

8.2 Media Coverage links

8.2.2 <https://www.baytoday.ca/local-news/calvin-township-calls-for-more-transparency-after-14-million-laurentian-ski-hill-land-sale-12168325>

8.2.3 <https://www.nugget.ca/news/calvin-township-mayor-says-last-years-major-storm-has-turned-area-into-tinder-box>

8.2.4 <https://www.nugget.ca/news/0425-nb-fire>

8.2.5 <https://www.baytoday.ca/local-news/calvin-township-calls-on-province-to-support-residents-facing-massive-tree-cleanup-12178693>



BONFIELD TOWNSHIP OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

365 HIGHWAY 531
BONFIELD ON P0H 1E0

Telephone: 705-776-2641 Fax: 705-776-1154

Website: <http://www.bonfieldtownship.com>

Email: npaquette@bonfieldtownship.com

Township of Bonfield
365 Highway 531
Bonfield, ON P0H 1E0

April 20, 2026

North Bay-Mattawa Conservation Authority
15 Janey Avenue
North Bay, ON P1C 1N1

Re: Support for Concerns Regarding Sale of Conservation Authority Assets and Request for Improved Consultation and Transparency

Dear Members of the Board,

On behalf of the Council of the Township of Bonfield, please accept this letter as formal support for the correspondence and concerns outlined by Mayor Gould of the Township of Calvin in the Mayor's Report to Council dated April 9, 2026, regarding the recent sale of assets by the North Bay-Mattawa Conservation Authority (NBMCA).

Council shares the concerns raised with respect to the sale of the Laurentian Escarpment property, including the apparent lack of consultation with member municipalities. As contributing partners to the NBMCA through municipal levies, it is essential that all member municipalities are afforded the opportunity to be informed and engaged in decisions involving the disposition of significant assets, particularly those that support administrative functions and regional services.

The Township of Bonfield is particularly concerned with the following matters:

- **Lack of Consultation and Transparency:**

The sale of a significant asset, including lands and facilities tied to NBMCA operations, without adequate consultation raises serious concerns regarding governance practices and transparency.

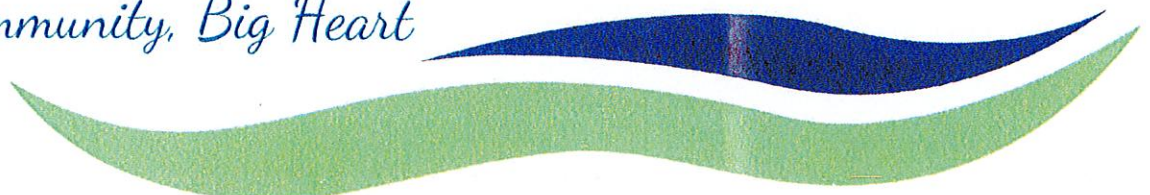
- **Valuation and Due Diligence:**

Clarification is requested regarding whether an independent professional appraisal was conducted to determine the fair market value of the property prior to its sale.

- **Governance and Conflict of Interest:**

Given the dual role of the City of North Bay as both purchaser and a represented member on the NBMCA Board, Council supports the request for clear documentation outlining how any potential conflicts of interest were identified, disclosed, and managed.

Small Community, Big Heart





BONFIELD TOWNSHIP OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

365 HIGHWAY 531

BONFIELD ON P0H 1E0

Telephone: 705-776-2641 Fax: 705-776-1154

Website: <http://www.bonfieldtownship.com>

Email: npaquette@bonfieldtownship.com

- **Future Asset Sales:**

Council echoes the concern that other significant regional assets could be subject to sale without appropriate municipal consultation. The development and communication of a formal asset management and disposition policy is critical.

- **Use of Proceeds:**

Transparency is requested regarding how proceeds from the sale will be allocated, and whether such funds will benefit the broader membership of municipalities that have contributed to the acquisition and maintenance of these assets.

- **Long-Term Financial Implications:**

The reported 10-year lease agreement for administrative space raises concerns regarding long-term financial sustainability, particularly in light of evolving provincial direction related to conservation authority governance.

In alignment with the Township of Calvin, the Council of the Township of Bonfield respectfully requests that the NBMCA:

1. Provide full and formal documentation related to the sale of the Laurentian Escarpment property and associated lease agreement;
2. Clarify the valuation process used to determine the sale price;
3. Establish and communicate a clear and transparent consultation process for any future asset sales;
4. Share a comprehensive long-term asset management plan with all member municipalities; and
5. Clearly outline how proceeds from asset sales will be utilized for the benefit of the membership as a whole.

Council strongly believes that decisions of this magnitude must be undertaken with a commitment to transparency, accountability, and meaningful consultation with all stakeholders. The assets under the stewardship of the NBMCA represent significant environmental, recreational, and financial value to the entire region, and their management must reflect the collective interests of all member municipalities.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to your response and to improved collaboration moving forward.

Sincerely,

Mayor Paquette
Township of Bonfield



**BONFIELD TOWNSHIP
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY CLERK**

365 HIGHWAY 531

BONFIELD ON POH 1E0

Telephone: 705-776-2641 Fax: 705-776-1154

Website: <http://www.bonfieldtownship.com>

Email: deputyclerk@bonfieldtownship.com

RESOLUTION OF COUNCIL

April 14th, 2026

Motion 19

Moved by Councillor MacInnis

Seconded by Councillor Clark

THAT Council supports a request to the North Bay-Mattawa Conservation Authority for a full consultation and transparency regarding the sale of assets; AND THAT a formal plan for asset management and future sales be shared with all member municipalities.

Carried

DIVISION VOTE

FOR

Donna Clark _____
Jason Corbett _____
Steve Featherstone _____
Dan MacInnis _____
Narry Paquette _____

AGAINST

Declaration of Pecuniary Interest/Conflict of Interest

CERTIFIED to be a true copy of Resolution No.19 of the Township of Bonfield's Regular Council Meeting of April 14th, 2026, and which Resolution is in full force and effect.

Andrée Gagné

Andrée Gagné
Deputy Clerk-Treasurer

Calvin Township calls for more transparency after \$1.4 million Laurentian Ski Hill land sale

[William Konken](#)

about 18 hours ago



1 / 2 File photo - Laurentian Ski Hill. | Stu Campaigne/BayToday

[Listen to this article](#)

00:04:53

Calvin Township is raising concerns about transparency and consultation following the recent \$1.4 million sale of the Laurentian Ski Hill lands in North Bay.

In a report presented to Calvin Council last week, Mayor Richard Gould questioned how the North Bay-Mattawa Conservation Authority (NBMCA) handled the sale of the escarpment property to the City of North Bay—and what it could mean for other regional assets.

See: [The Mayor's Report](#) (starts on page 8)

The deal, approved April 7, transfers about 50 hectares of land, including the ski hill and the Conservation Authority's administrative offices, to the City. The NBMCA will remain in the building as a tenant.

See: [City to buy Laurentian Ski Hill](#)

And: [Deal done: City to take ownership of Laurentian Ski Hill lands](#)

Gould's report, dated April 9, focuses on what the Township describes as a lack of consultation with member municipalities that help fund the Conservation Authority.

"The sale of such an important asset, especially one that houses the administrative offices of NBMCA, was made without adequate consultation with the municipalities that are financially involved," the report states.

Those concerns led to a resolution passed by Calvin Council, now circulated to other member municipalities and the NBMCA.

"Therefore, be it resolved that the Council for the Corporation of the Municipality of Calvin requests full consultation and transparency from the North Bay-Mattawa Conservation Authority... regarding the sale of assets," Gould said during the meeting.

Council also asked that "a formal asset management plan, including details on future asset sales, be shared with all member municipalities."

Bonfield, where Council supported the request.

Beyond consultation, Calvin's report raises questions about governance and potential conflicts of interest. The City of North Bay is both the buyer of the land and a member municipality with three representatives on the NBMCA Board.

"Council requests clarification regarding how any potential conflict of interest was identified, disclosed, and managed during the decision-making process," the report states, adding the concern is not meant to suggest wrongdoing.

The report calls for clarity on how the \$1.4 million sale price was determined, including whether a professional appraisal was conducted and whether the price reflects the value of the land, infrastructure and interpretive centre.

It also asks what will happen to the proceeds from the sale, noting that member municipalities have contributed financially to NBMCA operations over time.

"Transparency around the use of the proceeds is essential," the report states. "Specifically, member municipalities should be informed of how the funds will be used."

The report also notes a 10-year lease agreement, with a reported annual rent of roughly \$140,000, that would see the Conservation Authority rent its current office space back from the City.

"The decision to enter into a 10-year lease raises several concerns," the report states, pointing to uncertainty around the future of conservation authorities amid a provincial push toward consolidation.

City of North Bay Communications Officer Gord Young told *BayToday* that the information included in the report regarding the lease agreement is "generally accurate."

Calvin Township is also looking ahead, expressing concern about the fate of other assets owned by the NBMCA, including the [Eau Claire Gorge Conservation Area](#) located within its boundaries, a key local natural and recreational site.

"Given the lack of consultation regarding the sale of the Laurentian Escarpment property, there is increasing uncertainty about whether other assets ... could be sold off without proper consultation," the report states.

According to 2024 audited financial statements cited in the report, the Conservation Authority holds about \$13 million in land, buildings, infrastructure, and equipment.

NBMCA officials have previously said the deal followed years of planning and would ensure the lands remain publicly accessible.

"The future of these assets must be managed with transparency, integrity, and a clear understanding of their value to the entire region," the report concludes.

NBMCA Board Chair Lana Mitchell did not respond to a request for comment, including questions about the appraisal and consultation process.

Comments (14)

We welcome your feedback and encourage you to share your thoughts. We ask that you be respectful of others and their points of view, refrain from personal attacks and stay on topic. To learn about our commenting policies and how we moderate, please read our [Community Guidelines](#).

GB

[G --- B](#) about 18 hours ago

Lana Mitchell didn't respond HAHAAHAHA has she ever???

KP

[Ken Prescott](#) about 18 hours ago

Proper and well put questions. Each Municipality contributes to the Authority. Therefore has a right and a duty to its Citizens to see if a fair price was obtained, and where the 1.4 million goes.

DC

[Problem city](#) about 17 hours ago

meeting with the province to address the process. Who is the city to say they should rent the building back from them? Shouldn't it be the board of the conservation to decide where to rent? At time when money is tight maybe a another township or town can offer a cheaper rent. Mr Gould is right this do process was not handled properly.

BR [B The Voice of Reason](#) about 17 hours ago

I would suggest conflict of interest 100%. I think the 1.4 million price was determined by throwing darts at a dartboard. Sure looks like member municipalities were taken to the cleaners. Welcome to North Bay!

Advertisement

TR [Tax Reformer](#) about 17 hours ago

It sound likes there are cracks in the Mayor's Group. This same group is united in trying to take ownership of Cassel Arms to gain assets. It appears North Bay forgot about their allies and moved to profit behind closed doors. I guess the old saying is true: "there is no honor among thieves."

MB [Mrs. Bartolucci](#) about 17 hours ago

There goes that word again, transparency, often heard and spoken, seldom done.

MB [Mrs. Bartolucci](#) about 17 hours ago

Get a court injunction to stop the sale until everything is above board.

U [usr_684897](#) about 16 hours ago

Councillor Moreton from the township of Calvin is the vice chair of Conservation Authority Board.. as well several other municipalities have members on the Board. The members of the Board have three members of the North Bay City council. The other 9 spots are from other municipalities. Is the article saying the Board was not consulted and nobody but North Bay and the Authority knew about this? Did the authority act on its own to liquidate an asset before the province restructuring the authorities across the province? Where is the investigation into the story... there are way more people to interview then Mitchell?

AG [Auntie Gay](#) about 15 hours ago

"NBMC Board Chair Lana Mitchell did not respond to a request for comment, including questions about the appraisal and consultation process."

Thank you Calvin Township!

When you find out what is going on with our assets, can you please let the us know?

The unaccountability and negligence is astounding over here in North Bay (The land of political cretons?).

LR [Lawrence Ramsay](#) about 15 hours ago

So let me get this straight. The Conservation Authority sells a major asset for basically ten years free rent on a building they own now.

What's the value of that building by itself? Considering it's location I would hazard a guess of maybe 2 million. 50 hectares of real estate in the most expensive part of North Bay?

How much did the city pay for the land where the arena is going up, in a much cheaper area of town?

Now we hear there wasn't consultation with the other stakeholders as well?

An investigation of this is definately warranted along with an injunction stopping the sale. This deal stinks of misbehaviour.

Calvin Township mayor says last year's major storm has turned area into "tinder box"

Calvin Township mayor Richard Gould says thousands of trees levelled by last June's storm could easily go up in flames this summer with a lightning strike

Author of the article:

[Greg Estabrooks](#)

Published Apr 17, 2026 • Last updated 4 days ago • 3 minute read



Chisholm Township mayor Richard Gould standing in front of downed trees he says could quickly go up in flames if not cleared. PHOTO BY GREG ESTABROOKS

Article content

Calvin Township Mayor Richard Gould is a worried person these days as he looks at thousands of downed trees in the region he governs. He is blunt when assessing the scope of what he sees.

“Let’s face it – common sense will tell anyone who looks at this that it is a disaster Last June 21, a brief but devastating storm ripped through the area. The municipality declared a state of emergency in response to the storm that remained in place for over a week.

That storm brought down thousands of trees within Samuel de Champlain Provincial Park, trapping over 100 people. Fire departments from across the region worked throughout the night on June 21 to find and rescue those trapped. There were serious injuries, but nobody died.

10 months later much of the damaged forest has not been cleaned up, and Gould described it as a “tinder box.”



One
of countless examples of trees downed by the massive storm in June 2025. PHOTO BY
GREG ESTABROOKS

Gould took to a Facebook page dubbed Calvin History and Resources to post this warning:

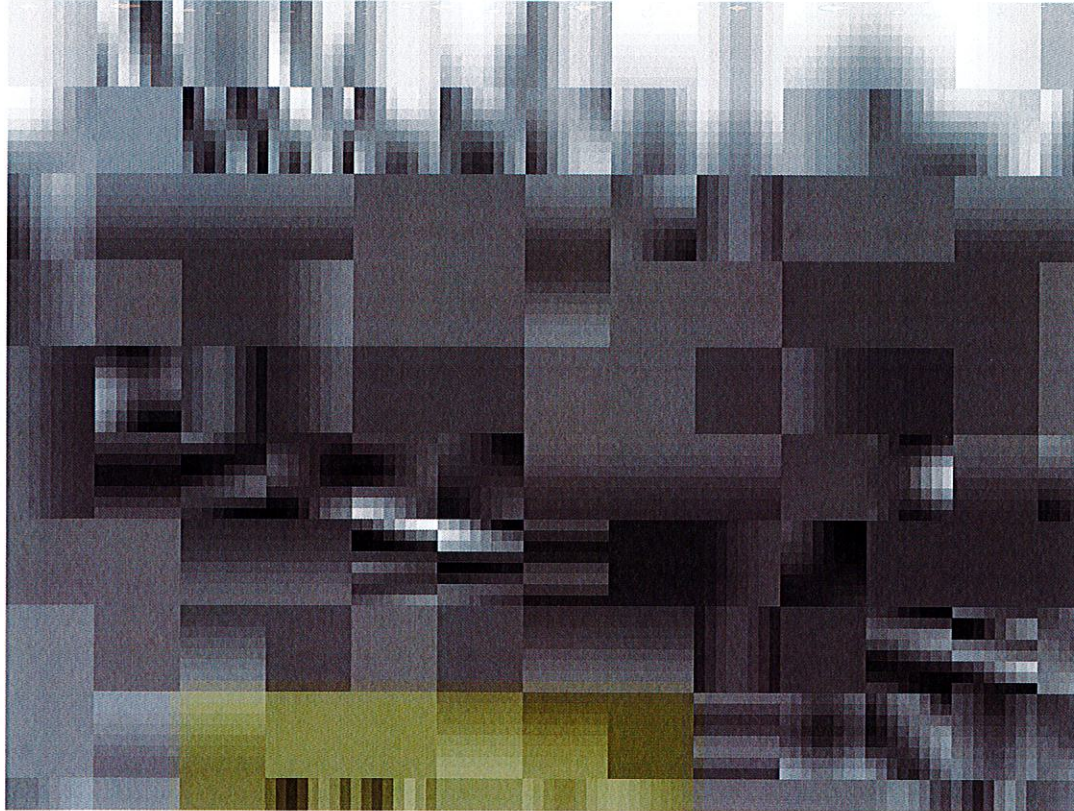
“I am not a fire expert – but I am a historian. And this warning from the past should matter to everyone in Calvin today:

‘The township of Calvin has been traversed by repeated and severe fires ... scarcely a vestige of the original timber remains. In its place has sprung up a dense second growth of birch, poplar, cherry, etc.’

– Lawrence Tallan, field notes, December 10, 1881.”

Even before the storm of June 2025, Gould warned of forest fire dangers in the area and money needed to better prevent a disaster.

Now post-storm, Gould is ringing the alarm bell again, this time even louder than before.



Calvin

Township Mayor says these downed trees could go up in flames with one lighting strike and could cause a catastrophe in the area. PHOTO BY GREG ESTABROOKS

“The fire marshall and the Ministry of Natural Resources need to get out here and do an assessment of actually how dangerous this is,” says Gould. “We need more than just a little field report done by the mayor.”

Gould says the government has cleaned up downed trees in provincial park lands, but crown land and private property owners will not see trees cleaned up. There is no government money to come to tend to these areas, also covered in downed trees. The crown land hasn't been touched and private property owners will have to pay for the cleanup of trees out of pocket.

“Even if one property owner takes care of their property, at huge expense, the property right next door can (still) burn into a major forest fire,” says Gould.

Gould was asked by the Nugget if there is any precedent for the government to come up and help.

The Calvin Township mayor believes when it comes to government help, it's location, location, location.

"We're in northern Ontario. The feeling is, 'Ah, there's only a few people that live there, let them deal with it.' There's not enough voters," says Gould with a rueful chuckle.

There are two things Gould and the township are requesting.

"We are asking how this gets rectified. We are also asking for the Disaster Recovery Assistance for Ontarians (DRAO) to be released to private residents so they can get access to some funding to take care of the property," says Gould, adding there is a precedent for this to happen.

"There are places where this funding has been opened up to residences," says Gould.

Calvin township council approved a motion to ask the government for help in this matter as a soon as possible.

8.2.4

Cut through the noise. Make The North Bay
Nugget your preferred source for trusted news.
[Set up now >>](#)

Cut through the noise. Make The North Bay
Nugget your preferred source for trusted news.
[Set up now >>](#)

Sections  Search

NORTH BAY NUGGET

Subscribe

Sign In

Subscribe

[News](#) [Sports](#) [Entertainment](#) [Life](#) [Opinion](#) [All Newspapers](#) [Business Ads](#) [Jobs](#) [Driving](#) [Healthing](#) [Puzzmo](#)



News / Local News

Calvin township resident fearful of what lies in store for his property in 2026

Al Lauziere is looking for answers on how to prevent thousands of fallen trees on his Calvin township property from not going up in flames this summer

Greg Estabrooks

Published Apr 23, 2026 • Last updated 8 hours ago • 3 minute read

Join the conversation



Al Lauziere has a major tree problem on his Calvin township property – one that could go up in flames this summer. PHOTO BY GREG ESTABROOKS

15 minutes on June 21, 2025 changed Al Lauziere's life forever. Ten months later, he and his family remain fearful as the results of that night could change his family's life again.

STORY CONTINUES BELOW

Lauziere owns 100 acres of property in Calvin township off Highway 17, about 50 kms east of North Bay. It was pretty much ground zero during last summer's storm that ripped through that area.

RECOMMENDED VIDEOS



Thousands of trees on his property were either knocked down or ripped out of the ground; brush was strewn everywhere. Lauziere had an access road on his property buried under trees.

“About 60 per cent of all the trees on my property were brought down by the storm,” says Lauziere.

As a matter of fact, he, his wife and a visiting guest, couldn't get to Highway 17 (they live about 100 feet from the highway) for three days after the storm because of fallen trees that left them marooned at home with no power or internet.

“If we had been cut by something we would have bled to death,” says a glum Lauziere.

Now the weather is warming up and the trees and brush are drying up. The new fear is what happens if a lightning strike creates an unstoppable wall of fire.

Lauziere and friends have spent hundreds of hours clearing some of his property of fallen trees and brush, but much more remains. Lauziere says he can't afford to keep clearing the rest of his property.

Day after storm in June 2025 PHOTO BY SUPPLIED

“I have already moved a thousand trees,” he says. “It took me a month to clear out a kilometre of bush and trees eight feet wide. I spent thousands of dollars — I’m tapped out — at the end of my wits. It is just devastating.”


But thousands of trees remain untouched and are potentially a tinder box.

That is his greatest fear — what could happen next with summer weather on the way.

“Sometimes you don’t think PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder) is a real thing. Every time it starts to get windy, my wife goes, ‘Oh no, oh no, let’s go to town.’ She gets so nervous,” says Lauziere.

He commented on what must happen to allay his family’s fears.

“This bush needs to be cleaned up. It must. The steps are to remove the trees and take the fire hazard away,” says Lauziere. But since his property is private, there’s no government relief funding or insurance money to make that happen.

 Trees on ground

One of countless damaged trees locations on Al Lauziere's property. PHOTO BY GREG ESTABROOKS

Calvin township mayor Richard Gould shares Lauziere's fire fears, and the property owner knows the mayor is in his corner.

STORY CONTINUES BELOW

Downed trees

Calvin township Mayor Richard Gould provided this picture from another location in the township. PHOTO BY RICHARD GOULD

“Richard has been a great mayor for Calvin and is a good man. Besides that, he has been doing things to help, so I am very hopeful (for government assistance),” says Lauziere.

Gould says Lauziere’s situation is common throughout his township, and he’s trying to get the government to come up to Calvin and see the devastation for itself.

More downed trees

More downed trees on Al Lauziere's Calvin Township property. PHOTO BY GREG ESTABROOKS

“We are not telling them they have to pay for the cleanup, but they need to see what it is like here,” says Gould. “At this point, our hope is for a wet, cool summer so that nothing happens.”

Memories of June 21 are still pretty raw for Lauziere.

“Looking out the window and watching it (the storm) come, to run and hide in the bathroom, three of us huddled in a tub (Lauziere, his wife and a friend visiting from Oshawa). Then to see the trees go down and see debris hitting the windows. When we were in the washroom, you could hear the roof heaving. I had just put on a steel roof, thank goodness. Maybe that held it down with all the nails and screws,” says Lauziere.

In his 15 years on his property, Lauziere had never experienced anything like the events of that night, and he hopes history doesn't repeat itself.

Calvin Township calls on province to support residents facing massive tree cleanup

David Briggs
a day ago



1 / 3 After the storm hit on July 21, 2025, trees covered the entrance to Samuel de Champlain Provincial Park. Mayor Gould and Calvin Township's council are reminding the province that much of the township still has thousands of fallen trees, and need help cleaning up. / File | Photo by David Briggs

Listen to this article
00:03:33

With thousands of fallen trees criss-crossing Calvin Township, council is asking the province to help remove them to mitigate forest fire threats.

Mayor Gould, the mayor of Calvin Township, put forward two motions at the last council meeting. The first called on the province to complete a storm damage report and assess wildfire risk, taking into account the significant damage caused by last June's storm.

See: [Mayors reflect on devastating weekend storm](#)

In his motion, the mayor emphasized, "Today we face a comparable, modern-day hazard: vast areas of wind-downed trees from the June 21, 2025, storm combined with extensive standing dead spruce from insect mortality have created a continuous, abnormal fuel load across many private properties and crown land parcels south of Highway 17."

"Left untreated, these fuels significantly elevate the probability, intensity, and rapid spread of wildfire in the coming fire seasons, placing life, homes, infrastructure, and adjacent public lands — including Samuel de Champlain Provincial Park — at grave risk," Gould continued.

Given these conditions, council approved the mayor's motion to request the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry and the Ontario Fire Marshal to conduct a wildfire-risk assessment.

Council also agreed to pass Mayor Gould's second motion, which calls on the province to support private landowners with cleanup after last year's storm. That June storm caused both Calvin Township and Bonfield Township to declare states of emergencies to deal with the damage.

While townships are eligible to apply for financial assistance with such a cleanup, private landowners are expected to remove their own fallen trees. For some landowners, the task is near-Herculean, as some acreages have hundreds if not thousands of fallen trees.

See: [Province provides funds for Calvin Township's summer storm recovery](#).

The mayor said, "Private landowners are facing significant challenges in addressing this debris due to high costs associated with removal, lack of access to appropriate equipment, limited availability of contractors in rural areas."

Gould said that many affected residents told him that their insurance does not extend to debris removal unless insured structures have been directly damaged by storm debris. The province's Disaster Recovery Assistance for Ontarians (DRAO) does not recognize tree removal on private lands as an eligible expense, the mayor noted.

These downed trees can increase risk of fire and create obstacles for first responders if fire breaks out, Gould emphasized.

Specifically, the township is asking the province to amend the eligibility criteria of the DRAO program to allow private landowners to access support for storm debris removal and wildfire reduction. The motion also asks the province to establish a storm debris removal assistance program limited to areas under declared states of emergency.

Further, the township wants to ensure such a program is time-limited and event-specific and does not extend to routine maintenance of private lands. It also asks the province to implement a retroactive assistance program for landowners impacted by the June 2025 declared emergency.

Copies of the motion have been sent to the province for its consideration.

Comments (2)

We welcome your feedback and encourage you to share your thoughts. We ask that you be respectful of others and their points of view, refrain from personal attacks and stay on topic. To learn about our commenting policies and how we moderate, please read our [Community Guidelines](#).



[David Briggs](#) 2 days ago

Do you support Calvin's request to the province? Should private landowners receive more support after a natural disaster?

AG

[Auntie Gay](#) about 18 hours ago

It's unfortunate that the climate change model is in rapid accelerated momentum. Where as the frequency and magnitude/intensity of storms increase over time.

We will go bankrupt if we help every community monetarily, unless it is in a uniformed manner.

We need a national disaster team of volunteer's (foresters?) who will cut and take the wood to sell as fire wood for an example such as this.

Another example of a volunteer team may be for forest fire readiness, or flood mitigation teams.

We need to plan in a regional way for a quick response when needed.

This includes a food insecurity response.

Happy to read that the province is opening up the northern clay belt to increase food production. It's a priority asap imo.

If you would like to apply to become a **Verified Commenter**, please [fill out this form](#).

Trending

5884

Police monitoring man living on grounded, listing sailboat near Discovery Harbour

2727

People trapped on roof of truck call 911 for help

2286

'Father Glen' files integrity commissioner complaints against three Conservation Authority board members

1877

Six mistakenly released inmates still at large, Ontario Premier Doug Ford says

1817

Sturgeon Falls still coping with flooding issues (VIDEO)

Have a story idea?

Letter to the editor

Report a mistake

Ask a question

9.

**CONSENT
AGENDA
ITEMS FOR
INFORMATION
PURPOSES**



26-52 Moved by: Gail Johnston
THAT the Library Board meeting be adjourned at 8:09 pm.

Seconded by: Donna Clark
Carried: Leslie Larocque

Secretary

Chairperson



—The TOWNSHIP of—
NORTH DUMFRIES

106 Earl Thompson Road, 3rd Floor
 PO Box 1060
 Ayr, ON N0B 1E0

April 14, 2026

Sent via Email: Premier, Minister of Finance, Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism, and MPP Brian Riddel, Cambridge, and be circulated to all municipalities in Ontario

RE: Resolution – Architectural Conservancy of Ontario (ACO) Proposal to include \$10M per year in the 2026 provincial budget for Heritage Helping Housing (HHH) grant funding

Please be advised, at the Council Meeting held on April 13, 2026 the Township of North Dumfries Council considered the enclosed resolution received from the Town of Saugeen Shores regarding the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario (ACO) Proposal to include \$10M per year in the 2026 provincial budget for Heritage Helping Housing (HHH) grant funding and adopted the following resolution:

“THAT the Resolution received from the Town of Saugeen Shores regarding the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario (ACO) Proposal to include \$10M per year in the 2026 provincial budget for Heritage Helping Housing (HHH) grant funding be received;

Whereas older buildings have inherent sustainability and provide economic, environmental and social benefits for Ontario communities; and,

Whereas re-use of existing buildings reduces the need for increased infrastructure that accompanies new builds such as sewer and water services, new roads and sidewalks; and,

Whereas re-use of existing building can reduce construction waste and extend the life expectancy of landfills; and,

Whereas keeping older buildings helps a community remain visually richer and enhances identity while building its tourism brand and appeal; and,

Whereas creating a new, application-based, matching grant program of \$10M/year, modelled on an existing Alberta program would incentivize owners and smaller developers to keep, fix and reuse heritage buildings to create new housing; and,

Whereas such a grant program would provide an alternative to the Ontario heritage property tax relief program, which has limited impact on developers and reduces municipal revenues; and,

Whereas such a grant program would provide a simpler and more direct way for heritage building owners to fund renovations or conservation; and,

Whereas Ontario developers surveyed by the National Trust for Canada in 2014 ranked a heritage-revolving fund as their top incentive to encourage heritage development if:

- *the grants are simple to apply for and to administer; and,*
- *the fund is large enough to meet at least 33% of the demand so that applicants have a reasonable chance of recovering the cost and effort of applying.*

Therefore, be it Resolved That the Council of the Township of North Dumfries endorse the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario (ACO) Proposal to include \$10M per year in the 2026 provincial budget for Heritage Helping Housing (HHH) grant funding, and that this resolution be sent to the Premier, Minister of Finance, Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism, and MPP Brian Riddel, Cambridge, and be circulated to all municipalities in Ontario.”

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions, or concerns.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Ashley Good in blue ink.

Ashley Good, Clerk
Township of North Dumfries
519-632-8800 ext. 122
agood@northdumfries.ca

encl.



MUNICIPALITY OF SHUNIAH

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

9.3

Resolution No.: 167-26

Date: Apr 14, 2026

Moved By: _____
[Signature]

Seconded By: _____
[Signature]

WHEREAS the Municipality of Shuniah acknowledges that municipal infrastructure - including roads, bridges, and water and wastewater systems - underpins public safety, economic vitality, and quality of life in Ontario's rural and small urban communities; and

WHEREAS the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (OCIF) was created in 2015 to assist small and rural municipalities facing infrastructure deficits that exceed their local revenue capacities; and

WHEREAS in 2022, the Government of Ontario committed to increase the annual OCIF envelope from \$100 million to \$400 million over a five-year term, with that commitment scheduled to expire at the end of fiscal 2026; and

WHEREAS fixed funding levels amid rising labour, materials, and climate resilience costs have eroded the purchasing power of the \$400 million envelope, jeopardizing municipalities' ability to deliver and sustain essential services without incurring unsustainable debt; and

WHEREAS predictable, multi-year funding indexed to real-world cost drivers is critical for municipalities to develop, finance, and execute long-term asset management plans, reduce emergency repairs, and leverage complementary federal and private infrastructure financing; and

WHEREAS the Municipality of Shuniah requires a steadfast provincial partner to extend and enhance OCIF beyond 2026, ensuring infrastructure resilience, fiscal sustainability, and equitable access for all small and rural municipalities;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Municipality of Shuniah calls upon the Government of Ontario to extend the annual OCIF envelope at not less than \$400 million beyond its current five-year term ending in 2026, with no reductions in subsequent provincial budgets.

2. The Province be requested to index the total annual OCIF envelope—and each individual municipal allocation—to the Ontario Consumer Price Index (CPI), calculated on

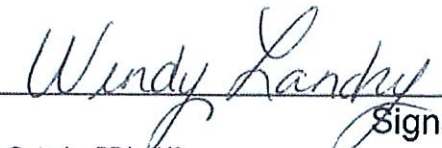
a calendar-year basis and disbursed in the first quarter of each fiscal year.

3. The Ministry of Infrastructure establish a new five-year OCIF funding framework that guarantees annual envelopes and allocation percentages by municipality, enabling long-term capital planning and stable cash-flow management.
4. The Province undertake a formal review of the OCIF allocation formula at least once every four years, incorporating current municipal asset management data, demographic projections, climate resilience metrics, and rural equity considerations
5. A dedicated contingency reserve equal to 5 percent of the annual OCIF envelope be created within the fund to address extraordinary cost escalations, emergency repairs, or project overruns without reallocating core funding.
6. The Ministry of Infrastructure publish an annual OCIF performance report—including program disbursements, allocation adjustments, and reserve expenditures—in a transparent, publicly accessible online dashboard.

FURTHER THAT the Council of the Municipality of Shuniah supports the February 23rd, 2026 resolution of the Township of North Glengarry regarding the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (OCIF); and

FURTHER THAT this supporting resolution and the originating correspondence be circulated to the Premier of Ontario, the Leader of the Official Opposition, the Minister of Infrastructure, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Local MPP's, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), and all Ontario municipalities. *NOMA*

Carried **Defeated** **Amended** **Deferred**



Signature

Municipality of Shuniah, 420 Leslie Avenue, Thunder Bay, Ontario, P7A 1X8

9.4



REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF WATERLOO

OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL CLERK

150 Frederick Street, 2nd Floor
Kitchener ON N2G 4J3 Canada
Telephone: 519-575-4400
TTY: 519-575-4608
Fax: 519-575-4481
www.regionofwaterloo.ca

April 2, 2026

Hon. Sean Fraser

Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada
Legislative Building
284 Wellington Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0H8

Dear Minister Fraser:

Re: Notice of Motion, Councillor C. James re: Community Safety and Well-Being Plan

Please be advised that the Council of the Regional Municipality of Waterloo at their regular meeting held on March 25, 2026, approved the following motion:

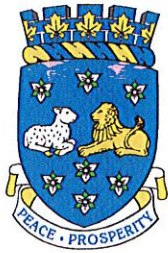
Whereas the Region of Waterloo’s Community Safety and Well-Being Plan, developed under the requirements of the Community Safety and Policing Act, identifies systemic racism, hate, and discrimination as critical risk factors impacting community safety, belonging, and well-being;

And whereas the display of a noose is widely recognized as a symbol of racial terror, violence, and intimidation, particularly against Black communities, rooted in the history of anti-Black racism;

And whereas symbols of hate, when displayed publicly, contribute to fear, trauma, and exclusion, and undermine the Region’s commitments to equity, inclusion, and proactive prevention within its Community Safety and Well-Being Plan;

And whereas the Government of Canada has introduced Bill C-9 to strengthen tools to address hate-motivated offences, including provisions related to the public display of certain hate symbols;

And whereas the current draft of Bill C-9 does not explicitly include the noose as a prohibited symbol, despite its well-



REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF WATERLOO

OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL CLERK

150 Frederick Street, 2nd Floor
Kitchener ON N2G 4J3 Canada
Telephone: 519-575-4400
TTY: 519-575-4608
Fax: 519-575-4481
www.regionofwaterloo.ca

documented use as an instrument of racial intimidation and its direct relevance to community safety and well-being outcomes;

And whereas addressing hate symbols through federal legislation complements municipal efforts by strengthening upstream prevention, reducing harm, and supporting safer, more inclusive communities;

Therefore be it resolved that:

- 1. The Regional Municipality of Waterloo formally request that the Government of Canada amend Bill C-9 to explicitly include the noose as a prohibited hate symbol within the legislation;**
- 2. This motion be circulated to all Ontario municipalities, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) for endorsement and support as a measure that strengthens community safety and well-being across jurisdictions.**

Please accept this letter for information purposes only. If you have any questions, please contact Councillor C. James, CJames@regionofwaterloo.ca.

Regards,

Michael Oliveri
Legislative Services Specialist
Region of Waterloo

cc: All Ontario Municipalities, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)



Department of Corporate Services
1593 Four Mile Creek Road
P.O. Box 100, Virgil, ON L0S 1T0
905-468-3266 • Fax: 905-468-2959

9.5

www.notl.com

SENT ELECTRONICALLY

February 26, 2026

Ministry of Education
438 University Ave, 15th Floor
Toronto, ON
M7A 2A5

Attention: Honourable Paul Calandra, Minister of Education

Dear Minister Calandra:

RE: Swim to Survive

Please be advised the Council of The Corporation of the Town of Niagara-on-the Lake, at its regular meeting held on January 27, 2026, approved the following resolution:

WHEREAS drowning is one of the leading causes of preventable deaths among children in Ontario and research by the Lifesaving Society of Ontario shows that most children who drown never intended to be in the water; and

WHEREAS evidence demonstrates that even basic swimming and water survival skills significantly reduce the risk of drowning; and

WHEREAS many children in Ontario do not have equitable access to swimming lessons outside of school due to financial, cultural or geographic barriers; and

WHEREAS several municipalities across Ontario have expressed strong interest in improving water safety education for children; and

WHEREAS the Ministry of Education has the authority to incorporate water safety and survival training into the regular elementary school curriculum as a universal, life-saving skill comparable to fire safety and road safety instruction;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of The Town of Niagara-on-Lake respectfully urges the Government of Ontario, through the Ministry of Education, to incorporate mandatory water safety and Swim-to-Survive training into the elementary school curriculum for all Ontario students; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to The Honourable Minister of Education of Ontario, local Members of Provincial Parliament, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and all Ontario municipalities, with a request for their endorsement.

If you have any questions or require further information, please contact my office at 905-468-6488.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Grant Bivol', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Grant Bivol
Town Clerk/ Manager of Legislative Services

c.c. Local Members of Provincial Parliament
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
All Ontario Municipalities

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

March 25, 2026

Re: Time-Sensitive: Strengthening Municipal Accountability and Public Trust (Bill 9)

Dear Premier Ford,

When we met in Sarnia last August, we discussed Bill 9 and its intent to strengthen municipal accountability. At that time, I affirmed my support for the province's effort to move this legislation forward. The fundamental principles of Bill 9 are sound and provide an important foundation; however, the Bill requires a significant change before it becomes law.

The introduction of a standardized code of conduct and the proposed integrity commissioner reforms are positive and necessary steps forward. However, based on more than four decades of experience in municipal politics, I believe the Bill's greatest flaw lies in its mechanism for removing councillors in **serious cases of misconduct**. Requiring local councils to participate in the removal of a peer, particularly through unanimous agreement, places councils in an inappropriate and untenable position. On matters of serious contention, unanimity is rarely achievable, rendering the mechanism effectively futile. This approach undermines both fairness and public confidence and fails to provide municipalities with a meaningful ability to act in extreme cases.

In circumstances of this magnitude, decisions should not rest with a council. Instead, such matters should be heard and ruled upon by an independent, non-partisan authority, removed from local political dynamics and capable of making impartial determinations in the public's interest.


If the provincial government intends to maintain municipal councils' responsibility for adjudicating such decisions, the threshold for action must be revised. A two-thirds majority, or a simple majority of council excluding the subject member, would provide a more reasonable, fair, and workable standard.

This is a time-sensitive issue, and the need for action is becoming more urgent as municipalities continue to encounter situations they are powerless to address. Without meaningful change, the current conditions and lack of adequate protection will have a chilling effect on those considering public office at the municipal level. Capable, community-minded individuals may be discouraged from seeking election if there is no effective independent mechanism to address extreme misconduct, protect the integrity of council and the well-being of the community.

I am copying this letter to mayors and councils across Ontario in the hope that they will also raise their voices on this matter before the legislation is finalized, to ensure this serious flaw is addressed in what is otherwise an important and necessary piece of legislation for the Province of Ontario and its municipalities for the 2026-2030 council term of office.

Thank you for your consideration. I would welcome the opportunity to discuss these concerns and possible paths forward at your convenience.

Sincerely,



Mike Bradley
Mayor, City of Sarnia



Cc: The Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
John Fraser, MPP, Interim Leader, Ontario Liberal Party
Marit Stiles, MPP, Leader of the Official Opposition, Ontario NDP Party
Bob Bailey, MPP for Sarnia-Lambton
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
Mayor and Council for municipalities across Ontario
Sarnia City Council
Lambton County Council
City of Sarnia Senior Management

255 Christina St N
Sarnia ON N7T 7N2

P: 519-332-0330 ext. 3312 F: 519-332-3995 mayor@sarnia.ca www.sarnia.ca

8.6.1

Municipality of Tweed Council Meeting
Council Meeting



Resolution No. 144
Title: City of Sarnia - Bill 9
Date: Tuesday, April 7, 2026

Moved by Councillor J. Flieler
Seconded by Councillor J. Palmateer

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council supports the concerns raised regarding Bill 9, *Strengthening Municipal Accountability and Public Trust*, particularly the need for a more effective and impartial mechanism to address serious misconduct by members of council;
AND FURTHER THAT Council directs staff to forward correspondence of support to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the local MPP, AMO, and Ontario municipalities.

Carried



AORS
PROMOTING KNOWLEDGE. PURSUING EXCELLENCE.

9.7

Solicitor General of Ontario Michael Kerzner
George Drew Building, 25 Grosvenor Street
Toronto, ON M7A 1Y6

February 5, 2026

Dear Solicitor General Kerzner,

On behalf of Ontario's municipal public works professionals, we are writing to raise serious concerns regarding the safety of municipal workers and subcontractors who are increasingly facing harassment, threats, and dangerous interference from members of the public while delivering essential municipal services - particularly during winter maintenance and emergency operations.

Across Ontario, municipal public works teams are responsible for maintaining critical infrastructure that residents depend on every day, including roads, sidewalks, bridges, and drainage systems. During significant weather events, these workers are frontline responders, ensuring emergency vehicles can travel safely and that communities remain connected and accessible. However, the behaviour directed at them has escalated well beyond routine complaints and has become a direct threat to both worker safety and public safety.

Through consultations with AORS members province-wide, we continue to receive troubling reports that illustrate the seriousness of this issue. These include:

- An individual throwing a large chunk of ice at an active piece of municipal equipment while it was operating.
- A resident threatening to kill a sidewalk plow operator.
- A man climbing onto a snowplow and refusing to get off until the driver agreed to plow his road next.
- Two staff members confronted and aggressively accosted in public - one at a gas station and another while simply waiting in line for coffee - by individuals angry about road conditions and a mailbox strike that were not even related to that municipality.
- A voicemail threatening to shoot a plow driver with a shotgun the next time the street was plowed.
- A resident jumping in front of an active plow during a major snow event and refusing to move, delaying operations for over an hour and jeopardizing service levels and overall emergency response.

These examples represent only a small sample of the experiences municipal plow drivers and winter maintenance crews are facing across the province. What was once occasional frustration has escalated into intimidation, threats of violence, and direct interference with equipment and operations.

Equally concerning is that municipalities do not always receive consistent enforcement support when these incidents occur. We have heard directly from members who contacted the Ontario Provincial Police for assistance and were advised that, unless a physical assault had already taken place, the situation was "not a police matter." Waiting until a worker has been physically harmed before intervention is neither preventative nor acceptable.

This gap leaves municipalities and workers vulnerable and sends an unintended message that threatening or obstructive behaviour toward municipal staff carries little consequence. It also places supervisors and by-law officers in situations that may exceed their authority or capacity to manage safely.

We believe a proactive and coordinated response is needed. Municipal workers and their subcontractors should not have to choose between their personal safety and providing critical services during storms and emergencies.

We respectfully ask that the Province of Ontario and the Ontario Provincial Police take a clear and strong stance that interference, threats, and harassment directed at municipal public works staff will not be tolerated. Specifically, we would welcome:

- Clear direction and guidance to police services, including the OPP, that threats, intimidation, and obstruction of municipal workers performing essential duties warrant timely enforcement and support.
- Recognition that interference with winter maintenance and emergency public works operations presents a broader public safety risk, not merely a municipal operational issue.
- Enhanced coordination between municipalities and local police services during significant weather events and emergency responses to ensure worker safety and continuity of service.
- Consideration of legislative or policy tools that provide stronger deterrence and consequences for those who threaten or obstruct municipal staff and contractors.

Municipal public works professionals are essential workers. They keep roads open for ambulances, fire trucks, school buses, and the travelling public. Their safety should be treated with the same seriousness as that of other frontline responders.

AORS would welcome the opportunity to meet with you and your staff to discuss these concerns and explore practical steps to ensure consistent enforcement support and stronger protections for municipal workers across Ontario.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter and for your continued leadership in public safety.

Sincerely,



Karla Musso-Garcia, CRS-I
President, Association of Ontario Road Supervisors
Operations Manager, Township of Oro-Medonte



Kelly Elliott
Interim Executive Director
Association of Ontario Road Supervisors

Cc (via e-mail)
Premier Doug Ford



Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development David Piccini
14th Floor, 400 University Avenue
Toronto, ON M7A 1T7

February 5, 2026

Dear Minister Piccini,

On behalf of Ontario's municipal public works professionals, we are writing to raise an urgent health and safety concern that is increasingly placing municipal workers and subcontractors at risk while they maintain the critical infrastructure our communities rely on every day.

While the Occupational Health and Safety Act establishes important protections against workplace hazards, it does not adequately address a growing and very real threat: unsafe working conditions created by interference, harassment, and dangerous actions from members of the public.

Through consultations with AORS members across the province, we are hearing consistent and deeply troubling examples of escalating behaviour directed at municipal workers - particularly winter maintenance operators. These are not isolated incidents, but a pattern that is becoming increasingly normalized during significant weather events. Examples reported to AORS include:

- An individual throwing a large chunk of ice at an active piece of municipal equipment while it was operating.
- A resident threatening to kill a sidewalk plow operator.
- A man climbing onto a snow plow and refusing to get off until the operator agreed to plow his road next.
- Two municipal staff members being confronted, accosted, and aggressively yelled at in public - one at a gas station and another while simply standing in line for coffee - by individuals angry about road conditions that were not even under that municipality's jurisdiction, as well as a mailbox that had been struck.
- A voicemail left by a resident threatening to shoot a municipal plow driver with a shotgun the next time the street was plowed.
- A resident angry about snow at the end of their driveway jumping in front of an active plow and refusing to move. The plow was delayed for over an hour during a major snow event, placing service levels and the municipality's overall emergency response at risk. The situation was only resolved once supervisors and by-law officers arrived on scene.

These incidents represent only a small sample of what municipal plow drivers and winter maintenance crews are experiencing across Ontario. What was once limited to disgruntled complaints has escalated into direct threats, physical interference, and dangerous confrontations that place workers, subcontractors, and the public at risk. This issue is becoming a systematic threat to municipal service delivery and is only amplified during significant weather events.

Municipal workers and their contracted partners are responsible for maintaining roads, bridges, sidewalks, and other essential services - often in extreme weather and high-risk environments. When these workers are threatened or obstructed, it becomes not only a workplace safety issue, but a broader public safety concern. In some cases, conditions have become so unsafe that

municipal staff and subcontractors have walked off job sites, jeopardizing timely service delivery during critical events.

We respectfully ask the Province to consider the following changes:

- Under the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act, when a municipality declares a Significant Weather Event, municipal winter maintenance vehicles and operators - including subcontractors working on behalf of municipalities - should be afforded enhanced protection, with interference or obstruction treated with the same severity as interference with police, fire, or paramedic services.
- Establish clear public-safety interference provisions, similar in intent to Ontario's Slow Down, Move Over legislation, that recognize the essential role of municipal roadside workers.
- Consider adopting provisions similar to Manitoba's recently passed Bill 38, an amendment to their Highway Traffic Act effective January 1, 2026, which requires motorists to maintain a minimum distance of 30 metres behind snowplows where speed limits are 80 km/h or lower, and 100 metres where speed limits exceed 80 km/h.

These changes would provide clarity, deterrence, and enforceability—sending a strong message that interference with municipal workers performing essential services will not be tolerated. Just as Ontario protects first responders from obstruction during emergencies, we must extend similar protections to the public works professionals who keep our communities safe, connected, and functioning.

AORS would welcome the opportunity to meet with you and your staff to discuss these concerns further and to collaborate on legislative solutions that better protect municipal workers and subcontractors while strengthening public safety across the province.

Thank you for your consideration of this critical issue.

Sincerely,



Karla Musso-Garcia, CRS-I
President, Association of Ontario Road Supervisors
Operations Manager, Township of Oro-Medonte



Kelly Elliott
Interim Executive Director
Association of Ontario Road Supervisors

Cc (via e-mail)

Premier Doug Ford

Minister of Emergency Preparedness and Response Jill Dunlop

Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing Rob Flack

Minister of Transportation Prabmeet Sarkaria

Acting Minister of Infrastructure Todd McCarthy

Scott Butler, Good Roads Executive Director

Walid Abou-Hamde, Ontario Road Builders' Association Chief Executive Officer

9.8

From: FONOM Office/ Bureau de FONOM <fonom.info@gmail.com>

Sent: April 20, 2026 4:29 PM

Subject: Fwd: Letter from the Ontario Minister of Transportation and the Minister of Northern Economic Development and Growth

Good afternoon,

I am writing to share a copy of a letter sent today by Prabmeet Singh Sarkaria and George Pirie to Steven MacKinnon regarding the continued widening and improvement of Highways 11 and 17.

In their correspondence, the Ministers highlight the critical importance of these highways as part of the Trans-Canada network, emphasizing their role in supporting national supply chains, economic competitiveness, and emerging opportunities tied to resource development in Northern Ontario. The letter also underscores the growing importance of this corridor to national security and defence readiness.

Importantly, the Province is requesting federal partnership to help accelerate progress, including investment support and a commitment to streamline any duplicative federal review processes that could delay construction.

This aligns closely with FONOM's long-standing advocacy that improvements to Highways 11 and 17 are not only a regional priority but also a matter of national significance—particularly in terms of safety, reliability, and economic resilience.

We wanted to share this letter with you as it represents a continued and strengthening message from the Province to the federal government on an issue that remains a top priority for our membership.

As always, we encourage member municipalities to continue reinforcing this message through your own advocacy efforts.

Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or would like to discuss further.

Best regards,
Mac

Talk soon, Mac.

Mac Bain
Executive Director
The Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities
665 Oak Street East, Unit 306
North Bay, ON, P1B 9E5
705-498-9510

Ministry of Transportation

Office of the Minister
777 Bay Street, 5th Floor
Toronto ON M7A 1Z8

Tel: 416 327-9200

Ministère des Transports

Bureau du ministre
777, rue Bay 5^e étage
Toronto ON M7A 1Z8

Tél : 416 327-9200



Ontario

**Ministry of Northern Economic
Development and Growth**

Office of the Minister
16th Floor, Suite 1600
438 University Avenue
Toronto ON M5G 2K8

**Ministère du Développement et
de la croissance économique
du Nord**

Bureau du ministre
16^e étage, bureau 1600
438, avenue University
Toronto ON M5G 2K8

774-2026-131

April 20, 2026

The Honourable Steven MacKinnon
Minister of Transport

TC.MinisterofTransport-MinistredesTransports.TC@tc.gc.ca

Dear Minister MacKinnon,

We are writing to request federal support to accelerate the continued widening of Highways 11 and 17, including federal investment and a commitment to eliminating any duplicative federal review processes that could delay construction.

Highways 11 and 17 are critical transportation corridors and key parts of the Trans-Canada network. By connecting Northern Ontario to the rest of Canada, they play an essential role in building a more competitive, resilient and self-reliant national economy and country.

These highways are vital to moving goods across Canada. Together, they carry 2,000 trucks each day and transport more than \$125 million in goods. As Ontario builds and strengthens trade corridors, they continue to play an important role in this work. They will also help unlock Northern Ontario's full economic potential, including the development and transport of critical minerals and other natural resources the world needs. Reliable and efficient highway capacity is essential to ensure our resources reach markets and to support Ontario's and Canada's competitiveness.

We recognize the federal government's commitment to increasing defence spending and strengthening national security. In the current geopolitical environment, Ontario will continue to punch above its weight when it comes to contributing to Canada's defence industry, and our infrastructure is no exception. Highways 11 and 17 serve as critical infrastructure for economic security, domestic supply chains and defence readiness. As a key east-west corridor through Northern Ontario, they help ensure that military personnel, equipment and essential goods move safely and efficiently across the country.

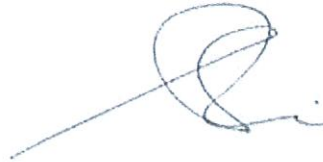
Ontario has made significant progress along this corridor through four-lane expansion, roadway widening and the launch of North America's first 2+1 highway pilot in the North. However, given the scale and national significance of this corridor, federal support for the continued widening of these highways is more important than ever to ensure this corridor meet the demands of an increasingly competitive economy and an evolving security landscape.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

The Honourable Prabmeet Singh Sarkaria
Ontario Minister of Transportation

A handwritten signature in blue ink, featuring a large, stylized 'G' followed by a horizontal line and a small flourish.

The Honourable George Pirie
Ontario Minister of Northern Economic
Development and Growth

c: The Honourable David J. McGuinty
Minister of National Defence

More Bills, More Regs, More Bills: Province of Ontario Continues to Propose Sweeping Changes to Municipal and Planning Systems with Draft Release of Bills 98 and 100

April 20, 2026

By Raj Kehar, Narmada Gunawardana, Nikolas Koschany

Benjamin Franklin once noted that there were two certainties in life: death and taxes. To this list, we can now confidently add a third certainty, being the Province of Ontario (the "**Province**")'s perpetual changes to the municipal planning and development system.

Bill 98, the *Building Homes and Improving Transportation Infrastructure Act, 2026* ("**Bill 98**"), was introduced in the legislature on March 30, 2026. Currently before the Standing Committee, Bill 98 proposes changes to the Building Code Act, 1992 (the "**BCA**"), the *City of Toronto Act, 2006* (the "**COTA**"), the *Municipal Act, 2001*, S.O. 2001, c. 25 (the "**Municipal Act**"), the *Planning Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c. P.13 (the "**Planning Act**"), and the *Development Charges Act, 1997*, S.O. 1997, c. 27 (the "**DCA**") regarding development matters. Bill 98 also proposes to amend the *Metrolinx Act 2006*, S.O. 2006, c. 16, introduces the *Fare Alignment and Seamless Transit Act, 2026*, and makes a host of changes to Ontario's water-servicing acts. For the purposes of this article, we detail Bill 98's proposed changes to the *BCA*, the *DCA*, *COTA*, the *Municipal Act*, and the *Planning Act*.

Days following the release of Bill 98, on April 2, 2026, the Province also released Bill 100, the *Better Regional Governance Act, 2026* ("**Bill 100**"). Bill 100 makes additional changes to the *Municipal Act* and the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996* (the "**Municipal Elections Act**") in relation to the governance structures of certain upper-tier municipalities.

The Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing is also currently seeking feedback on multiple proposals before the Environmental Registry of Ontario (the "**ERO**"). We detail these proposals throughout this article. A full list of the ERO postings, and the associated deadlines for response, are listed at the end of this article.

Removal of Municipal Building Controls for Protection or Conservation of the Environment

Bill 98 proposes to enact a new provision within the *BCA* clarifying that municipal by-laws prescribing construction standards for the protection or conservation of the environment are deemed to be by-laws respecting the construction or demolition of buildings.

Because the *BCA* and the Building Code already supersede all municipal by-laws respecting building construction or demolition, and because municipalities no longer have authority to pass such by-laws pursuant to changes enacted in 2025 through [Bill 17](#), the *Protect Ontario by Building Faster and Smarter Act, 2025*, this amendment would, in effect, eliminate the force of existing municipal environmental construction standards and prevent the enactment of new ones.

Bill 98 similarly proposes to amend sections within *COTA*, the *Municipal Act 2001*, and the *Planning Act* such that municipalities can no longer subject site plan applications to by-laws prescribing environmentally friendly construction standards, even if such by-laws have not been repealed by the municipality.

Lastly, Bill 98 proposes to remove the ability for the Minister to prescribe regulations detailing environmental construction methods or conditions, and the ability for municipalities to codify same within their by-laws.

Removal of Development Charges for Non-Profit Retirement Home

Bill 98 proposes to amend the *DCA* to provide that the development of buildings or structures intended for use as a “retirement home” by a registered Not-for-Profit corporations are exempted from the payment of development charges. A retirement home must be as defined within the *Retirement Homes Act, 2010*, and a Not-for-Profit Corporation must be either a corporation to which the *Not-for-Profit Corporations Act, 2010* applies, or a corporation without share capital to which the *Canada Not-for-profit Corporations Act* applies, and must be in good standing under the applicable Act.

This addition appears to build upon the existing exemption for non-profit housing development that is included within subsection 4.2 of the *DCA*.

Development Charges would continue to be payable for such retirement homes where payable on the date before Bill 98 receives royal assent.

Standardization of Official Plans

In 2025, the Province first sought public feedback on proposed legislative and regulatory changes to standardize official plans throughout Ontario. Bill 98 has now introduced legislative updates with the specifics of the proposed standardization. This includes 10 standard chapters with standardized sub sections and a standardized set of Schedules and Appendices to be included at chapter 11. Bill 98 also proposes a standardized set of twelve (12) land use designations, which are the only land use designations which may be used in the official plans of lower- and single-tier municipalities. Within these land use designations, Bill 98 provides certain land uses which must be authorized. The Minister may direct that a land use designation may be implemented through two or more sub-designations. Bill 98 clarifies that such proposed directions are not to be construed as regulations.

The specific chapter order, names and schedules of the proposed official plan chapters, as well as the standardized set of land use designations can be found in the ERO posting. In reviewing the chapters and sections included in Bill 98 and the ERO posting, we note that there are no chapters or sections that have titles related to affordable or attainable housing, climate change, or urban design.

Under Bill 98, the proposed twelve land use designations are as follows:

- Neighbourhoods;
- Mixed Use Areas;
- Mixed Use Commercial Areas;
- Employment Areas;
- Major Facilities;
- Parks and Open Spaces;
- Natural Environment and Water Resource Areas;
- Resource Areas;
- Rural Lands;
- Prime Agricultural Areas;
- Specialty Crop Areas; and
- Shoreline Areas.

We note that certain designations, such as “institutional” are currently standalone designations in some municipalities. However,

under the proposed standardized framework, institutional would only be considered a permitted use within certain designations, rather than a designation in and of itself. It remains to be seen how other common and presently used land use designations, such as utility, waste, and airport designations will be categorized within the proposed standardized designations within each municipality.

Bill 98 also provides a transition framework for these changes. Bill 98 notes a list of municipalities that correspond to the Large and Fast-Growing Municipalities found in the Appendix to the Provincial Planning Statement 2024, for which the transition date is January 1, 2028. The transition date for all other municipalities is January 1, 2029. Bill 98 provides that the former official plan framework continues to apply to a municipality until the day on which a new official plan or a revision of the official plan is adopted through a section 26 exercise after the applicable transition date. A section 26 exercise is an update to an official plan to bring it into conformity with provincial plans and into consistency with policy statements, such as the PPS, 2024. Municipalities are required to do so no less frequently than 10 years after an official plan first comes into effect as a new official plan; and every five years thereafter.

We understand this to mean that, for example, a Large and Fast-Growing Municipality that adopted a new official plan in 2026 would not be affected by Bill 98's new official plan structure until its next section 26 official plan update, which would be in 2036. A municipality that revised its Official Plan in 2026 would not be required to update its official plan structure until 2031. Changes to the structure of official plans are proposed to come into force on a day to be named by order of the Lieutenant Governor in Council.

The Province is also seeking comments regarding proposed modifications for official plans of upper-tier municipalities, secondary plans, and site- and area-specific ("SASP") policies through an [ERO posting](#). The proposed modifications for official plans of upper-tier municipalities include limiting duplication with official plans of lower-tier municipalities by creating specific land use designations that only apply to official plans of upper-tier municipalities with planning responsibilities. Additionally, the Province is seeking comments about whether the standardized table of contents, schedules, and land use designations proposed in Bill 98 should be modified for upper-tier municipalities with planning responsibilities. The potential changes for secondary plans and SASPs include identifying the types of areas where secondary plans could be used, separating secondary plans from the primary official plan, and exempting secondary plans from Minister's approval.

Ministerial Approval of Official Plan Amendments to Protected Major Transit Station Areas

Additionally, Bill 98 proposes to expand instances in which the Minister must approve an official plan amendment in a protected major transit station area ("PMTSA"). The *Planning Act* currently mandates ministerial approval for amending policies within a PMTSA respecting the minimum number of jobs and residents per hectare, the authorizes uses of land buildings or structures, and minimum building densities within a PMTSA. Bill 98 would expand this list, such that Ministerial approval would be required where proposed official plan amendments would amend or revoke the delineation the PMTSA boundaries.

Complete Applications

Keeping in the theme of standardization, the Province is also seeking feedback on a proposed standardized list of information that planning authorities can require for complete applications. The complete proposal can be found in the [ERO posting](#). The stated purpose for this is to achieve greater clarity and predictability regarding complete application requirements across Ontario. The proposed provincial list is not a mandatory list to be used for each planning application, but rather a list of information and materials from which municipalities can determine what is required for a specific application.

The proposed provincial list is categorized into two areas, being (1) core studies, and (2) contingent studies.

Core studies are those that could always be required in assessing planning applications. They are meant to address fundamental planning and engineering matters such as environmental impacts, existing servicing capacity, transportation impacts, and public health and safety. Examples of core studies include Environmental Impact Statements, Functional Servicing Reports, and Planning

Justification Reports.

Contingent studies are those studies that could only be required when a specific on-site or surrounding condition exists in the local municipality that makes the study relevant for the specific application. Examples of contingent studies include Agricultural Impact Assessments, Economic Viability Assessments, and Noise/Vibration Studies. Notably, the list of contingent studies does not include Urban Design rationales.

The Province is also seeking additional feedback in line with the changes made in 2025, which allowed the Minister to require that municipalities accept studies from certified professionals in professions specified in regulation, without requiring any study revisions. Regulations were enacted in January 2026 to specify professional engineering as a "prescribed profession" for the purposes of a complete application. The Province is now seeking comments on adding additional certified professionals including registered landscape architects. The complete proposal can be found in the [ERO posting](#).

Minimum Lot Sizes

Bill 98 also proposes to give the Minister the power to make regulations setting the minimum area of a parcel of urban residential land that is not in the Greenbelt Area. A parcel of urban residential land is defined as a parcel within the settlement area of a municipality that is zoned for residential use (other than as an ancillary use) and is fully serviced by public sewage and water. The Province is also requesting feedback through an [ERO posting](#) that proposes the minimum lot size to be 175 square metres.

If enacted, and a minimum parcel area is prescribed (be it 175 square metres or otherwise), provisions within municipal by-laws that mandate larger minimum lot area sizes, or that mandate minimum frontages and depth requirements that *de facto* lead to a greater minimum lot area, would be of no force and effect. Resultingly, consent applications on urban residential land that results in lots meeting the minimum size would no longer need to seek minor variances in relation to minimum lot sizes where the application results in lot sizes that adhere to the regulations, once in effect.

Amendments to Site Plan Requirements: Removal of Sustainable Design Features and EV Parking Standards

Bill 98 proposes significant amendments that narrow the scope of municipal authority at the site plan stage. Most notably, the proposed amendments would remove references to "sustainable design" as a criterion for evaluating proposed development, effectively eliminating the ability of municipalities to impose green development standards through site plan approval. The proposed amendments would also remove any requirement to provide electric vehicle supply equipment in connection with parking facilities and clarify that zoning by-laws cannot be used to require the provision or maintenance of such equipment.

Further changes are proposed regarding site plan requirements for lands adjoining highways, such as sidewalks or pedestrian clearways. Municipalities can currently require a site plan to display elements on an adjoining highway or municipal road, including trees, shrubs, hedges, paving materials, street furniture, and bicycle parking facilities for development except buildings used for residential purposes containing fewer than 25 dwelling units. Bill 98 would significantly restrict this authority by only permitting municipalities to require such elements to the extent that they are necessary to address matters of health, safety, accessibility, or the protection of adjoining lands. It remains unclear how municipalities will interpret a "necessary" design element.

The proposed changes also expressly prohibit municipalities from imposing requirements related to future to-be-prescribed matters. Where a site plan application is made before such future regulations are promulgated, the municipality may still require such prescribed matters as a condition of site plan approval, but not on the day of, or after the regulations come into force.

Separately, the Province has posted on the ERO, a [proposal to further reform site plan control](#), which would take effect through separate yet-to-be-introduced legislation or regulations. Proposed reforms being considered include:

- Removal of site plan control as a land use planning tool within the *Planning Act* and *COTA*;
- Requirements for municipalities to have a maximum of three site plan circulations, after which a mandatory meeting would be triggered with all relevant municipal department representatives and the applicant to work through and resolve all outstanding issues;
- Establishing or requiring municipalities to establish an arbitration process or site plan review panel, for site plan applications that have exceeded the legislated 60-day approval window for site plan approval, or that have exceeded a specified number of circulations. The process would act as an alternative to a hearing at the Ontario Land Tribunal, and participants in this process would include the applicant and the municipal development review team;
- Establishing, or requiring municipalities to establish different site plan approval “streams” for different kinds of proposed development, with a corresponding scope of matters that may be controlled. This would limit the “full” site plan approval process to larger, more complex development proposals, with a correspondingly narrower range of matters subject to regulation through site plan control. Smaller or less complex developments would be directed to more expedited approval streams or, in some cases, exempted from site plan control altogether; and
- The removal of the ability for municipalities to request additional studies and plans beyond what is included in a standard site plan approval checklist. This “standard checklist” would be further scoped from what is provided within 41 of the *Planning Act* and section 114 of the *COTA* and would largely confine site plan control to matters of health and safety only. This follows the Province’s changes to site plan control under Bill 17 in 2025 (which we detailed [in a separate article](#)), which prevented municipalities from introducing new materials in support of a complete planning application after May 12, 2025, without Ministerial approval.

Phased Removal of Simcoe County as Upper-Tier Municipality without Planning Responsibilities, and Exceptions to Conformity with Upper-Tier Municipal Official Plans

In 2022, the Province, through Bill 23, the *More Homes Built Faster Act*, amended the *Planning Act* to designate certain “upper-tier municipalit[ies] without planning responsibilities” at future dates, including Simcoe County. In the years since Bill 23’s enactment, the Province has incrementally passed legislation that added certain upper-tier municipalities to this list, while provisions removing those planning responsibilities came into force and effect.

Bill 98 proposes to remove the planning responsibilities of Simcoe County incrementally, rather than all at once:

- Simcoe County will lose its planning responsibilities in relation to lands located in the lower-tier municipalities of the Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury, the Town of Innisfil and the Town of New Tecumseth;
- Simcoe County will lose its planning responsibilities in relation to the lands located in any future to-be-prescribed lower-tier municipalities in the County of Simcoe; and
- Simcoe County will lose its planning responsibilities in relation to any lands in any lower-tier municipality in the County of Simcoe not mentioned or prescribed above.

These changes are in alignment with those introduced in Bill 100, which we detail below, and would make it such that any new lower-tier municipalities within the County are never subject to the County’s planning authority. The proposed changes would come into effect on a future date to be proclaimed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council but be retroactive to the date that Bill 98 receives Royal Assent.

In addition to the above, Bill 98 proposes to provide the ability for the Minister to create regulations prescribing certain lower-tier municipalities where the official plans of same would not need to conform with the official plan of an upper-tier municipality. As of the time of writing, it remains unclear whether these to-be-released regulations would apply to lower-tier municipalities outside of Simcoe County.

Lastly Bill 98 proposes to exempt by-laws adopting official plans or official plan amendments from needing to be in conformity with an upper-tier municipality's official plan, where the official plan in question is subject to a Ministerial Order removing the upper-tier municipality as an approval authority for the official plans of lower-tier municipalities.

Standardization of parkland dedication requirements

Bill 98 proposes modifications to the parkland dedication provisions under the *Planning Act* which were introduced in 2022 through Bill 23 but remain to be proclaimed into force and effect. The Bill 23 changes contemplated an "owner initiated" conveyance of land, or an easement in land, to a municipality, to satisfy some or all the municipality's parkland dedication requirements. Bill 98's proposed changes, in addition to bringing these changed into force and effect, would now clarify that that any easement received pursuant to such a conveyance is valid, regardless of whether the municipality owns adjacent lands that are capable of being accommodated or benefitted by the easement.

Bill 98 would further clarify that where land, or an interest in same is conveyed to a municipality, a minimum of 70% of that land (or a greater figure, as determined by the municipality) shall count towards the parkland dedication requirements set out in the municipality's parkland dedication by-law.

Such owner-initiated parkland conveyances may be accepted or refused by the municipality, and where refused, appealed to the Ontario Land Tribunal. The province is also proposing a non-decision appeal right with respect to such owner-initiated conveyances.

Changes to Ministerial Zoning Orders

Commensurate with the proposed restrictions municipally implemented building by-laws, zoning, and site plan controls, Bill 98 proposes to also restrict Ministerial Orders, such that they cannot impose conditions related to sustainable design features or to environmentally friendly building construction standards.

Additionally, Bill 98 proposes to eliminate requirements for the Minister to provide notice where they amend or revoke a ministerial zoning or site plan order, or to allow a period of time for the submission of representations in respect of the amendment or revocation. Existing notice requirements would continue to apply to the passage of new Ministerial Zoning Orders.

Bill 100's Changes to Regional Governance Structures

Bill 100 proposes changes to regional governance structures. Bill 100 proposes to permit the Minister, by Order, to appoint a head of council following the regular 2026 election and every subsequent election for the following upper-tier municipalities: Regional Municipality of Durham, Regional Municipality of Halton, District Municipality of Muskoka, Regional Municipality of Niagara, Regional Municipality of Peel, County of Simcoe, Regional Municipality of Waterloo, and Regional Municipality of York (the "**Noted Municipalities**"). Bill 100 also proposes to permit the Minister to remove a head of council appointed by the Minister or by the council and, appoint a new head of council.

Bill 100 also proposes to permit the Minister to make regulations which would prescribe powers and duties of an appointed head of council. No such regulations have yet been introduced. However, commentary provided by the Province in its release of Bill 100 notes that the appointed heads of council are to receive "strong chairs" powers which mirror the "strong mayors" powers which were initially introduced in 2022 through Bill 3, the *Strong Mayors, Building Homes Act, 2022*.

Bill 100, if passed, would permit the Minister to make regulations governing the votes of the members of an upper-tier municipality, including the allowance of "weighted" voting where a member may receive more than one vote. This provision appears to apply to all upper-tier municipalities, and not just the Noted Municipalities.

In addition, Bill 100 would change the composition of the County of Simcoe council to an appointed head of council and 16 other members, consisting of the head of council of each lower-tier municipality in the County of Simcoe. Similarly, the Regional Municipality of Niagara council would be changed to an appointed head of council and 12 other members consisting of the head of council of each lower-tier municipality in The Regional Municipality of Niagara.

Future Changes Proposed through ERO

The Province's proposals, which encapsulate both the changes contemplated through Bill 98, and future to-be-released legislation or regulations, are contained below.

ERO Proposal

Deadline for Comment and Link to P

Draft Projection Methodology Guideline (PMG) to support the implementation of the Provincial Planning Statement, 2024 (PPS, 2024)

For more information or inquiries:



Raj Kehar

Toronto
416.947.5051

Email:
rkehar@weirfoulds.com

Raj Kehar is a Partner at WeirFoulds LLP and Co-Chair of the Municipal, Planning and Land Development Practice Group.



Narmada Gunawardana

Toronto
647.715.7117

Email:
ngunawardana@weirfoulds.com

Narmada Gunawardana is an Associate in the Municipal, Planning & Land Development Practice Group at WeirFoulds LLP.



Nikolas Koschany

Toronto
647.715.7174

Email:
nkoschany@weirfoulds.com

An Associate in the Municipal, Planning & Land Development Practice Group and Expropriation Practice Group at WeirFoulds LLP, Nikolas Koschany specializes in land use planning, expropriation, municipal, and administrative law.

WeirFoulds^{LLP}

www.weirfoulds.com

Toronto Office
4100 – 66 Wellington Street West
PO Box 35, TD Bank Tower
Toronto, ON M5K 1B7

Tel: 416.365.1110
Fax: 416.365.1876

Oakville Office
1320 Cornwall Rd., Suite 201
Oakville, ON L6J 7W5

Tel: 416.365.1110
Fax: 905.829.2035

9.10

Ministry of the Environment,
Conservation and Parks

Environmental Assessment
Modernization Branch

135 St. Clair Avenue West
4th Floor
Toronto ON M4V 1P5

Ministère de l'Environnement, de
la Protection de la nature et des Parcs

Direction de la modernisation des processus
d'évaluation environnementale

135, avenue St. Clair Ouest
4^e étage
Toronto ON M4V 1P5



April 20, 2026

TO: Stakeholder Distribution List

RE: Proposed *Environmental Assessment Act* (EAA) amendments to improve the comprehensive environmental assessment (EA) process

Today, Ontario introduced the [Protecting Ontario's Workers and Economic Resilience Act, 2026 \(POWER Act\)](#) in the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. If made, the changes would support a more efficient comprehensive EA process and make it easier to navigate by removing certain steps while maintaining strong environmental protections and other consultation opportunities.

The proposed legislation would, if passed, amend the *Environmental Assessment Act* (EAA) to make three key changes to the comprehensive EA process:

- Remove the requirement to publish and consult on a Ministry Review
- Remove the opportunity for the public to request a hearing before the Ontario Land Tribunal (Tribunal) while maintaining the Minister's authority to refer an application or matter related to an application to the Tribunal for a hearing and decision on their own initiative
- Remove the requirement for Cabinet approval of the Minister's decision, while providing the Minister discretion to refer an application to Cabinet for a decision

In addition, we also proposed minor updates to improve clarity and flexibility in the EAA.

If the proposed EAA amendments are made, the regulation that sets out deadlines for certain steps in the comprehensive EA process (Ontario Regulation 616/98 (Deadlines)) would be adjusted to align with the changes.

The proposal has been posted on the Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO) for public comment. More information is available [here](#). Input is being accepted until **May 20, 2026**.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at EAModernization.MECP@ontario.ca. Any comments on the proposal can be submitted through the ERO posting via the link above, or by email to us.

We are committed to keeping you apprised about EA modernization and working with you to build a strong EA program for Ontario. We value your perspectives on the EA program and look forward to your further participation. More information on our other efforts to modernize the EA program can also be found [here](#).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "A. Cross". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "A".

Annamaria Cross
Director, Environmental Assessment Modernization Branch
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks