

City Council Information Items

January 8, 2021

Items for information is a weekly publication for the public and members of City Council. Members of City Council may request that any item appearing on this publication be placed onto the next available Committee of the Whole meeting for discussion.

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Intergovernmental Consultation



Proposed Implementation of Updates to Ontario's Water Quantity Management Framework

Ministry/Department

Ontario Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks

Consultation Deadline

Friday, February 5, 2021

Summary

The MECP is seeking input on draft guidance to help manage water taking in areas where water quantity is a concern and where there are competing demands for water. The MECP is also proposing to revoke the interim guidance once updates to Ontario's water taking program are in place, aligned with the end of the bottled water moratorium on April 1, 2021.

Proposed Form of Input

Staff will prepare a submission for the Environmental Registry of Ontario.

Rationale

As a groundwater community, the City of Guelph has an interest in providing input on provincial policy that may affect local water quantity.

Lead

Environmental Services

Link to Ministry Website

<https://ero.ontario.ca/notice/019-2017>

Contact Information

Intergovernmental Services

Chief Administrative Office

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Tuesday, December 22, 2020

Sent via email to:

The Honourable Chrystia Freeland
Minister of Finance
Deputy Prime Minister
Government of Canada

The Honourable Rod Phillips
Minister of Finance
Province of Ontario

The Honourable Steve Clark
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Province of Ontario

Lloyd Longfield
Member of Parliament for Guelph
Parliament of Canada
House of Commons

Mike Schreiner
Member of Provincial Parliament for Guelph
Legislative Assembly of Ontario

His Worship Graydon Smith
Mayor of the Town of Bracebridge
President, Association of Municipalities of Ontario

His Worship Jeff Lehman
Mayor of the City of Barrie
Chair of Ontario Big City Mayors

Carole Saab
Chief Executive Officer
Federation of Canadian Municipalities

RE: City of Guelph Managing the Impacts of COVID19 Update Report

On December 7th, 2020, City of Guelph Council passed the following resolution:

"That report "Managing the Impacts of COVID-19:Update 6" dated December 7, 2020 be forwarded to the local MP and MPP, FCM, AMO, OBCM, and the Federal Minister of Finance, and the Ministers of Municipal Affairs and Housing and Minister of Finance for the Province of Ontario."

You can find the report attached.

Sincerely,

Stephen O'Brien, City Clerk/General Manager
City Clerk's Office, **Corporate Services**
City of Guelph

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Staff Report



To	Committee of the Whole
Service Area	Office of the Chief Administrative Officer
Date	Monday, December 7, 2020
Subject	Managing the impacts of COVID-19: Update 6

Recommendation

That report “Managing the Impacts of COVID-19: Update 6” dated December 7, 2020 be forwarded to the local MP and MPP, FCM, AMO, OBCM and the Federal Minister of Finance and the Ministers of Municipal Affairs and Housing and Minister of Finance for the Province of Ontario.

Executive Summary

Purpose of Report

This report outlines the City of Guelph’s work towards managing the impacts of COVID-19 since staff’s last (interim) update to Council on October 23, 2020.

Key Findings

The City continues to work actively with community partners and as part of the Emergency Operations Control Group (EOCG) to manage the impacts of COVID-19 and respond to a second, more severe wave of the virus. The City has implemented additional precautions for facilities and programming in response to the Province having moved Guelph into level Orange of its response framework. Staff are now preparing for adjustments that will be made if and when Guelph moves to level Red, which would generate broader, more far-reaching restrictions.

Financial Implications

Council should continue to take a long-term view of the City’s financial recovery from COVID-19. The City’s 2021 Budget includes a [four-part strategy](#) to address the impacts of COVID-19 on our service delivery.

Recovering financially from the pandemic calls for identifying new opportunities, and greater cooperation with local businesses and partner organizations to bring the local economy back to a thriving position. Council can refer to the [Third Quarter Operating Variance Report](#) for full details on the COVID-19-related variance.

Report

When staff prepared its interim report to Council on managing the impacts of COVID-19 (October 23, 2020) we reported that Ontario was experiencing a record number of new COVID-19 cases in what most experts agreed to be the start of Canada’s second wave of the virus. Today, Ontario’s new daily case count far exceeds those we’ve seen so far since the beginning of the pandemic.

At the time of preparing this report, Guelph is in level Orange (Restrict) of the [Provincial COVID-19 response framework](#). Orange is characterized as intermediate-level restrictions: enhanced measures, restrictions and enforcement, while avoiding closures.

However, Guelph's test positivity rate is up, as is the effective reproductive rate. The City of Guelph, together with our community partners, has already prepared for a move to level Red (Control) which would generate broader-scale measures and restrictions across multiple sectors to control transmission (effectively, a return to modified Stage 2). Restrictions in level Red are the most severe before widescale business and organizational closures.

As part of Guelph's ongoing response, the EOCG continues to meet two to three times each week to oversee and coordinate the community's response to COVID-19. The work of the EOCG is focused on anticipating change, listening and pivoting as needed, following Provincial and Federal announcements.

Supporting our community during the second wave

Advocacy, Consultations and Delegations

Since staff's last COVID-19 report to Council, City staff have continued to engage regularly with federal, provincial and municipal partners to advocate on behalf of Guelph's interests.

A fall 2020 Provincial Budget was tabled by Ontario's Minister of Finance on November 5, alongside Bill 229, the Protect, Support and Recover from COVID-19 Act (Budget Measures), 2020. Most notably for the City, the budget proposed changes to the property tax system, including a 30% reduction in the Business Education Tax rate and the creation of a new optional property subclass for small businesses aimed at enabling local governments to provide targeted property tax relief for small business. Municipal governments can opt to implement this reduction starting in 2021, contingent on local feasibility, and it may be matched by the provincial government.

On November 27, Mayor Guthrie hosted his final meeting as Chair of the Ontario Big City Mayors (OBCM). At that meeting, OBCM passed a motion in support of a new policy paper titled "Infrastructure Independence: Empowering Municipalities to Deliver Local Infrastructure." This discussion paper calls on Ontario and the federal government to "build back better" by investing in critical municipal infrastructure to stimulate local economic recovery. The policy paper also recommends a long-term, stable framework for infrastructure funding, an allocation-based approach to funding distribution, and for the province and federal government to reduce red tape associated to grant reporting and application requirements.

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) has also released a policy paper titled "Building back better together: Municipal recommendations for Canada's post-COVID recovery." This policy paper calls for a successor agreement to the Safe Restart Agreement (emergency municipal relief funding), the doubling of the federal Gas Tax Fund, targeted action to end and prevent homelessness, investments in community infrastructure, public transit funding and modernization, measures for climate change mitigation and adaptation, investments in natural infrastructure and for investments to ensure universal broadband access. The policy paper also calls on the federal government to commit to a dialogue with FCM on

municipal resilience, including a discussion on modernizing municipal finances and authorities.

Through the end of 2020 and into 2021, City staff will continue to engage with OBCM, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and FCM to advocate for continued pandemic financial relief and funding programs to support Guelph's strategic priorities. To that end, staff were pleased that the Ministry of Infrastructure recently opened the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream. Guelph has been allocated \$945k under the new program, and at the time of writing, City staff is working cross-departmentally to identify eligible projects and coordinate the City's application (Further details will be provided to Council when they become available).

Vital Focus Series: Secondary Impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic

The City of Guelph continues to contribute staff capacity towards the recent [Vital Focus Series: Secondary Impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic](#).

Since the last COVID-19 update, the [Vital Focus Series partnership](#) has successfully released several publications highlighting the secondary impacts of the pandemic. The series is led by Toward Common Ground, with key contributions from the City, County of Wellington, Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health (WDGPH) and the Guelph Community Foundation.

The Vital Focus series provides national and local data, and recommendations for local community organizations, institutions and all orders of government on how to mitigate and address the secondary impacts of the pandemic over the longer term. The series reveals that the effects of the pandemic aren't limited to those who are infected with COVID-19 and their families. The series builds awareness of the secondary impacts of the pandemic using evidence-based analysis and provides recommendations to help mitigate those effects. To date, the partnership has released reports on Food Insecurity, Alcohol and Substance Misuse, Mental Health, and Employment. Forthcoming releases will highlight secondary impacts on Families with Children, the Digital Divide, and Accessibility.

City staff will continue working with the partnership to identify additional secondary impacts and use the findings to help inform a new community-based advocacy strategy.

Emergency Grant allocations

In November, the City of Guelph announced [24 recipients for the Emergency Fund](#), and awarded \$150,000 in phase 2 funding to organizations, unincorporated groups and individuals who will use the funds to help adapt their services or programs to meet community needs as a result of COVID-19. This funding is the result of Council's approval at a Special Council Meeting on June 17, 2020 to direct approximately one year of funding from six granting programs within the Community Investment Strategy to the Emergency and Resiliency funding streams. The decision in June allowed teams to design, launch and award a total of \$350,000 over two phases in emergency granting by the beginning of November 2020.

Supporting the enforcement of COVID-19-related restrictions

The City of Guelph is supporting the enforcement of COVID-19-related restrictions through its Corporate and Community Safety division.

As Guelph moves through various levels of public health measures as outlined in the Province's response framework, the City is scaling its enforcement activities to match.

The City has expanded its communications with the University of Guelph so that the University is aware of large gatherings involving students and can take appropriate action.

Over the weekend of November 26–29 during Black Friday retail sales, Bylaw Enforcement coordinated enhanced enforcement at retail stores with various other agencies such as WDGPH and Guelph Police Services, with a focus on ensuring the number of people within the stores met provincial thresholds, and that personal protective equipment was in place. The response from store employees was extremely positive, and they were generally grateful that Bylaw staff were onsite reinforcing safety messages. No infractions were observed and therefore no charges were laid in any retail locations.

Holiday programming impacts

Recognizing the importance of eliminating large social gatherings and public events to slow transmission, and understanding the imperative of leading by example, this year the City will not be able to host the Guelph Farmers' Market annual holiday market, the Hanukkah menorah lighting, or the Mayor's Tree Lighting event.

Market Square will still be lit for the holidays, and staff's intent is to have the outdoor rink opened in mid-December, subject to weather, public health advice and Provincial guidelines.

The City joins WDGPH and others in wanting to encourage community members to find enjoyable ways to celebrate the holidays safely, while staying home and with those who live in their household.

Supporting Guelph businesses during the second wave

The City's economic development division continues to work with the Smart Cities office, the Small Business Enterprise Centre, Innovation Guelph, the Guelph Chamber of Commerce, the Downtown Guelph Business Association and many others to ensure that local agencies are aligned and providing the best support we can.

The following is an update on key economic support initiatives:

Grow Back Better

Since May, the Smart Cities Office and [Our Food Future](#) collaborators have been implementing programs and initiatives that have helped our community respond to and recover from COVID-19. Through [Grow Back Better](#), Our Food Future's 10-point plan in response to COVID-19, programs have been fast-tracked, infusing \$1.6 million into the community at a time when we needed it the most.

To-date, Our Food Future collaborators have helped residents and businesses receive support they need through a variety of programs including [The SEED's Emergency Food Home Delivery Program](#). This program, which receives financial support through community donations, continues to play an important role in providing access to affordable, nutritious food to community members. To date 1,100 Guelph-Wellington community members have received support and \$20,000 has been received through community donations, which has been matched dollar-

for-dollar by Our Food Future, bringing the total donation to \$40,000. As the number of COVID-19 cases rise in our community, the need for the Emergency Food Home Delivery Program continues, as does the need for community donations.

To help inform the support provided and to understand how food access and food insecurity is affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, WDGPH and Our Food Future collaborators are conducting a survey with Guelph and Wellington residents. The information gathered will inform service planning and programs in Guelph and Wellington to increase access to affordable, nutritious foods and mitigate secondary pandemic impacts.

Grow Back Better will continue to guide Our Food Future's programming through 2021 as we continue to support our community's response to COVID-19 while creating Canada's first circular food economy. Council will receive relevant updates through staff reports and established reporting channels for Our Food Future.

Guelph Shops

The City continues to support and iterate the Guelph Shops campaign. Staff are working with partners to run an enhanced Guelph Shops promotional campaign throughout December, tailored to the holiday season. The holiday campaign will be promoted through social media sponsorships, and online and print promotion via Guelph Today, Guelph Mercury Tribune, Intrigue Media and Guelph Transit advertising.

Tourism Adaptation and Recovery Fund (TARF)

FedDev has announced a new funding stream to support tourism in Guelph. While Guelph Tourism Services is leading the allocation of funds, the criteria and selection of successful businesses will be created with our partners in Regional Tourism Ontario 4 (RTO4), the Guelph Chamber of Commerce, and the Tourism Advisory Committee. At the time of writing this report, staff are still waiting to learn the total funding amount.

Guelph Farmers' Market

The City put additional precautions in place when Guelph entered level Orange (Restrict) of the Province's response framework. Indoor capacity was reduced to 100 customers at a time. Staff have prepared the Market for level Red (Control), at which point they will limit indoor capacity to 75 customers and continue to use the outdoor parking space to accommodate vendors as weather permits.

Guelph Aglow

Guelph Aglow is a hyper-local tourism initiative that will promote safe shopping and experiences around Guelph. This work is funded through the Regional Recovery and Relief Fund (RRRF), Shareable Moments Challenge (RTO4), and the department operating budget. Safe tourism activations include: 'Sparkle Square'; outdoor skating and additional seating in Market Square; Sparkles in the Park; the Riverside Park Skate Trail; and more.

Staycation campaign

The City's economic development division is working on development of an online contest for Guelph residents to encourage overnight stays in Guelph, and downtown shopping and dining. The contest is planned for Q1 2021.

Parkland dedication fee exemptions to address COVID-19 response

On October 13, 2020, Council approved waiving the parkland dedication fee that would typically apply to businesses looking to expand their square footage in cases where businesses have to expand to meet pandemic-related health and safety requirements, or to supply essential equipment.

The change allows for an exemption for industrial and commercial businesses from the parkland dedication fee if the reason for expansion is to comply with public health requirements for physical distancing, screening and/or testing for COVID-19. The fee exemption also applies in cases of expansion related to the production of urgently required safety equipment and supplies related to the pandemic.

A building permit has been issued and the noted pandemic exemption has been applied for 165 Dunlop Drive. The property owner demonstrated that the application was solely to provide screening for their employees that would help ensure the facility remains safe and operational while providing needed supply chain materials. Therefore, the exemption as outlined in 33 (h.1) of the Parkland Dedication By-law (2019) 20366 as amended by the By-laws (2019 20380 and (2020) 20531 was applied.

This application represents the only COVID-19 exemption to the Parkland Dedication bylaw in Q4 2020.

Supporting our organization during the second wave

Processes and plans developed over the spring and summer are serving the organization well as we adapt to the realities of a second, more severe wave of the virus. In addition, City administration continues to iterate and adjust in order to keep our employees safe.

Screening for employees and visitors

We've updated our approach to screening to keep employees, Council and visitors to City facilities safe. Active screening for City facilities took effect November 23. An online screening form is available to all employees; completion is mandatory before entering a City facility (Print forms are also available).

Active screening is also now mandatory for contractors and vendors entering City facilities.

Anyone coming to a City facility for a scheduled meeting, event, or program must confirm they are not sick, have not been in contact with anyone who is sick, have not travelled outside of Canada in the past 14 days, and provide contact information to help the City track possible cases of COVID-19.

Workplace Precautions During a Pandemic Policy

In November, the City rolled out its Workplace Precautions During a Pandemic Policy to ensure safe and healthy workplaces that comply with legislative directives.

Guelph-Wellington Paramedics offer Flu clinics for City employees

It's always important for frontline and/or deliverers of essential community services to be vaccinated so they can protect themselves and others from influenza. As we all know, this year, public health officials urge the flu vaccine is more important than ever.

The City offers annual influenza immunization for its employees, but logistical challenges caused by COVID-19 had the potential to disrupt this annual service for City employees. With good inter-departmental coordination, the City overcame those challenges and managed to continue its annual influenza immunization service for City employees. The result was 167 more people immunized than might otherwise have been.

This decision was driven by our corporate values and administration expects it will minimize the disruption of routine activities during seasonal influenza epidemics.

Financial Implications

The projected year-end variance that requires funding from Safe Restart Phase 1 Funding is estimated at \$5.5 million (\$2.7 million for tax supported budgets and \$2.8 million for non-tax supported budgets.) The projected year-end position includes an estimated \$19.5 million shortfall in revenue related to COVID-19-impacts; a cost increase for COVID-19 expenses of \$4.8 million; and a corresponding cost reduction through mitigation efforts of \$20.7 million. For more detail, please refer to the [Third Quarter Operating Variance Report](#).

Because of early and significant steps taken by staff and Council to mitigate expenses early in the pandemic, the City was not eligible for Phase 2 funding. However, based on projections, the City will have remaining Phase 1 Funding available of approximately \$6.5 million and will be able to transfer this to reserve to help offset COVID-19 impacts in the first quarter of 2021 (These estimates will likely change and be revised through the year-end variance reporting process, given that we are responding to the second wave of the virus along with changing Provincial requirements.).

The Safe Restart Phase 1 funding enables the contingency reserves to remain intact in 2020 and better positions the City to manage the long-term financial impacts of this pandemic without significant increases to the tax levy or user rates. It will provide the City with greater flexibility to respond to COVID-19 through 2021, and to other unexpected events in the upcoming years.

Financial Recovery

Council should continue to take a long-term view of the City's financial recovery from COVID-19. The City's 2021 Budget includes a [four-part strategy](#) to address the impacts of COVID on our service delivery.

The world has entered a 'new normal' and recovering financially from COVID-19 calls for identifying new opportunities, and greater cooperation with local businesses and partner organizations to bring the local economy back to a thriving position. Working with partners to ensure that commercial real estate is not severely impacted in the long-term will protect assessed commercial property values and limit a taxation shift to the residential sector. Council should continue to leverage the City's Strategic Plan to prioritize recovery efforts and take advantage of recovery funding and stimulus programming from other levels of government to position Guelph and be future-ready.

Consultations

This report was written in consultation with general managers, strategic business advisors, and the executive team.

Strategic Plan Alignment

The content of this staff report aligns with the Strategic Plan, Guelph. Future Ready. As a whole, the City's response to COVID-19 is aligned with each of the priority areas of the Strategic Plan. That work is in support of our community and our employees during the pandemic and through recovery, while not losing sight of long-term sustainability.

Departmental Approval

Tara Baker, General Manager Finance, City Treasurer

Report Author

Tara Sprigg, General Manager, Corporate Communications and Customer Service

This report was approved and recommended by:

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Chief Administrative Officer
Office of the Chief Administrative Officer
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Tuesday, December 22, 2020

Sent via email to:

The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario

Mike Schreiner
Member of Provincial Parliament for Guelph
Leader of the Green Party of Ontario
Legislative Assembly of Ontario

His Worship Graydon Smith
Mayor of the Town of Bracebridge
President of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario

RE: Motion to Phase Out Gas Plants

On December 14th, City of Guelph passed the following resolution:

"The City of Guelph moves that the Province of Ontario:

1. Establish an interim cap of 2.5 Megatonnes per year on our gas plant's greenhouse gas pollution and develop a plan to phase out all gas-fired electricity generation by 2030 to ensure Ontario meets its climate targets, and
2. That a copy of this resolution be sent to the Premier of Ontario, MPP Mike Schreiner, and AMO."

Sincerely,

Stephen O'Brien, City Clerk/General Manager
City Clerk's Office, **Corporate Services**
City of Guelph

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December 21, 2020

TO:
The Honourable Doug Ford (premier@ontario.ca)
Premier of Ontario

AND TO:
Minister of Health Hon. Christine Elliott (christine.elliott@pc.ola.org)

Board of Health for the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit
Attention: Lee Anne Damphouse, Executive Assistant to the Medical Officer of Health,
CEO, and Board of Health (ldamphouse@wechu.org)

The Windsor-Essex County Health Unit (wahmed@wechu.org)
Attention: Dr. Wajid Ahmed
Medical Officer of Health, Windsor-Essex County Health Unit

Dear Premier:

RE: Letter of Support for Small Businesses

At its Regular Meeting held on December 14, 2020 Kingsville Council passed the following Resolution:

"704-2020

Moved By Councillor Kimberly DeYong
Seconded By Councillor Larry Patterson

Attention: Premier Doug Ford

WHEREAS the health and safety of Ontarians is the number one priority and health is a state of physical, mental and social well-being, not merely the absence of disease;

AND WHEREAS many businesses rely on the holiday season for their financial strength and whereby these businesses have faced unprecedented difficult times throughout 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions;

AND WHEREAS closing our small local businesses during the holiday season means many will not survive and business owners and their employees will lose their livelihoods;

AND WHEREAS the Town of Kingsville's commercial businesses are predominately made up of small independently owned businesses and closing them will force residents to travel out of town into larger crowds increasing their exposure to COVID-19;

AND WHEREAS our small independent businesses have every reason to keep customers safe and are able to ensure limited capacity, customer contact tracing and disinfecting in-between customers and may be able to offer curb-side and delivery.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Kingsville calls upon the Premier of Ontario, Doug Ford, as well as the Ontario cabinet and Health officials, to protect the health of Ontarians and our small businesses by allowing them to remain open to in-store sales and service with limited capacity and increased safety measures;

AND THAT this resolution be forwarded to: All Ontario municipalities; Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade Hon. Victor Fedeli; Associate Minister of Small Business and Red Tape Reduction Hon Prabmeet Singh Sarkaria; Minister of Health Hon. Christine Elliott; Minister of Finance Hon. Rod Phillips; Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions Hon. Michael A. Tibollo; MPP Taras Natyshak; the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit Board of Health; and the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit Medical Officer of Health Dr. Wajid Ahmed.

CARRIED"

Yours very truly,



Sandra Kitchen, Deputy Clerk-Council Services
Legislative Services Department
skitchen@kingsville.ca

cc:

Taras Natyshak, MPP - Essex
Email: tnatyshak-gp@ndp.on.ca

Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade Hon. Victor Fedeli
Email vic.fedeli@pc.ola.org

Associate Minister of Small Business and Red Tape Reduction Hon Prabmeet Singh
Sarkaria
Email: prabmeet.sarkaria@pc.ola.org

Minister of Finance Hon. Rod Phillips
Email: rod.phillips@pc.ola.org

Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions Hon. Michael A. Tibollo
Email: michael.tibolloCO@pc.ola.org

All Ontario Municipalities

October 7, 2020

Honourable Jeff Yurek
Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks
College Park 5th Flr,
777 Bay St, Toronto, ON M7A 2J3

Sent via email: minister.mecp@ontario.ca

**Re: Development Approval Requirements for Landfills - (Bill 197)
Our File 35.2.2**

Honourable and Dear Sir,

At its meeting held on October 5, 2020, St. Catharines City Council approved the following motion:

WHEREAS Schedule 6 of Bill 197, COVID-19 Economic Recovery Act, 2020 considers amendments to the Environmental Assessment Act relating to municipal autonomy and the principle that municipalities can veto a development outside their municipal boundary in an adjacent municipality; and

WHEREAS Bill 197 empowers multiple municipalities to 'veto' development of a landfilling site within a 3.5 km zone inside the boundary of an adjacent municipality; and

WHEREAS Bill 197 establishes a dangerous precedent that could be expanded to other types of development; and

WHEREAS Bill 197 compromises municipal autonomy and the authority of municipal councils to make informed decisions in the best interest of their communities and municipal taxpayers; and

WHEREAS amendments in Schedule 6 could cause conflict in the effective management of landfill sites, put significant pressure on existing landfill capacity, and threaten the economic activity associated with these sites;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED That the City of St. Catharines calls upon the Government of Ontario (Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MOECP)) to amend Bill 197, COVID-19 Economic Recovery Act, 2020, to eliminate the development approval requirement provisions from adjacent municipalities and that the 'host' municipality be empowered to render final approval for landfills within their jurisdiction; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this motion be forwarded to Premier Doug Ford, Jeff Yurek the Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks, Steve Clark the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, local MPP's., the Association of Ontario Municipalities (AMO) and Ontario's Big City Mayors (formerly Large Urban Mayors Caucus of Ontario-LUMCO)

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to all Ontario municipalities with a request for supporting motions to be passed by respective Councils and copies of the supporting motion be forwarded to Premier Doug Ford, Jeff Yurek the Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks, Steve Clark the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the local MPP's, the Association of Ontario Municipalities (AMO).

If you have any questions, please contact the Office of the City Clerk at extension 1506.



Bonnie Nistico-Dunk, City Clerk
Legal and Clerks Services, Office of the City Clerk
:ra

Cc. Hon. Premier Doug Ford premier@ontario.ca
Hon. Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs, Housing minister.mah@ontario.ca
Jennifer Stevens, MPP - St. Catharines, JStevens-CO@ndp.on.ca
Jeff Burch, MPP - Niagara Centre, JBurch-QP@ndp.on.ca
Wayne Gates, MPP - Niagara Falls, wgates-co@ndp.on.ca
Sam Oosterhoff, MPP - Niagara West-Glanbrook, sam.oosterhoff@pc.ola.org
Association of Municipalities of Ontario amo@amo.on.ca
Chair of Ontario's Big City Mayors, Cam Guthrie mayor@guelph.ca
All Ontario Municipalities (via email)

Nando Iannicca
Regional Chair & CEO

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Brampton, ON L6T 4B9
905-791-7800 ext. 4310

November 26, 2020

The Honourable Rod Phillips
Minister of Finance
95 Grosvenor St.
Toronto, ON M7A 1Y8

Dear Minister Phillips:

Re: Motion Regarding Property Tax Exemptions for Veteran Clubs

Each year on November 11th we pause to remember the heroic efforts of Canadians who fought in wars and military conflicts and served in peacekeeping missions around the world to defend our freedoms and secure our peace and prosperity. One way that the Province and Ontario municipalities have recognized veterans and veteran groups is by exempting their properties from property taxation.

In late 2018, your government introduced a change to the *Assessment Act* that exempted Royal Canadian Legion Ontario branches from property taxes effective January 1, 2019. Veterans clubs however were not included under this exemption. While veterans' clubs in Peel are already exempt from Regional and local property taxes, they still pay the education portion of property taxes.

To address this gap, your government has proposed in the 2020 budget bill (*Bill 229*) to amend the *Assessment Act* that would provide a full property tax exemption to veterans' clubs retroactive to January 1, 2019. The Region of Peel thanks you for introducing this change in recognition of our veterans.

At its November 12, 2020 meeting, Peel Regional Council approved the attached resolution regarding this exemption and look forward to this change coming into effect as soon as possible after Bill 229 is passed. This would ensure that veteran clubs benefit from the exemption in a timely way.

I thank your government for moving quickly to address this gap and for your support of veterans.

Kindest personal regards,



Nando Iannicca,
Regional Chair and CEO

CC: Peel-area MPPs
Ontario Municipalities
Stephen Van Ofwegen, Commissioner of Finance and CFO

Resolution Number 2020-939

Whereas each year on November 11, Canadians pause to remember the heroic efforts of Canadian veterans who fought in wars and military conflicts, and served in peacekeeping missions around the world to defend our freedoms and democracy so that we can live in peace and prosperity;

And whereas, it is important to appreciate and recognize the achievements and sacrifices of those armed forces veterans who served Canada in times of war, military conflict and peace;

And whereas, Section 6.1 of the Assessment Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. A31 as amended, Regional Council may exempt from Regional taxation land that is used and occupied as a memorial home, clubhouse or athletic grounds by persons who served in the armed forces of His or Her Majesty or an ally of His or Her Majesty in any war;

And whereas, through By-Law Number 62-2017 Regional Council has provided an exemption from Regional taxation to Royal Canadian Legions and the Army, Navy and Air Force Veterans Clubs that have qualified properties used and occupied as a memorial home, clubhouse or athletic grounds;

And whereas, local municipal councils in Peel have provided a similar exemption for local property taxes;

And whereas, Royal Canadian Legion branches in Ontario are exempt from all property taxation, including the education portion of property taxes, under Section 3 (1) paragraph 15.1 of the Assessment Act, and that a municipal by-law is not required to provide such an exemption;

And whereas, the 2020 Ontario Budget provides for amendments to the Assessment Act to apply the existing property tax exemption for Ontario branches of the Royal Canadian Legion, for 2019 and subsequent tax years, to Ontario units of the Army, Navy and Air Force Veterans in Canada;

Therefore, be it resolved, that the Regional Chair write to the Minister of Finance, on behalf of Regional Council, to request that upon passage of the 2020 Ontario Budget, the amendment to the Assessment Act be implemented as soon as possible;

And further, that copies of this resolution be sent to Peel-area Members of Provincial Parliament as well as to all Ontario municipalities for consideration and action.



MUNICIPALITY OF CHARLTON AND DACK

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January 7th, 2021

The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario

Sent by email: doug.fordco@pc.ola.org

RE: MOTION REGARDING - Insurance

The following resolution was passed by the Council for the Municipality of Charlton and Dack on December 18th, 2020:

WHEREAS the cost of municipal insurance in the Province of Ontario has continued to increase – with especially large increases going into 2021.

AND WHEREAS Joint and Several Liability continues to ask property taxpayers to carry the lion's share of a damage award when a municipality is found at minimum fault;

AND WHEREAS these increases are unsustainable and unfair and eat at critical municipal services;

AND WHEREAS the Association of Municipalities of Ontario outlined seven recommendations to address insurance issues including:

- 1. The provincial government adopt a model of full proportionate liability to replace joint and several liability.*
- 2. Implement enhancements to the existing limitations period including the continued applicability of the existing 10 day rule on slip and fall cases given recent judicial interpretations and whether a 1 year limitation period may be beneficial.*
- 3. Implement a cap for economic loss awards.*
- 4. Increase the catastrophic impairment default benefit limit to \$2 million and increase the third party liability coverage to \$2 million in government regulated automobile insurance plans.*
- 5. Assess and implement additional measures which would support lower premiums or alternatives to the provision of insurance services by other entities such as non profit insurance reciprocals.*
- 6. Compel the insurance industry to supply all necessary financial evidence including premiums, claims and deductible limit changes which support its*



and municipal arguments as to the fiscal impact of joint and several liability.

7. *Establish a provincial and municipal working group to consider the above and put forward recommendations to the Attorney General.*

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council for the Municipality of Charlton and Dack call on the Province of Ontario to immediately review these recommendations and to investigate the unethical practice of preferred vendors who are paid substantial amounts over industry standards, despite COVID 19 delays, as insurance premiums will soon be out of reach for many communities.

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT this motion be provided to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, the Honourable Rod Phillips, Minister of Finance, the Honourable Doug Downey, Attorney General of Ontario, the Honourable John Vanthof, MPP for Timiskaming- Cochrane, and all Ontario municipalities.

Yours Truly,

Dan Thibeault
Clerk Treasurer CAO
Municipality of Charlton and Dack

CC: Honourable Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance
Honourable Doug Downey, Attorney General of Ontario
Honourable John Vanthof, MPP for Timiskaming- Cochrane
All Ontario Municipalities