



COUNCIL INFORMATION PACKAGE

Friday, February 7, 2025

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and Council

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

DATE: February 7, 2025

SUBJECT: Legislative Updates: Municipal Accountability Act, 2024

This memorandum provides an overview of the *Municipal Accountability Act, 2024*, which introduces significant changes to the municipal accountability framework, including updates to the *Code of Conduct for Members of Council* and enhanced responsibilities for integrity commissioners. This legislation will require compliance from the next term of council.

Overview of Legislative Changes

The *Municipal Accountability Act, 2024* establishes a standardized framework for municipal codes of conduct and the role of integrity commissioners. Key highlights include:

1. Standardized Code of Conduct and Mandatory Training

- A province-wide, standardized *Code of Conduct* will apply to all municipalities.
- Mandatory *Code of Conduct* training will be required for all council members and applicable local boards.

2. Enhanced Investigation and Oversight Framework

- Regulation-making authority for municipal integrity commissioners will define investigation processes, complaints mechanisms, and reporting requirements.
- The Integrity Commissioner of Ontario will:
 - Oversee municipal integrity commissioners.
 - Provide training and advice.
 - Review reports recommending removal and disqualification of members.

3. Stronger Penalties for Code Violations

- Members found in serious violation of the *Code of Conduct* may face removal and disqualification for four years if:
 - The contravention is serious.
 - It harms public trust, health, safety, or well-being.
 - Existing penalties are insufficient to prevent recurrence.
- The Integrity Commissioner of Ontario will review and confirm recommendations for removal, with final approval requiring unanimous council vote (excluding exempt members).

4. Public Confidence and Council Integrity

- The legislation emphasizes the importance of maintaining public confidence in the ability of council and its members to fulfill statutory obligations and uphold governance standards.

Next Steps

To prepare for the implementation of the *Municipal Accountability Act, 2024*, the following steps will be undertaken:

1. Review and Update the Code of Conduct

- Engage the Integrity Commissioner to review and align the *Code of Conduct* with the standardized framework outlined in the new legislation.

2. Mandatory Training for Members

- Schedule mandatory *Code of Conduct* training sessions for all members of council and applicable local boards following the 2026 Municipal Election.

3. Develop Processes for Compliance

- Establish clear processes to handle complaints, investigations, and reporting as required by the legislation.
- Coordinate with the Integrity Commissioner of Ontario as needed for training and oversight.

4. Council Awareness and Preparedness

- Provide ongoing updates to council to ensure awareness and readiness for compliance with the new framework.

The *Municipal Accountability Act, 2024* introduces robust measures to enhance accountability and governance at the municipal level. By updating our *Code of Conduct* and ensuring compliance with the new framework, council will reinforce public trust and align with provincial standards.

Memorandum

CWCD 2025-24

Subject: Housing and Homelessness- related Funding Announcements

Date: January 31, 2025

To: Regional Council

From: Henri Koning, Commissioner, Community Services

There have been a number of Federal and Provincial funding announcements recently, many in support of helping to address homelessness related challenges. Here is a listing of the funds recently announced in response to a number of funding applications that were completed and submitted by Niagara Region:

Unsheltered Homelessness Encampment Initiative (UHEI)

The Federal Ministry of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities announced that Niagara Region will receive \$4.4 million in funding under the new UHEI, to be issued in the 2024/2025 and the 2025/2026 fiscal years.

The enhanced funding will support capital costs for the South Niagara Shelter build and the St. Catharines Permanent Shelter, to off-set the start- up costs for the South Niagara Shelter, to further build on existing outreach programs to help individuals experiencing homelessness transition to housing, and to move forward with the supportive housing strategy.

Canada-Ontario Community Housing Initiative Residual (COCHI) Last Mile Funding

The Provincial Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing announced that Niagara has been awarded \$2,650,000 in COCHI – Last Mile Funding.

The funding is intended to address affordable and supportive housing projects that are in advanced stages of construction where the injection of extra funds into these projects could lead to their faster completion. The funding was awarded to Niagara to expedite the completion of the Lyons Douglas Heights housing development project, a 62-unit affordable housing project in Fort Erie.

Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit (COHB)

The Provincial Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing announced that Niagara has been awarded an additional \$493,700 in COHB funding.

This funding is intended to support the transition of individuals experiencing homelessness from shelter and encampments into housing. It will help to support individuals living in encampments who are housing ready as we free-up shelter spaces for individuals living in encampments by helping people living in shelters move into longer-term housing.

Homelessness and Addiction Recovery Treatment Hub (HART Hub)

A collaboration of ten community partners submitted a funding application to the Ministry of Health for a 3-year, HART Hub demonstration project and have been awarded with an investment of \$18.9 million.

A HART Hub is a new service for the Niagara community. It is intended to support chronically homeless populations with access to essential services in a community setting and key to supporting adults (18+) who are experiencing chronic homelessness with mental health and / or substance use challenges, who have not been successful in traditional programs.

Gateway Residential Community Support Services will be the lead organization with support from a wide range of collaborating partners including the Region.

Respectfully submitted and signed by

Henri Koning, MHSc
Commissioner, Community Services



Northumberland County Council Resolution

SENT VIA EMAIL

January 31, 2025

Honourable Andrea Khanjin (Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks)
Honourable Peter Bethlenfalvy (Minister of Finance)
Honourable David Piccini (Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development
and MPP for Northumberland Peterborough-South)
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
All Ontario Municipalities

Re: Correspondence, Municipality of St. Charles 'Deposit Return Program'

At a meeting held on January 22, 2025 Northumberland County Council approved Council Resolution # 2025-01-22-035, adopting the below recommendation from the January 6, 2025 Public Works Committee meeting:

Moved by: Councillor Mandy Martin
Seconded by: Councillor John Logel

"**That** the Public Works Committee, having considered correspondence from the Municipality of St. Charles regarding 'Deposit Return Program' recommend that County Council support this correspondence; and

Further That the Committee recommend that County Council direct staff to send a copy of this resolution to the Honourable Andrea Khanjin (Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks), the Honourable Peter Bethlenfalvy (Minister of Finance), the Honourable David Piccini (Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development and MPP for Northumberland Peterborough-South), the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), and all Ontario Municipalities."

Council Resolution # 2025-01-22-035

Carried

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

Sincerely,
Maddison Mather



Manager of Legislative Services / Clerk
Northumberland County

Public Works Committee Resolution

Committee Meeting Date: January 6, 2025

Agenda Item: 7.b

Resolution Number: 2025-01-06- 004

Moved by: B. Ostrander

Seconded by: J. Logel

Council Meeting Date: January 22, 2025

"**That** the Public Works Committee, having considered correspondence from the Municipality of St. Charles regarding 'Deposit Return Program' recommend that County Council support this correspondence; and

Further That the Committee recommend that County Council direct staff to send a copy of this resolution to the Honourable Andrea Khanjin (Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks), the Honourable Peter Bethlenfalvy (Minister of Finance), the Honourable David Piccini (Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development and MPP for Northumberland Peterborough-South), the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), and all Ontario Municipalities."

Carried _____
Committee Chair's Signature

Defeated _____
Committee Chair's Signature

Deferred _____
Committee Chair's Signature

The Corporation of the Municipality of St. Charles
RESOLUTION PAGE



Regular Meeting of Council

Agenda Number: 8.2.
Resolution Number 2024-403
Title: Resolution Stemming from October 16, 2024 Regular Meeting of Council - Item 8.1 - Correspondence #4
Date: November 20, 2024

Moved by: Councillor Loftus
Seconded by: Councillor Lachance

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council for the Corporation of the Municipality of St.-Charles hereby supports the letter dated September 20, 2024 by the Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury, regarding the Ontario Deposit Return Program;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, Andrea Khanjin; the Minister of Finance, Peter Bethlenfalvy; the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO); our local Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP); and all Ontario Municipalities.

CARRIED


MAYOR

September 20, 2024

BY E-MAIL

Hon. Andrea Khanjin, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
5th Floor
777 Bay St.
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3

Dear Minister Khanjin:

Ontario Deposit Return Program

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to formally address the recent discussions surrounding the Ontario Deposit Return Program, particularly regarding our community residents asking us about the recycling of nonalcoholic beverage plastics.

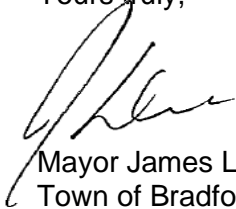
Whereas the Ontario Deposit Return Program has successfully incentivized the recycling of alcoholic beverage containers, resulting in the removal of over 204,000 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions, we recognize the potential for similar success with nonalcoholic beverages.

The Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks highlighted in their June 2023 letter that they are considering the adoption of a deposit-and-return system for nonalcoholic beverages. This initiative presents a unique opportunity to further promote recycling, reduce litter, and encourage sustainable practices among consumers.

Therefore, I am proud to announce that our Council endorses the expansion of the Ontario Deposit Return Program to include nonalcoholic beverage containers. We believe that this expansion will not only enhance environmental stewardship but also foster a culture of sustainability within our community.

We encourage all stakeholders to support this initiative and work collaboratively towards its implementation. Together, we can make a significant impact on our environment and set a positive example for future generations.

Yours truly,



Mayor James Leduc
Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury

CC:

Hon. Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance
Hon. Caroline Mulroney, Member of Provincial Parliament for York-Simcoe
MPP Sandy Shaw, Opposition Environment, Conservation and Parks Critic
Ontario's Municipal Councils and Conservation Authorities



The Corporation of the Town of Cobourg

Resolution

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

Town of Cobourg
55 King Street West,
Cobourg, ON, K9A 2M2
clerk@cobourg.ca

Delivered via email

Doug.fordco@pc.ola.org
premier@ontario.ca

January 31, 2025

RE: Correspondence received from Northumberland County regarding the Municipal Restructuring Study

Please be advised that the Town of Cobourg Council, at its meeting held on January 29, 2025, passed the following resolution:

WHEREAS Cobourg Council understands that the Northumberland tax base is having difficulties with the constant increase in municipal taxes from both the upper and lower tier municipalities; and

WHEREAS the Council acknowledges the need to explore service rationalization, restructuring, and potential amalgamation within Northumberland County to enhance efficiency and service delivery; and

WHEREAS any study undertaken must provide a comprehensive and balanced approach to ensure that all viable options are fairly considered in determining the best governance and financial structure for all of our communities; and

WHEREAS the town of Cobourg tax base makes up 23% of the Northumberland County tax levy and the town of Cramahe contributes just 6% while both having a single vote at the County of Northumberland Council table unless it is a recorded vote; and

WHEREAS in addition to the options of restructuring and amalgamation, a third alternative must be evaluated, namely the potential dilution of the upper-tier government that could allow for the direct allocation of provincial funding to lower-tier municipalities enhancing the local decision-making process and allowing for fiscal autonomy of the various communities.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Cobourg Council expresses its support and significant interest in the pursuing a study on service rationalization, restructuring, and amalgamation of Northumberland County; and that a third option, be included in the study and that the third option look at the possible dissolution of the



The Corporation of the Town of Cobourg

Resolution

upper tier government; and

FURTHER THAT this letter be forwarded to Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, Honourable, David Piccini, Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development and Northumberland - Peterborough South MPP, and Honourable, Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing and Markham-Stouffville MPP along with all other lower tier municipalities asking for their support in ensuring this much needed study explores all potential options that may better serve the resident of Cobourg and Northumberland County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kristina Lepik".

Kristina Lepik
Deputy Clerk/Manager, Legislative Services

Enclosure.

cc. Honourable David Piccini, Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development, Northumberland – Peterborough South MPP;
Honourable Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing; and
All lower tier Ontario Municipalities

January 22, 2025

Delivered via email

Dear Northumberland County Clerks,

Re: Municipal Restructuring Study

I am writing to share a report and accompanying Council Resolution approved by Northumberland County Council on December 18, 2024. The report entitled 'Budget 2025 – Municipal Restructuring Study', was requested by County Council on November 20, 2024 for the purposes of investigating the cost of a restructuring study as part of 2025 budget deliberations.

As per Council's request, this letter is being sent to Member Municipalities to determine interest in pursuing a study of service rationalization, restructuring and/or amalgamation. The support required would include staff time to gather and share information, as well as meetings with the consultant. The study would be informative, and participation would not be seen as an agreement to move forward with any recommendations resulting from the study. If a majority of Member Municipalities wish to participate in the study, we will take the results back to County Council for next steps on moving forward.

Please note the response deadline of March 3, 2025.

Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Moore
CAO, Northumberland County

c.c. Northumberland County CAOs
Maddison Mather, Clerk, Northumberland County

Council Resolution

Moved By: J. Logel

Seconded By: R. Crate

Agenda
Item 17.c
(2.i)

Resolution Number
2024-12-18- 926

“That County Council direct staff to send a letter to each of Northumberland County’s 7 Member Municipalities to determine interest in pursuing a municipal restructuring study, with a response deadline of March 3, 2025.”

Recorded Vote
Requested by _____
Councillor’s Name

Deferred _____
Warden’s Signature

Carried 
Warden’s Signature

Defeated _____
Warden’s Signature

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Report 2024-167

Report Title: Budget 2025 – Municipal Restructuring Study

Prepared by: Jennifer Moore
Chief Administrative Officer
Office of the CAO

Approved by: Jennifer Moore, CAO

Council Meeting Date: December 18, 2024

Report Not Considered by

Standing Committee Because:

- Time-sensitive Issue (information received too late for Committee consideration)
- Urgent Matter (issue arose after this month’s Committee meeting)
- Other

Strategic Plan Priorities: Innovate for Service Excellence
 Ignite Economic Opportunity
 Foster a Thriving Community
 Propel Sustainable Growth
 Champion a Vibrant Future

Recommendation

“That County Council, having considered Report 2024-167 ‘Budget 2025 - Municipal Restructuring Study’, direct staff to request input from member municipalities to determine interest in pursuing a municipal restructuring study.”

Purpose

At their November 20, 2024 meeting, County Council discussed budget considerations for 2025. As a result of the discussions, staff were directed to report back on the cost of an amalgamation study in the draft budget.

Background

The idea of restructuring is not new to Northumberland County. Northumberland has been restructured several times in its 232-year history. Northumberland was initially formed in 1792. It joined with Durham County to form the Newcastle District in 1802, as part of Upper Canada. In 1850 it became the United Counties of Northumberland and Durham. It remained as the United Counties until 1973. On January 1, 1974, the majority of Durham County joined Ontario County to form Durham Region, except for the Town of Port Hope and Hope Township. Hope and Port Hope joined Northumberland County to form a standalone County named Northumberland. Over the years there have been various changes to the boundaries and names of lower tiers, as those organizations have been restructured, as well with population growth and Provincial direction.

In the late 1990's there was significant restructuring across the province and the number of municipalities was reduced by almost half. Northumberland's boundaries were changed once again when Murray Township left Northumberland and joined the newly formed City of Quinte West. Northumberland's boundaries have otherwise remained unchanged, but there were several amalgamations of lower-tiers. By 2001, Northumberland was comprised of seven lower-tiers and looks as it does today.

Current	Formerly
Town of Cobourg	Town of Cobourg
Municipality of Port Hope	Town of Port Hope Hope Township
Municipality of Trent Hills	Town of Campbellford Village of Hastings Seymour Township Percy Township
Municipality of Brighton	Town of Brighton Brighton Township
Hamilton Township	Hamilton Township
Township of Alnwick/Haldimand	Alnwick Township Haldimand Township
Township of Cramahe	Village of Colborne Cramahe Township

Around the time of the municipal restructuring in 2001, there were also significant changes in the responsibilities of each level of government. While services such as road and bridges had been the County's responsibility since the days of horse and buggy, the County assumed responsibility for many additional services from the province, including Housing and Paramedics.

The table below summarizes key municipal services, and which level of municipal government delivers the service within Northumberland County. It should be noted that the responsibilities of each level of government have changed over time. The manner in which services are delivered varies dramatically across the province. Every municipality has a unique combination of service responsibilities and service levels. The range of services seems to be most diverse in the two-tier municipal structures where a County is the upper tier. Regional governments tend to have more similarities in the distribution of services between the upper and lower tiers.

Service		Upper Tier	Lower Tier
Infrastructure			
	Roads	*	*
	Bridges	*	*
	Water		*
	Wastewater/Sewage		*
	Solid Waste	*	
Community Services			
	Social Services/Service Manager	*	
	Housing	*	
	Parks & Recreation		*
	Forest	*	
	Libraries		*
	Transit		*
	Cemeteries		*
Protection Services			
	Police		*
	Fire		*
	Fire – Communications tower/Dispatch shared service	*	
	Provincial Offences	*	
	Court Security		*
	By Law Enforcement	*	*
	Emergency Planning	*	*
Health Care			
	Paramedics	*	
	Community Paramedicine	*	
	Long Term Care	*	
	Health Unit (funding only)	*	
	Walk-in Clinic	*	

Service		Upper Tier	Lower Tier
Community Development			
	Economic Development	*	*
	Tourism	*	*
	Land Use Planning	*	*
	Conservation Authority (funding only)		*
	Inspections		*
	Inspections – Shared Service	*	
Legislative Services			
	Clerk/Governance	*	*
	Licensing		*
	Archives (existing shared service)	*	*
	MPAC (funding only)	*	
Corporate Services			
	HR/Payroll	*	*
	Finance/Treasury	*	*
	Legal	*	
	IT/GIS (existing shared service)	*	*
	Health & Safety	*	*
	Facilities/Property Management	*	*
	Communications	*	*

Notes

*Some services may be a lower tier responsibility, but are not necessarily delivered by every member municipality.

** Some services may be delivered by another entity, while remaining the responsibility of the municipality.

There are several services where there are existing formal, or informal, shared services arrangements. Selected services have been consolidated, or partially consolidated, at the upper tier to achieve efficiencies and economies of scale such as IT, road surface treatment, GIS, etc. There have been other shared services agreements on an ad hoc basis in recent years such as HR. In addition to the more formal arrangements, municipalities across the County frequently collaborate on service delivery and projects. For example, joint training exercises, road construction with underground works, and purchasing.

Consultations

The County and member municipalities have explored opportunities for shared services over the past couple of decades, with some new opportunities advancing and others being abandoned after hitting barriers. Staff have consistently approached this work with the intention of maintaining (or improving) service levels for the same or less cost. However, it is inherently difficult to voluntarily merge the work of eight separate legal entities with independent governance structures. Every organization has their own identified priorities, in addition to busy day-to-day operating demands.

Anecdotally, there are mixed opinions about the success of previous amalgamations. The key difference is that most previous amalgamations were initiated through a Provincial directive, or a very strong suggestion from the Province that municipalities look to merge with one or more neighbouring municipalities. Small municipalities speak to the potential benefits of economies of scale across their operations, although many municipal services cannot achieve significant savings even at their present size and scale due to labour intensive services, large geographic areas, and other limitations. Municipalities that underwent large amalgamations, such as moving to a single tier, often acknowledge long-term benefits but reference many challenges, including governance structure and service rationalization, that need to be overcome in the early days. In many cases, there were increased costs during the initial years of an amalgamation, as common service levels and expectations were settled. For many communities, particularly in rural Ontario, there are strong ties to existing features of the community; there is a reluctance to accept the changes that could lead to more significant savings.

Legislative Authority / Risk Considerations

The Municipal Act 2001 Part V, Municipal Reorganization specifically permits restructuring of municipalities. This section of the Act outlines the process and authorities for various aspects of restructuring the governance of a municipality or municipalities. The purpose of this section is as follows:

171 (1) The purposes of section 172 to 179 are,

- (a) To provide for a process which allows municipal Restructuring to proceed in a timely and efficient manner;*
- (b) To facilitate municipal restructuring over large geographic areas; and*
- (c) To facilitate municipal restructuring of a significant nature which may include elimination of a level of municipal government, transfer of municipal powers and responsibilities and responsibilities and changes to municipal representation systems. 2001, c.25 s. 171(a)*

Discussion / Options

Any study on municipal restructuring will require participation from all seven member municipalities, and most likely the County, depending on the services being considered. It is critical that there is an interest in the study, and a commitment of support from the participants. The support required would include staff time to gather and share information, as well as meetings with the consultant. The study would be informative, and participation would not be seen as an agreement to move forward with any recommendations resulting from the study.

Staff propose an initial step by County Council to request input from member municipalities to determine interest in pursuing a study of service rationalization, restructuring and/or amalgamation. Further, a resolution should be requested from each member municipality to express their level of interest in the information learned through such as study. This resolution would only be a commitment to participate and receive the final report, but would NOT obligate any municipality to proceed with implementation of the report recommendations.

Further, if a majority of member municipalities wish to participate in the study, then the County should proceed with the procurement of a consultant to conduct the necessary research and analysis, and make recommendations for consideration. Given the anticipated size and scope of the study, it would be a competitive RFP process.

Staff propose two options should there be sufficient interest from member municipalities:

- a) Study the benefits and challenges of a full amalgamation to a single government across Northumberland County for all services. This would include costs and resourcing required through a transition period, projected ongoing savings or increases, high level review of staffing implications, proposed governance model, etc.
- b) Select 1-2 services to evaluate and develop an assessment of options for restructuring. Restructuring could result in an upload to the County, or consolidation with one of the seven member municipalities for all or part of a service, based on the analysis. The review would include transitional and ongoing operational impacts to governance, staffing, service levels, and financial implications, as well as an initial plan for implementation.

Staff recommend option B, and recommend that it be referred to the CAOs' Committee to determine the services to be reviewed. The CAOs should provide input into developing common goals for a study, including financial objectives, service level equalization, staffing and asset impacts, as well as qualitative impacts of service restructuring.

Financial Impact

The cost would be dependent on the scope of the review. Given the complexity of the assessment and number of municipalities, consulting costs would likely be \$150,000 - \$250,000 for the initial reviews, depending on number and complexity of departments included in the study, and the number of municipalities currently offering the service. The work required would be unique to Northumberland County, and could require extensive planning if the direction is to conduct a review of a full amalgamation, with costs likely exceeding the top end of the estimate for a full implementation plan. Given the time required for member municipal consideration as well as the RFP process, it is expected that only a portion of costs would be incurred in 2025 with the balance incurred in 2026.

Member Municipality Impacts

Depending on the extent of the review, there could be a significant impact to member municipal operations and governance.

Conclusion / Outcomes

Staff recommend this report be received for information, and considered as part of the 2025 budget deliberations.

Attachments

N/A



The Town of The Blue Mountains
Council Meeting

Title: Tom Mrakas, Mayor, Town of Aurora
Date: Monday, January 27, 2025

Moved by: Councillor Ardiel
Seconded by: Deputy Mayor Bordignon

THAT Council of the Town of The Blue Mountains receives and supports the correspondence of Tom Mrakas, Mayor, Town of Aurora Re: November 5, 2024 Resolution regarding request of the redistribution of the Provincial Land Transfer Tax and GST to municipalities for Sustainable Infrastructure Funding as noted below:

Whereas municipalities face growing infrastructure needs, including roads, bridges, public transit, water systems, and other critical services, which are essential to community well-being and economic development; and

Whereas the current sources of municipal revenue, including property taxes and user fees, are insufficient to meet these increasing demands for infrastructure investment; and

Whereas the Province of Ontario currently collects the Land Transfer Tax (LTT) on property transactions in municipalities across the province, generating significant revenue that is not directly shared with municipalities; and

Whereas the Federal Government collects the Goods and Services Tax (GST) on property transactions, a portion of which could be directed to municipalities to address local infrastructure needs; and

Whereas redistributing a portion of the Provincial Land Transfer Tax and GST to municipalities would provide a predictable and sustainable source of funding for local infrastructure projects without creating a new tax burden on residents or homebuyers; and

Whereas a redistribution of a portion of the existing Land Transfer Tax and GST would allow municipalities to better plan and invest in long-term infrastructure initiatives, supporting local economic growth and improving the quality of life for residents;

1. Now Therefore Be It Hereby Resolved That Aurora Town Council formally requests the Provincial Government to consider redistributing a portion of the Land Transfer Tax collected on property transactions to municipalities; and
2. Be It Further Resolved That Aurora Town Council calls on the Federal Government to allocate a percentage of the GST collected on property sales to municipalities; and
3. Be It Further Resolved That this redistribution of the Land Transfer Tax and GST should be structured to provide predictable and sustainable funding to municipalities, allowing for better long-term planning and investment in infrastructure projects that benefit local communities, thus ensuring that local governments receive a fair share of the revenue to address critical infrastructure needs; and
4. Be It Further Resolved That copies of this resolution be forwarded to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Premier Doug Ford, the Ontario Minister of Finance, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, local Members of Parliament (MPs) and Members of Provincial Parliament (MPPs); and
5. Be It Further Resolved That copies of this resolution be forwarded to all 444 Municipalities in Ontario, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) for their endorsement and advocacy.

AND THAT Council directs staff to circulate the resolution to the 444 Municipalities in Ontario, the Federation of

Canadian Municipalities (FCM), and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), and local MP and MPP offices, for their endorsement and advocacy.

YES: 7

NO: 0

CONFLICT: 0

ABSENT: 0

The motion is Carried

YES: 7

Mayor Matrosovs
Councillor Maxwell

Deputy Mayor Bordignon
Councillor McKinlay

Councillor Ardiel
Councillor Porter

Councillor Hope

NO: 0

CONFLICT: 0

ABSENT: 0

From: De Bartolo, Betty <BDeBartolo@aurora.ca> on behalf of Mrakas, Tom <TMrakas@aurora.ca>
Sent: Friday, December 6, 2024 6:26:10 PM
To: Mrakas, Tom <TMrakas@aurora.ca>
Subject: Follow-Up: Join Over 50 Municipalities Supporting Sustainable Funding for Our Communities

Dear Elected Official,

I'm reaching out again regarding the motion calling on the province to redistribute part of the Land Transfer Tax and the federal government to share a portion of the GST on new home sales. This initiative is critical to securing predictable and sustainable funding for our municipalities, enabling us to address infrastructure needs without over-reliance on property taxes.

I'm pleased to share that over 50 municipalities have already passed this motion, demonstrating widespread support for this important cause. As a result, you may soon notice resolutions related to this initiative appearing on your agenda from other municipalities.

If your Council has not yet adopted this motion, I strongly encourage you to introduce it for consideration. Standing together as municipalities across the province will amplify our message to the Provincial and Federal Governments and show them the urgency and unity behind this request.

Thank you again to those who have already passed the motion. Your leadership is helping pave the way for meaningful change. For those still considering, I have attached a copy of the motion. If you have any question, I would be happy to answer any questions to assist you.

Together, we can ensure a stronger financial future for all our municipalities.

Regards,

Tom Mrakas

Mayor Town of Aurora

416-543-1624



Confidentiality Note: The information contained in this communication is confidential and is intended only for the use of the individual or entity to whom it is addressed. The contents of this communication may be subject to legal privilege, and all rights of that privilege are expressly

claimed and not waived. This communication may also contain information exempt from disclosure under the Municipal.Freedom.of.Information.and.Protection.of.Privacy.Act. Any distribution, use or copying of this communication, or the information it contains, by anyone including the intended recipient, is unauthorized unless consent is received. If you have received this communication in error, please notify me immediately and destroy the communication without making a copy. Thank you.



100 John West Way
Aurora, Ontario
L4G 6J1
(905) 727-3123
aurora.ca

Town of Aurora

Member Motion

Mayor's Office

Re: Request the Redistribution of the Provincial Land Transfer Tax and GST to Municipalities for Sustainable Infrastructure Funding

To: Members of Council

From: Mayor Tom Mrakas

Date: November 5, 2024

Whereas municipalities face growing infrastructure needs, including roads, bridges, public transit, water systems, and other critical services, which are essential to community well-being and economic development; and

Whereas the current sources of municipal revenue, including property taxes and user fees, are insufficient to meet these increasing demands for infrastructure investment; and

Whereas the Province of Ontario currently collects the Land Transfer Tax (LTT) on property transactions in municipalities across the province, generating significant revenue that is not directly shared with municipalities; and

Whereas the Federal Government collects the Goods and Services Tax (GST) on property transactions, a portion of which could be directed to municipalities to address local infrastructure needs; and

Whereas redistributing a portion of the Provincial Land Transfer Tax and GST to municipalities would provide a predictable and sustainable source of funding for local infrastructure projects without creating a new tax burden on residents or homebuyers; and

Whereas a redistribution of a portion of the existing Land Transfer Tax and GST would allow municipalities to better plan and invest in long-term infrastructure initiatives, supporting local economic growth and improving the quality of life for residents;

1. Now Therefore Be It Hereby Resolved That Aurora Town Council formally requests the Provincial Government to consider redistributing a portion of the Land Transfer Tax collected on property transactions to municipalities; and

2. Be It Further Resolved That Aurora Town Council calls on the Federal Government to allocate a percentage of the GST collected on property sales to municipalities; and
3. Be It Further Resolved That this redistribution of the Land Transfer Tax and GST should be structured to provide predictable and sustainable funding to municipalities, allowing for better long-term planning and investment in infrastructure projects that benefit local communities, thus ensuring that local governments receive a fair share of the revenue to address critical infrastructure needs; and
4. Be It Further Resolved That copies of this resolution be forwarded to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Premier Doug Ford, the Ontario Minister of Finance, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, local Members of Parliament (MPs) and Members of Provincial Parliament (MPPs); and
5. Be It Further Resolved That copies of this resolution be forwarded to all 444 Municipalities in Ontario, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) for their endorsement and advocacy.



Dear Members,

2025 will be a year of federal government transitions in both our countries. On Monday, Donald Trump was sworn in as President of the United States for a second term in office. Both the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate are now controlled by the Republican Party, a departure from the 118th Congress in which Democrats controlled the upper chamber. Meanwhile, in Canada, Justin Trudeau has announced his intention to resign as Prime Minister, prompting a leadership race in the Liberal Party and fueling speculation that federal elections could be held as early as the spring. If current polls are accurate, the incumbent Liberals are likely to lose several seats and Conservative Party leader Pierre Poilievre is, at present, favored to become the next Prime Minister.

Political winds are shifting, but the mission of the Cities Initiative – to promote economic prosperity in our communities and protect our fresh water for the benefit of current and future generations – will remain unchanged. This message of healthy growth is already bipartisan in nature. That said, the priorities of government are changing, and we will adapt our approach and tactics to remain influential in Washington and Ottawa.

We have already begun to adjust our approach in close consultation with our Board of Directors and our two Co-Chairs, Mayor Ryan Sorenson of Sheboygan, WI and Mayor Gino Moretti of Saint-Anicet, QC. We have also established a Mayors Transition Team – led by Mayor Bill Bazzi of Dearborn Heights, MI and Mayor Mat Siscoe of St. Catharines, ON – to provide strategic input as we reposition our organization for sustained success amid government transitions in both the United States and Canada.

As an initial step, the Cities Initiative has sent a [letter](#) to President Trump from Mayor Sorenson, Mayor Moretti, Mayor Bazzi, and Mayor Siscoe in a bid to establish a working relationship with the new administration so that we may continue to advance our region's economic and environmental interests at the national level. Specifically, the letter calls on President Trump to:

- **Support an Integrated Supply Chain with Canada** by strengthening a bilateral relationship that generates \$133.7 billion in economic activity for our region. We caution against the imposition of a blanket 25 percent tariff on all U.S. imports from Canada, as it risks undermining this vital economic partnership
- **Safeguard the World's Largest Freshwater Ecosystem** by fully funding and reauthorizing the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative
- **Promote American Energy Independence & National Security** by maintaining energy tax credits and direct pay provisions that allow local governments to recoup the costs of their investments in alternative energy sources
- **Modernize Water Infrastructure** by sustaining high levels of federal investment in water infrastructure, including lead service line replacement
- **Maintain Funding for Coastal Resilience** by supporting the full implementation of existing funding streams for coastal resilience

We will continue to encourage action on these vital issues in Washington in the months ahead, but we can't do it without your active engagement. **Please consider [signing up](#) to join us for Great Lakes Day in Washington, taking place March 5 - 7, 2025.** This year's Great Lakes Day will be more important than ever since it will give us our first opportunity to engage the new U.S. Administration on important issues facing our region. We must communicate the urgency of these issues and their impact on economic growth. While our agenda is still coming together, we plan on organizing meetings with U.S. lawmakers on Capitol Hill and senior U.S. officials at the White House, as well as discussions with federal agency heads, industry leaders, and other key stakeholders. We are also planning a press conference to highlight our opposition to blanket tariffs on U.S.-Canadian trade. We encourage all our members, both from the U.S. and Canada, to consider joining us this year in Washington.

Our plans for a Great Lakes Day in Ottawa are in flux as we await confirmation of election dates. Please be assured that similar efforts will be made in Ottawa as a new government will be sworn in regardless of the election results.

As an organization focused on collaboration and convening partners around common issues, we are engaging – and will continue to engage – with like-minded groups and associations that share our priorities to strengthen our collective voice.

Additionally, if you are interested in participating in the Mayors Transition Team, to provide strategic input as we reposition our organization to engage these new federal governments please get in touch with Travis Wheeler from our team at twheeler@glslcities.org.

More than ever, the Cities Initiative will serve as a critical voice for advancing solutions to the challenges facing communities in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Region. Thank you for your steadfast local leadership during these government transitions. Please reach out to me should you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Jon Altenberg

President & CEO



Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative / L'Alliance des villes des Grands Lacs et du Saint-Laurent | P.O. Box 1332 | New Lenox, IL 60451 US

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February 5, 2025

To Whom it May Concern,

Re: Proposed U.S. tariffs on Canadian Goods

Please note at their Regular meeting held on February 5, 2025, Peterborough County Council passed the following resolution:

Resolution No. 19-2025

Moved by Deputy Warden Senis
Seconded by Warden Clark

Whereas the federal government is currently in negotiations with the U.S. government on their proposed 25% tariffs on Canadian goods exported to the U.S.; and

Whereas Premier Doug Ford has outlined several plans to combat the impact the proposed tariffs would have on Ontario including Fortress Am-Can which focus on strengthening trade between Ontario and the U.S. while bringing good jobs back home for workers on both sides of the border; and

Whereas the federal government has also outlined several ways to address the current relationship with the U.S. including establishing the Council on Canada-U.S. relations to support the federal government as it negotiates with the U.S on tariffs; and

Whereas trade between Ontario and the United States is very important to our residents and local economies and requires all levels of government to work together in the best interest of those residents; and

Whereas according to data from the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, across Ontario municipalities are expected to spend between \$250 and \$290 billion on infrastructure in the next 10 years; and



Whereas municipalities have traditionally treated all procurements from trade partners equally and fairly; and

Whereas municipalities can assist in the Team Canada effort to combat tariffs and support businesses in our procurement for capital and infrastructure programs; and

Whereas there are trade barriers between Canadian provinces.

Therefore, be it resolved that, the County of Peterborough supports the provincial and federal governments on the measures they have put in place in response to the proposed U.S. tariffs on Canadian goods and ask that they take any and all measures to protect the interests of Ontario in any upcoming trade negotiations;

And that federal and provincial governments remove any impediments to municipalities preferring Canadian companies and services for capital projects and other supplies;

And that the provincial and federal governments take action to remove trade barriers between provinces as a response to US tariffs and support Canadian businesses.

And that the CAO be directed to bring back a report detailing a temporary purchasing policy that integrates and addresses these concerns;

And that County Economic Development & Tourism Division be directed to implement a “Buy Local Peterborough County, Buy Canadian” campaign to encourage residents and businesses to purchase locally made and Canadian goods and services.

Be it further resolved, that copies of this motion be sent to:

- The Right Hon. Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada
- The Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
- The Hon. Melanie Joly, Minister of Foreign Affairs
- The Hon. Vic Fedeli, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade
- The Hon. Nate Erskine-Smith, Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities
- The Hon. Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
- Rebecca Bligh, President, FCM and Councillor, City of Vancouver



- Robin Jones, President, AMO and Mayor of Westport
- Bonnie Clark, Chair, Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus
- Jeff Leal, Chair, Eastern Ontario Leadership Council
- John Beddows, Chair, Eastern Ontario Mayors' Caucus
- All provincial and territorial Premiers.
- All local MPs and MPPs,
- All Ontario Municipalities for their support.

Carried

Should you have any questions or concerns please contact Kari Stevenson, Director of Legislative Services/Clerk at kstevenson@ptbocounty.ca.

Yours truly,

Holly Salisko
Administrative Services Assistant – Clerk's Division/Planning
hsalisko@ptbocounty.ca

February 6, 2025

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau
Prime Minister of Canada
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2
Via fax

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

Robin Jones, President, AMO
Association of Municipalities of Ontario
155 University Avenue, Suite 800
Toronto, ON M5H 3B7
Via email

Rebecca Bligh, President, FCM
Federation of Canadian Municipalities
24 Clarence Street
Ottawa, ON K1N 5P3
Via email

Re: United States Imposition of Tariffs on Canada

Please be advised that the Council of the Town of Hanover, at their regular meeting of February 3, 2025, adopted the following resolution with respect to the above noted matter:

“Whereas United States President Donald Trump, issued executive orders to impose tariffs on imports from Canada effective February 4, 2025; and

Whereas these tariffs will have a significant detrimental impact on the economic stability in both countries; and

Whereas federal and provincial leaders are encouraging Canadians to buy Canadian; and

Whereas municipalities have significant purchasing power through capital and infrastructure programs; and

Whereas according to data from the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, Ontario municipalities are expected to spend \$250 to \$290 billion on infrastructure in the next 10 years; and

Whereas municipalities have traditionally been prevented by trade agreements and legislation from giving preference to the purchase of Canadian products and services; and

Whereas municipalities can assist in the effort to combat tariffs and support businesses in the procurement for capital and infrastructure programs;

Now therefore be it resolved that the Council of the Town of Hanover endorse the federal and provincial call to action to buy Canadian where and when possible; and

That the federal and provincial governments work with municipalities on measures to protect Canadian consumers and businesses; and

That council call on the federal and provincial government to remove any impediments to municipalities preferring to engage Canadian companies for capital projects and supplies when appropriate and feasible; and

That this resolution be forwarded to the Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Premier Doug Ford, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and all Ontario municipalities.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact the undersigned.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Vicki McDonald". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Vicki McDonald
Clerk

/tp

cc: Honourable Rick Byers, MPP Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound
All Ontario Municipalities