Finding 1: Cannabis retail has not created a significant town-wide enforcement problem

The available information does not demonstrate widespread public safety, crime or municipal enforcement problems associated with cannabis retail stores across Aurora.

Town staff have historically reported relatively few complaints associated with legal cannabis retailers, and proactive By-law inspections conducted in March 2026 did not identify violations.

The Task Force therefore does not find evidence supporting a conclusion that cannabis retail stores, as a class of business, represent a significant town-wide enforcement problem.

Finding 2: Town-wide statistics do not necessarily reflect localized impacts

While aggregate complaint and enforcement numbers are relatively low, the Task Force heard concerns regarding impacts experienced by residents and businesses neighbouring certain cannabis retail locations.

Issues identified during the Task Force's work included:

- Litter and discarded cannabis packaging;

- Parking;
- Signage;
- Patron behaviour;
- Loitering or prolonged gathering;
- Neighbourhood compatibility; and
- Other nuisance and quality-of-life concerns.

The Task Force finds that a relatively small number of locations can generate significant impacts for immediate neighbours without producing large town-wide complaint statistics.

Accordingly, aggregate complaint data should not be the sole measure used to determine whether a localized problem exists.

Finding 3: Location and concentration are central concerns

The Task Force finds that one of the most consistent concerns is the location and concentration of cannabis retail stores rather than the existence of legal cannabis retail itself.

This finding is reinforced by the 2026 community survey, which identified the perceived number, concentration and location of stores as primary concerns.

The existing provincial framework provides Aurora with little ability to address these concerns.

Finding 4: Aurora anticipated these concerns in 2019

The Task Force finds it significant that Aurora Council identified location and concentration as potential concerns before cannabis retail stores began operating in the Town.

Council's 2019 request for:

- 150-metre separation between cannabis retail stores; and
- 150-metre separation from specified sensitive uses

was intended to provide reasonable safeguards while allowing legal cannabis retail businesses to operate in Aurora.

Seven years of experience and the results of the 2026 review demonstrate that many of the concerns identified by Council in 2019 remain relevant.

Finding 5: The provincial framework significantly limits municipal control

The Task Force finds that there is a significant gap between municipal responsibility for responding to community concerns and municipal authority to prevent or address the underlying location issues.

Aurora can enforce generally applicable municipal bylaws, including parking, signage and property-related regulations.

However, Aurora cannot:

- License cannabis retail stores;
- Regulate cannabis retail as a separate land use;
- Establish cannabis-specific zoning;
- Establish mandatory separation distances between cannabis stores; or
- Establish additional cannabis-specific setbacks from sensitive uses.

The ultimate authority respecting retail cannabis authorizations rests with the Province through the AGCO.

Finding 6: Localized problems require targeted responses

Given the relatively low level of town-wide complaints but more significant concerns associated with particular locations, the Task Force finds that targeted intervention is preferable to blanket enforcement.

Where persistent problems are identified, the Town should coordinate available resources and work with retailers, property owners, neighbouring businesses, residents, By-law Services, YRP and the AGCO, as appropriate, to address the specific circumstances.

Finding 7: Residents need clearer information about where and how to report concerns

Responsibility for cannabis-related concerns is divided among several organizations.

Depending upon the issue, residents may need to contact:

- Town of Aurora By-law Services;
- York Regional Police;
- The AGCO;
- York Region; or
- A property owner or business operator.

The Task Force finds that clearer public information would improve reporting, allow concerns to be directed to the appropriate authority and improve the quality of information available for future monitoring.

5. Recommendations

The Cannabis Retail Review Task Force recommends that Council endorse the following actions.

A. Local Actions

1. Improve public information and reporting

That the Town develop clear public information identifying where residents and businesses should report cannabis retail concerns, including the respective responsibilities of the Town, AGCO, York Regional Police and other appropriate agencies.

2. Establish a targeted response approach

That where recurring concerns are identified around a cannabis retail location, appropriate Town departments coordinate a targeted response using existing municipal

enforcement authorities and engage the retailer, property owner, neighbouring residents and businesses, YRP and AGCO where appropriate.

3. Encourage retailer and property-owner engagement

That the Town encourage cannabis retailers and property owners to proactively address legitimate neighbourhood concerns, including litter, parking, property maintenance and patron behaviour occurring on their properties.

4. Continue monitoring

That the Town periodically monitor cannabis retail-related complaints and enforcement activity to identify emerging trends or recurring locations of concern and report significant developments to Council as appropriate.

B. Provincial Advocacy

5. Reaffirm Aurora's 2019 position

That Council reaffirm its January 21, 2019 position respecting cannabis retail store locations and advocate to the Province of Ontario and the AGCO for implementation of those principles.

Specifically, Aurora should continue to advocate for authority to establish:

- A minimum 150-metre separation between cannabis retail stores; and
- A minimum 150-metre separation between cannabis retail stores and appropriate sensitive uses, including daycares, nurseries, parks, group homes, addiction and counselling facilities, recreation facilities, libraries and other appropriate public gathering places.

6. Provide municipalities greater authority over location and clustering

That Council request that the Province amend the cannabis retail regulatory framework to provide municipalities with meaningful authority to address the location, density and clustering of cannabis retail stores within their communities.

Any expanded municipal authority should allow municipalities to develop locally appropriate standards while maintaining reasonable opportunities for legal cannabis retailers to operate.

7. Strengthen municipal input into AGCO decisions

That Council request that the Province strengthen the municipal role in the AGCO retail store authorization process, including requiring meaningful consideration of municipal concerns regarding location, concentration, sensitive uses and documented community impacts.

8. Review operating conditions where neighbourhood impacts exist

That the Province and AGCO be requested to examine whether additional regulatory tools are appropriate where a cannabis retail operation generates repeated, documented impacts on neighbouring residential or commercial properties, including whether operating conditions or hours may be considered where warranted.

9. Coordinate advocacy with other Ontario municipalities

That Aurora's final Task Force report and Council resolution be forwarded to:

- The Premier of Ontario;
- The appropriate Provincial Ministers;
- The AGCO;
- The Association of Municipalities of Ontario;
- York Region;
- All Ontario municipalities,

with a request for support for greater municipal authority over cannabis retail location and clustering.

6. Conclusion

Aurora's experience with legal cannabis retail is nuanced.

The Task Force did not find evidence that cannabis retailers generally represent a significant town-wide public safety or enforcement problem. Legal cannabis retailers

are regulated businesses that contribute to Aurora's economy and should be treated fairly.

At the same time, the review demonstrates that legitimate localized impacts can occur and that the current provincial framework leaves municipalities with limited tools to address one of the community's principal concerns: where cannabis stores locate and how closely they may be concentrated.

Importantly, Aurora anticipated these issues in 2019.

When Council opted in to cannabis retail, it supported reasonable separation distances between stores and from sensitive uses. Those recommendations were not incorporated into the provincial framework. The concerns identified through the Task Force's work and the 2026 community survey demonstrate that those principles remain relevant today.

The Task Force therefore recommends a balanced approach.

Locally, Aurora should improve reporting, monitoring, communication and targeted responses where problems occur.

Provincially, Aurora should renew and strengthen its advocacy for the principles Council established in 2019 and request meaningful municipal authority over cannabis retail location, concentration and neighbourhood compatibility.

This approach recognizes cannabis retailers as legitimate businesses while also recognizing the responsibility of municipal government to protect the quality of life of residents and neighbouring businesses.

Councillor John Gallo
Town of Aurora
Cannabis Retail Review Task Force Chair



**The Corporation of The Township of The Archipelago
Council Meeting**

Agenda Number: 15.2.

Resolution Number 26-140

Title: Township of Central Frontenac - Support for MFOA: Making Permanent the Doubling of the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (OCIF)

Date: Friday, September 18, 2026

Moved by: Councillor Frost

Seconded by: Councillor Emery

WHEREAS the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (OCIF) provides important funding to rural and small municipalities for critical infrastructure projects; and

WHEREAS increased OCIF funding helps municipalities address infrastructure needs and reduce the financial burden on local taxpayers;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Township of The Archipelago supports the Township of Central Frontenac's resolution requesting that the Province of Ontario make the doubling of OCIF funding permanent; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that this resolution be circulated to the Honourable Todd McCarthy, the Honourable Rob Flack, the Honourable Peter Bethlenfalvy, Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Infrastructure, Graydon Smith MPP Parry Sound - Muskoka, AMO, and Ontario municipalities for their consideration and support.

Carried

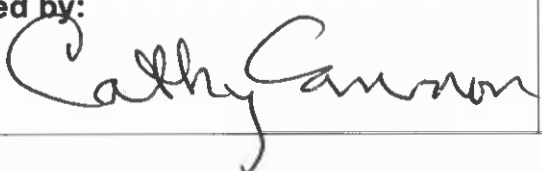
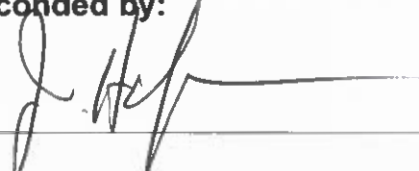


The Corporation of the Municipality of Wawa

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

RESOLUTION

Tuesday, October 6, 2026

Resolution # RC26178	Meeting Order: 5
Moved by: 	Seconded by: 

WHEREAS The Corporation of the Municipality of Wawa is policed by the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) through the Superior East OPP Detachment; and

WHEREAS OPP policing costs represent a significant expenditure within the Municipality of Wawa's annual operating budget, and the Municipality has experienced increasing policing costs, including an 11% increase identified as a financial pressure in the Municipality's 2026 budget; and

WHEREAS the Municipality has been advised by the Province of Ontario 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 an increase of up to 11% in municipal policing costs represents a significant financial pressure for small and rural municipalities such as Wawa and ultimately places additional pressure on the municipal property tax levy; 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 Corporation of the Municipality of Wawa:

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, rural and northern 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:

Page 2...



The Corporation of the Municipality of Wawa

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

RESOLUTION

- 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 affordability impacts on local property taxpayers, including cost-of-living pressures;
- provides municipalities with 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;
- recognizes the limited fiscal capacity of small, rural, northern and OPP-policed municipalities and ensures that municipal policing cost increases do not disproportionately affect property taxpayers or compromise municipalities' ability to deliver other essential services and infrastructure; and
- recognizes that municipalities have limited ability to control policing costs arising from provincial legislation, regulation, staffing, compensation, collective bargaining, operational or policy decisions, and provides appropriate provincial funding or cost-sharing where significant policing cost pressures arise primarily from such provincial decisions.

AND FURTHER THAT a copy of this resolution be circulated to the Premier of Ontario; the Solicitor General; the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing; the Member of Provincial Parliament for Algoma-Manitoulin; the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO); the Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA); the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM); all Ontario municipalities policed by the Ontario Provincial Police; and the Superior East OPP Detachment Board.

RESOLUTION RESULT		RECORDED VOTE		
☒	CARRIED	MAYOR AND COUNCIL	YES	NO
☐	DEFEATED	Mitch Hatfield		
☐	TABLED	Cathy Cannon		
☐	RECORDED VOTE (SEE RIGHT)	Melanie Pilon		
☐	PECUNIARY INTEREST DECLARED	Jim Hoffmann		
☐	WITHDRAWN	Joseph Opato		

Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and the general nature thereof.

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

Clerk: _____

MAYOR – MELANIE PILON	CLERK – MAURY O'NEILL

This document is available in alternate formats.



234-2026-3784

October 6, 2026

Dear Head of Council,

As you know, the *Better Regional Governance Act, 2026* (the Act) changed the composition of Niagara Regional Council from 32 members to 13 members, effective with the 2026-2030 term of council starting November 15, 2026. Under this structure, council will consist of the heads of council of each of Niagara's 12 lower-tier municipalities, plus the appointed Regional Chair.

The Act also provides the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing with regulation making authority to create weighted voting rules for upper-tier municipalities. To support a clear transition and effective local representation under the restructured council, the Ministry has posted a proposal on the [Ontario Regulatory Registry](#) outlining the contents of a potential weighted voting regulation for Niagara Region.

The proposed regulation responds to feedback received from Niagara Region municipalities through my office. In addition, as requested, the posting clarifies how weighted voting interacts with decision-making thresholds under the Strong Mayor framework. These changes, if made, would come into effect on November 15, 2026.

I encourage you and your council to review the proposal and provide feedback directly through the registry. The consultation is open for 30 days, closing on November 5, 2026. Ministry officials will also be reaching out to senior officials at Niagara Region to seek feedback and support local implementation efforts as needed.

The government remains committed to collaborating with municipal partners support effective local governance and deliver on shared priorities for housing and economic growth.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert J. Flack".

Hon. Robert J. Flack
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

c: Robert Dodd, Chief of Staff, Minister's Office, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH)
Martha Greenberg, Deputy Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Laurie Miller, Assistant Deputy Minister, Local Government Division
Sean Fraser, Assistant Deputy Minister, Municipal and Housing Operations Division
Municipal Chief Administrative Officer
Municipal Clerk

234-2026-3784

6 octobre 2026

Monsieur le président du conseil / Madame la présidente du conseil,

Comme vous le savez, la *Loi de 2026 pour une meilleure gouvernance régionale* (ci-après « la loi ») a modifié la composition du conseil régional de Niagara, dont le nombre de membres passera de 32 à 13 à compter du mandat de 2026-2030 du conseil, qui débutera le 15 novembre 2026. Dans le cadre de cette structure, le conseil sera composé des présidents du conseil des 12 municipalités de palier inférieur de la région de Niagara, ainsi que du président régional nommé.

La loi confère également au ministre des Affaires municipales et du Logement le pouvoir d'adopter des règlements visant à établir des règles de vote pondéré pour les municipalités de palier supérieur. Afin de favoriser une transition harmonieuse et d'assurer une représentation locale efficace au sein du conseil restructuré, le ministère a publié une proposition sur le [Registre de la réglementation de l'Ontario](#), décrivant les grandes lignes d'un éventuel règlement sur le vote pondéré pour la région de Niagara.

Le projet de règlement tient compte des commentaires formulés par les municipalités de la région de Niagara qui ont été reçus par l'entremise de mon bureau. De plus, comme demandé, la publication explique comment le vote pondéré s'articule avec les seuils décisionnels dans le cadre du système de maire fort. Si ces modifications étaient adoptées, elles entreraient en vigueur le 15 novembre 2026.

Je vous invite, ainsi que votre conseil, à examiner la proposition et à faire part de vos commentaires directement par l'intermédiaire du registre. La consultation est ouverte pendant 30 jours et prendra fin le 5 novembre 2026. Les représentants du ministère communiqueront également avec les hauts fonctionnaires de la région de Niagara afin de recueillir leurs commentaires et d'appuyer les efforts de mise en œuvre à l'échelle locale, au besoin.

Le gouvernement reste déterminé à collaborer avec ses partenaires municipaux afin de soutenir une gouvernance locale efficace et de réaliser les priorités communes en matière de logement et de croissance économique.

Cordialement,



L'hon. Robert J. Flack

Ministre des Affaires municipales et du Logement

c : Robert Dodd, chef de cabinet, Bureau du ministre, ministère des Affaires municipales et du Logement (MAML)

Martha Greenberg, sous-ministre des Affaires municipales et du Logement

Laurie Miller, sous-ministre adjointe, Division des administrations locales

Sean Fraser, sous-ministre adjoint, Division des activités relatives aux municipalités et au logement,

La directrice générale de l'administration ou le directeur général de l'administration

La secrétaire municipale ou le secrétaire municipal