

Memorandum

To: Mayor and Members of Chatham-Kent Council
From: Heather Haynes, Council Assistant
Date: June 29, 2020
Re: Council Information Package

I have attached a list of items received, that may be of interest to members of Council. Please note that in accordance with Section 6.4(d) of the Procedural By-law, **Any member of Council may raise for discussion a communication, petition or resolution that is in the Information Package during the Approval of Communication Items portion of the Council Meeting.**

1. Staff Reports and Information

- (a) Action items from the June 15, 2020 Council Meeting.

2. Correspondence From

- (a) Letter from Jason Guttridge to Mayor Canniff dated June 3, 2020 re Application for a Standard Cultivation Licence under Health Canada's Cannabis Regulations.
- (b) Communication from Mayor Cam Guthrie, Chair of Large Urban Mayor's Caucus of Ontario (LUMCO) dated June 5, 2020 re Standing Against anti-Black Racism, Discrimination and Intolerance in all forms.
- (c) Letter to the Premier of Ontario, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health and Minister of Long-Term Care from Mayor Canniff dated June 11, 2020 re Commission on Long-Term Care.
- (d) Letter to the Premier of Ontario, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health and Minister of Long-Term Care from Mayor Canniff dated June 11, 2020 re Psychosocial and Emotional Health of Long-Term Care and Retirement Home Residents.
- (e) Communication from Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing to Heads of Council/Clerks and CAO's dated June 12, 2020 re End Temporary Suspension of Planning Act Timelines - June 22, 2020.

3. Resolutions

- (a) Resolution from the Town of Orangeville dated June 8, 2020 re Comprehensive Diversity Training Programs for Police Services.
- (b) Resolution from the Town of Bracebridge dated June 12, 2020 re Establishment of a Municipal Financial Assistance Program to offset the Financial Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- (c) Resolutions from Lake of Bays, Muskoka and the Municipality of Mississippi Mills dated June, 2020 re Support for High Speed Internet Connectivity in Rural Ontario.
- (d) Resolution from the Township of Armour dated April 29, 2020 re Support Resolution, High speed Internet Connectivity in Rural Ontario.

	<u>Date</u>	<u>ITEM</u>	<u>Department</u>	<u>Division</u>	<u>Director</u>	<u>Requestor</u>	<u>Target Date</u>
1,173	June 1, 2020	Re: Infrastructure Committee – MOTION REFERRED TO THE INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE - "That the membership of the Infrastructure Committee be realigned to add one member from the Ontario Federation of Agriculture to join the member of the Kent Federation of Agriculture and that in the absence of either of those representatives, a substitute member of the organization be allowed to attend in their place at meetings."	IES	IES	Thomas Kelly	Cl. Pinsonneault	
1,185	June 15, 2020	NOM - I, Councillor Mark Authier, will be bringing the following motion forward at our next council meeting. That homes in urban areas can have up to 6 chickens per household. No roosters will be allowed. Exclusions include apartment buildings, and multiplex homes.	n/a	n/a	n/a	Cl. Authier	29-Jun-20
1,186	June 15, 2020	NOM - I, Councillor Harrigan, hereby provide notice that I will bring forward the following motion at the 29th Council Meeting for discussion and voting: Whereas COVID19 has changed the everyday lives of people in communities all across Chatham-Kent And Whereas there is a need to understand the human, social, and community impacts of COVID19, and how we can move forward as individuals, households, and communities And Whereas there is an opportunity for council to take a leadership in role in the recovery and adaptation to the 'new Normal' due to COVID19, from a human, social, and community standpoint. And Whereas "Resiliency" is identified as a critical success factor for the CK2035 plan. Therefore, be it resolved that; #1. Staff at the Municipality of Chatham-Kent work with the United Way of Chatham-Kent, alongside local partners, and stakeholders, engaging community members to identify key recommendations to mitigate the negative human, social, and community impacts of COVID-19. And that these recommendations be presented in a report to council. This report may consider elements such as: The impact closures and isolation has had on missed health care visits, (for example, missed childhood immunizations, seniors with multiple chronic diseases); The mental and emotional toll COVID-19 has had on everyone and every community in Chatham-Kent, including ongoing support for individuals, families and communities as we navigate the future "new normal" due to COVID-19; The impact of COVID19 for the homeless, and those in precarious housing; Helping people be emotionally ready to return to work, school, regular daily activities, and ensuring access to child care and eldercare as needed; Financial stability during the recovery from COVID-19. #2. That the above report consider any gendered, socio-economic, and racial disparity of the impact of COVID-19 within Chatham-Kent in its recommendations. #3. That Municipal staff, in partnership with United Way organize, plan and schedule a strategic planning session with Council to discuss the human impacts of COVID-19. This session will take place before the end of September of this year. The session may be held in tandem with other strategic sessions discussing COVID-19. The results will be reported back to Council.	n/a	n/a	n/a	Cl. Harrigan	29-Jun-20
1,187	June 15, 2020	NOM - I councillor Anthony Ceccacci hereby provide the following notice that I will bring the following motion to the June 29th meeting for discussion and voting. Whereas the municipality of Chatham-Kent is the fortunate home to a number of areas with direct access to bodies of water used for recreation, And whereas many of these access areas include a variety of easements, fire access roads, right of ways, and a variety of both private and public access features, And whereas one of the outcomes of amalgamation is a lack of consistency in the treatment of these access features, causing many difficulties for, staff council and residents. Be it resolved that administration develops a report to council that includes ways to implement consistent messaging, safe access points, and standardized signage if required for water front access. This report should include possible divestment opportunities, costs associated with ensuring access points are maintained for safe use, and requirements for utilization by fire and emergencies services.	n/a	n/a	n/a	Cl. Ceccacci	29-Jun-20

	<u>Date</u>	<u>ITEM</u>	<u>Department</u>	<u>Division</u>	<u>Director</u>	<u>Requestor</u>	<u>Target Date</u>
1,188	June 15, 2020	<p>NOM - I councillor Anthony Ceccacci hereby provide the following notice that I will bring the following motion to the June 29th meeting for discussion and voting. Whereas the municipality of Chatham-Kent recognizes the significance of tree cover as an important part of a balanced and healthy community, and whereas the public are looking at ways to participate in re-greening the municipality, And whereas councillor Brock McGregor put forward a successful motion that included that the municipality of Chatham-Kent develop and implement a street tree cover policy, to maintain and encourage tree coverage by continuing active surveillance and maintenance of trees on municipal right of ways, including replacement when required. Be it resolved That Administration develop a Chatham-Kent Tree Donation Program where residents and businesses have an on-line method Option of making financial donations to the Municipality of Chatham-Kent for the sole purpose of increasing tree cover, and implement an awareness campaign when ready to accept donations, and that Council approve the creation of a Reserve for Tree Donations. Recommendations on the utilization of the reserve would be brought to Council for approval.</p>	n/a	n/a	n/a	Cl. Ceccacci	29-Jun-20



7 Farms Down Inc.
20434 Merlin Road
P.O. Box 9
Merlin, Ontario
N0P 1W0

June 3, 2020

Municipality of Chatham-Kent
Darrin Canniff
Mayor
(519) 360-1998
315 King Street West
Chatham ON N7M 5K8

Re: Written Notice

Dear Mayor Darrin Canniff,

This is a written notice to inform you of my intent to submit an application to become a holder of a Standard Cultivation Licence under Health Canada's Cannabis Regulations. The application will include licensed activities for:

Pursuant to 11(1)

- (a) to possess cannabis;
- (b) to obtain dried cannabis, fresh cannabis, cannabis plants or cannabis plant seeds by cultivating, propagating and harvesting cannabis;
- (c) for the purpose of testing, to obtain cannabis by altering its chemical or physical properties by any means; and
- (d) to sell cannabis

The site where the above-mentioned activities will be conducted is 20434 Merlin Road, Merlin, Ontario, N0P 1W0. The application will be submitted to Health Canada in June of 2020.

Yours in good health,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jason Guttridge".

Jason Guttridge
Responsible Person
+1 (519) 350-2507

LUMCO

Ontario's Big-City Mayors

Statement from LUMCO Chair Cam Guthrie and LUMCO mayors

June 5, 2020

Today, Mayor Cam Guthrie, Chair of the Large Urban Mayor's Caucus of Ontario (LUMCO) released the following statement on behalf of Ontario's big city mayors:

"Like many Ontarians, we have been watching the events unfold across North America in recent days and reflecting on how systemic racism and oppression continue to affect people of colour in communities around the world, including Ontario's big cities.

LUMCO mayors believe that diversity and inclusion are critical for vibrant and prosperous communities. As allies, we recognize our responsibility to listen to our Black and Indigenous residents, and all racialized Ontarians who feel the crushing impact of prejudice and injustice in their daily lives. We are committed to standing in solidarity with them to challenge racial bias and bring about meaningful reform.

With that commitment in mind, we have passed the following motion:

WHEREAS the Large Urban Mayors' Caucus of Ontario (LUMCO) is united in standing against anti-Black racism, discrimination, and intolerance in all its forms;

AND WHEREAS we grieve with our citizens the violent loss of life, racism, prejudice and injustice we have witnessed;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that LUMCO mayors are committed to working together to take meaningful, intentional action to remove barriers to inclusion in all our cities."



Mayor Cam Guthrie, City of Guelph, Chair of LUMCO

About LUMCO

The Large Urban Mayors' Caucus of Ontario (LUMCO) includes mayors of 29 single and lower-tier cities with a population of 100,000 or more, amounting to 69% of Ontario's population. LUMCO advocates for issues and policies important to Ontario's largest cities.

For more information:

Mayor Cam Guthrie, Chair of LUMCO
519-837-5643
mayor@guelph.ca

June 11, 2020

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

Honourable Christine Elliott
Deputy Premier and Minister of Health
Ministry of Health
5th Floor, 777 Bay Street
Toronto ON M7A 2J3

Honourable Merrilee Fullerton
Minister of Long-Term Care
6th Floor, 400 University Avenue
Toronto ON M5G 1S5

Dear Premier Ford, Minister Elliott, and Minister Fullerton:

At its meeting of June 1, 2020, Chatham-Kent Municipal Council unanimously supported a request from Councillor Clare Latimer to submit a letter to the Premier, Minister of Health, and Minister of Long-Term Care (LTC) regarding current and long-standing issues being faced by the LTC sector and to support the government's Commission on Long-Term Care.

The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the human resources crisis that LTC has faced for a number of years. It has also brought homes and the residents who place trust in the system they will be well cared for into the limelight, when all along the number one priority of all levels of government and oversight should be the health, safety, and well-being of some of our most vulnerable citizens.

The LTC and Retirement Home (RH) sectors are chronically understaffed; losing the extra hands of visitors and volunteers during the pandemic, while necessary, has created an additional burden. Homes in Ontario are experiencing increasing difficulty recruiting and retaining Personal Support Workers (PSW), Registered Practical Nurses (RPN) and Registered Nurses (RN), creating long delays in the ability to fill vacant positions. Before the pandemic, many homes were indicating they no longer have a 'pool' of PSWs ready and available to fill vacant shifts. Homes are seeing more PSWs experiencing stress-related illnesses, mental and physical exhaustion, and an increase in work-related injuries. In addition to an already limited available workforce, hospitals are now hiring PSWs to fill support roles, and many RNs or RPNs accept positions in LTC only to resign when an acute care or community health position becomes available. Additional stressors directly related to the pandemic have certainly added to the staffing crisis. The provision of pandemic pay to front-line staff has helped, and while it would be a welcomed addition to the funding envelope moving forward, wage increases alone will not solve the chronic lack of people choosing long-term care as a career.

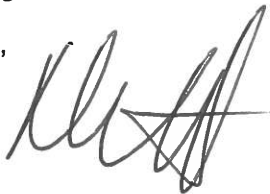
Cont'd...

Staffing ratios have been discussed for several years and there has been lobbying from many avenues to increase the number of direct nursing care hours for residents up to four hours of care per day in order to safely meet the complex needs of the current long-term care population. Without an influx of provincial dollars, coupled with a provincial LTC human resources strategy, homes will not be able to increase direct patient care hours; there simply are not enough human resources to go around. This is difficult for staff in long-term care and retirement homes. They are a determined, passionate bunch who want nothing more than to provide quality care to their residents who call their facilities home.

As a Municipal Council, we have watched the impact the COVID-19 pandemic has had on LTC and RHs across our province. Our municipality has not had any COVID-19 outbreaks in homes in Chatham-Kent; however, we are certainly aware of the ongoing risk and continue to do everything we can to ensure our residents and staff are safe and they have the tools and resources to manage during such a difficult time. As a Council, we support the government's LTC Commission and ask that it remain non-partisan, and be independent of owners and operators including ourselves as the owner and operator of Chatham-Kent's largest LTC home. While we are supportive of the Commission, we are asking for an impartial review of current best practices in both private and publicly operated homes. We are also requesting that the Commission be tasked with recommending best practice standards of care, and accountability protocols regarding documentation, peer reviews, and resident/family reviews.

We appreciate the work involved in any type of large-scale review with the hope the Commission is able to review the current impact of the pandemic and merge these findings with what the sector has known and has been advocating for over the last several years including staffing, governance models, physical structures of homes, and LTC regulations. A comprehensive look at past, current, and future insights will move the sector towards action and real change.

Sincerely,



Darrin Canniff, Mayor/CEO
Municipality of Chatham-Kent

- C Rick Nicholls, MPP Chatham-Kent-Leamington
- Monte McNaughton, MPP Lambton-Kent-Middlesex
- All municipalities in Ontario

June 11, 2020

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

Honourable Christine Elliott
Deputy Premier and Minister of Health
Ministry of Health
5th Floor, 777 Bay Street
Toronto ON M7A 2J3

Honourable Merrilee Fullerton
Minister of Long-Term Care
6th Floor, 400 University Avenue
Toronto ON M5G 1S5

Dear Premier Ford, Minister Elliott, and Minister Fullerton:

At its meeting of June 1, 2020, Chatham-Kent Municipal Council received a letter from eleven organizations serving Long-Term Care and Retirement Homes in Ontario. The letter spoke to the importance of psychosocial and emotional well-being of all Long-Term Care (LTC) and Retirement Home (RH) residents. Council agreed there was significant evidence presented within the letter to warrant supporting the call to action and to encourage the government to review and act on the recommendations provided.

The COVID-19 pandemic has presented a variety of challenges to the LTC and RH sectors, as well as the congregate care sector. Many of these challenges involve protecting the physical health of this extremely vulnerable population. Increased infection control requirements, eliminating non-essential visitors, active screening protocols, and restrictions on the movement of LTC and RH staff working between different homes, are a few examples of the measures taken and backed financially by the provincial government. In Chatham-Kent, early and rigorous adoption of these measures has kept COVID-19 out of our LTC and RH facilities. While this is a commendable achievement, it is important to examine the social costs to residents of such an undertaking.

People living in LTC and RHs depend completely on interactions with staff, visitors, volunteers, and other residents to fulfill their social and emotional needs. Losing any one of these groups impacts residents in ways that are difficult to measure quantitatively but qualitatively we see it in our residents' eyes each day as we strive to provide the best care possible for them. The exclusion of non-essential visitors has left a tangible hole in the lives of residents. In Chatham-Kent's municipally-run LTC home, Riverview Gardens (RVG), this order saw the exclusion of 500-600 additional visitors, volunteers, and contract support staff per week. They were cherished, familiar faces; their visits much-anticipated by residents and appreciated by staff

Council 2(d)
Date: June 29, 2020
Cont'd...

Visitors and volunteers provide more than just visiting, they help in the daily care of our residents. Conversations with other LTC and RHs throughout Chatham-Kent show the same losses and the same impacts on residents and staff. Additional stressors directly related to the pandemic have added to the staffing crisis in LTC and RHs. Supporting a strategy for homes to hire additional staff specifically trained to support the psychosocial and emotional needs of residents would alleviate some of the stress on nursing staff and may lead to better outcomes for residents.

Chatham-Kent has always been a community that comes together and rises to the challenges before us. COVID-19 and the impact this has had on our local LTC and RH sectors is no exception. Through our local United Way, volunteers are finalizing an Adopt a Grandparent program similar to pen pals of years past. This program will link teenagers and young adults with one of our LTC and/or RH residents. Young and old, both with different needs, sharing thoughts and ideas and supporting one another through the pandemic. At Riverview Gardens we have created a Resident Support Worker (RSW) position that provides emotional and social support to our residents. RSWs work on the same floor with the same residents each day where they assist residents with feeding, games, crafts, companionship, and outdoor time when the weather cooperates. RSWs also help provide such services as assisting with laundry, as well as sorting, folding, and organizing a resident's personal items. Currently, redeployed municipal staff are fulfilling these roles at RVG but as Ontario moves further with reopening, these staff will be needed back at their home base location and residents in our home will once again be faced with spending much of their day alone. The homes in Chatham-Kent are providing great care to our residents but they can only do so much. This is why the recommendations from the Long-Term Care and Retirement Home sectors are so important.

Chatham-Kent Municipal Council believes people need human interaction. It is what makes the difference between simply being alive, and living. It is time to act, and protect the psychosocial and emotional health of our LTC and RH residents. We support whole-heartedly, the recommendations presented to you from our LTC and RH partners (attached).

Sincerely,



Darrin Canniff, Mayor/CEO
Municipality of Chatham-Kent

Attachment: Letter from Alzheimer Society et al RE: Psychosocial and Emotional Well-being of LTC Residents

- C Hon. Michael Tibollo, Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions
- Hon Raymond Cho, Minister of Seniors and Accessibility
- Helen Angus, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Health
- Richard Steele, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Long-Term Care
- Rick Nicholls, MPP Chatham-Kent-Leamington
- Monte McNaughton, MPP Lambton-Kent-Middlesex
- Matthew Anderson, President and CEO, Ontario Health
- All municipalities in Ontario

**Ministry of
Municipal Affairs
and Housing**

Office of the Minister

777 Bay Street, 17th Floor
Toronto ON M7A 2J3
Tel.: 416 585-7000

**Ministère des
Affaires municipales
et du Logement**

Bureau du ministre

777, rue Bay, 17^e étage
Toronto ON M7A 2J3
Tél.: 416 585-7000



234-2020-2382

June 12, 2020

Dear Heads of Council / Clerks and CAOs:

Nothing is more important than protecting the health and well-being of Ontarians. Since first learning of COVID-19, Ontario has taken decisive action to stop the spread of this deadly virus, and we thank you for your support in our efforts.

We appreciate that the current situation for municipalities is not “business as usual”, and that all municipalities have had to make adjustments to adapt to new priorities and shifting ways of doing business.

When municipalities requested our help, we listened and acted quickly to legislate [changes to the Planning Act and make the necessary regulation to suspend decision-making timelines](#). These changes balanced the need to suspend the timelines that would allow a municipality to refocus time and resources on the COVID-19 outbreak, while allowing councils to continue to make decisions on planning matters as municipal capacity evolved.

As we move forward with our gradual approach that will allow Ontario to emerge from the COVID-19 outbreak, we know that getting shovels in the ground is key to moving forward on the path to economic recovery together. Many municipalities may be well on their way to a more normalized planning review process, and we want to ensure that the land use planning system is in step with a municipality’s expanding capacity during this time. As a result, we intend to end the temporary suspension of the Planning Act timelines as of June 22nd, 2020.

We understand that the safety of your constituents must remain a priority, and that there are certain provincial restrictions in place regarding public gatherings. Therefore, we encourage you to continue to use electronic and virtual channels, as appropriate, to engage and provide the public with an opportunity to make representations on planning matters, while following the advice of Ontario’s Chief Medical Officer of Health.

.../2

It is vital for our economic recovery from this outbreak that we work together to help move the planning approvals process forward. We need to continue the important job of creating housing and keeping infrastructure projects moving while also ensuring we maintain public health. Development has always played a key role in supporting growth in our communities, and it will play an especially important role on our road to economic recovery from COVID-19.

Let me assure you that our government is working to support you, our municipal partners, and will continue to work collaboratively to keep all Ontarians safe.

Sincerely,



Steve Clark
Minister

c. Association of Municipalities of Ontario

From: Tracy MacDonald <tmacdonald@orangeville.ca>

Sent: June 10, 2020 3:18 PM

Subject: Orangeville Council Resolution - Diversity Training Program

Good afternoon,

Orangeville Council at its June 8, 2020 meeting passed the following resolution:

“WHEREAS The Town of Orangeville recognizes there have been questions in the public related to both diversity training and use of force training and protocols for Police Services, including in Ontario;

WHEREAS the Town recognizes that police officers join this profession out of a desire to do good, to serve and to protect the communities they serve;

AND WHEREAS an understanding of community diversity can foster authentic inclusion;

AND WHEREAS empathy training, and de-escalation training, can support understanding other people’s perspectives;

AND WHEREAS the Town recognizes that policing can be a dangerous profession, and officer as well as community safety are critical considerations in law enforcement;

AND WHEREAS the Ontario Provincial Police have indicated they have a comprehensive diversity training program, however there may not be the same resources available across the entire province for smaller Police Services;

AND WHEREAS there is concern in the public about the boundaries of use of force, such as neck restraints, and oversight;

AND WHEREAS there isn’t clarity on a common bar on diversity and empathy training or on use of force and oversight;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor write to the Solicitor General to encourage common training requirements for all members of Police Services in Ontario as it relates to diversity, empathy and use of force;

AND THAT the Solicitor General provide clarity on police oversight going forward given the anticipated changes to legislation to ensure effective accountability continues;

AND THAT annual updates or refresher courses be mandatory to ensure our Police Services have the best and current information available to them;

AND THAT THE TOWN request that the use of force protocols be reviewed to ensure they are safe and would meet current standards, and then shared across the province;

AND THAT THE TOWN circulate this resolution to all Ontario municipalities seeking their support.”

Regards,

Tracy Macdonald | Assistant Clerk | Corporate Services
Town of Orangeville | 87 Broadway | Orangeville ON L9W 1K1
519-941-0440 Ext. 2256 | Toll Free 1-866-941-0440 Ext. 2256
tmacdonald@orangeville.ca | www.orangeville.ca



June 12, 2020

The Honourable Steve Clark,
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
17th Floor, 777 Bay St.
Toronto, ON
M5G 2E5

Dear Minister Clark,

RE: Town of Bracebridge Resolution regarding the establishment of a Municipal Financial Assistance Program to offset the financial impact of the COVID-19 pandemic

At its meeting of June 4, 2020, the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Bracebridge ratified motion 20-TC-089, regarding the Town of Bracebridge support for the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) recommendations contained in their report titled "Protecting Vital Municipal Services", as follows:

"WHEREAS the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) issued a report titled "[Protecting Vital Municipal Services](#)" on April 23, 2020 which included recommendations to the federal government to provide financial assistance for municipalities across the country;

AND WHEREAS the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) recognizes that a collaborative federal-provincial effort is required to provide much needed financial assistance to municipalities and their May 14, 2020 letter (attached) to the Prime Minister and the Premier urges Canada and Ontario to extend their successful collaboration through financial support for municipalities;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Town of Bracebridge supports the FCM recommendation and requests that both the Federal and Provincial Governments establish a municipal financial assistance program to offset the financial impact of the COVID-19 pandemic;

AND FURTHER THAT the Town of Bracebridge supports the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) in lobbying the Provincial Government for financial assistance to support Municipalities in offsetting the financial impact of the COVID-19 pandemic;

AND FURTHER THAT this resolution be forwarded to the Honorable Steve Clark, Minister, Municipal Affairs and Housing, local Member of Parliament (MP) and local Member of the Ontario Legislature (MPP), FCM, AMO and its member municipalities, and the Muskoka municipalities."

In accordance with Council's direction I am forwarding you a copy of the associated memorandum for your reference.

1000 Taylor Court
Bracebridge, ON
P1L 1R6 Canada

telephone: (705) 645-5264
corporate services and finance fax: (705) 645-1262
public works fax: (705) 645-7525
planning & development fax: (705) 645-4209

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can provide any additional clarification in this regard.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. McDonald', written in a cursive style.

Lori McDonald
Director of Corporate Services/Clerk

Copy: Scott Aitchison, MP, Parry Sound-Muskoka
The Honourable Norm Miller, MPP, Parry Sound-Muskoka
The Federation of Canadian Municipalities
Association of Municipalities Ontario and member municipalities
Muskoka Municipalities

June 17, 2020

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

Dear Premier Ford:

RE: Letter of Support for High Speed Internet Connectivity in Rural Ontario

On behalf of the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Lake of Bays, this is to advise you that the following resolution was adopted by Council at its meeting held on June 16, 2020.

“Resolution #6(b)/06/16/20

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Lake of Bays supports the attached resolution from the Township of Armour requesting support for High Speed Internet Connectivity in Rural Ontario; and

FURTHER that this resolution be circulated to Scott Aitchison, MP for Parry Sound-Muskoka and Norm Miller, MPP for Parry Sound-Muskoka and all Ontario municipalities requesting their support.

Carried.”

For your reference, enclosed is a copy of the correspondence that was sent from the Township of Armour dated April 29, 2020.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our Municipal Office at 705-635-2272.

Sincerely,



Carrie Sykes, *Dipl. M.A., CMO, AOMC,*
Director of Corporate Services/Clerk.

Encl.
CS/cw

cc. Scott Aitchison, M.P for Parry Sound-Muskoka
Norm Miller, M.P.P for Parry Sound-Muskoka
Ontario Municipalities



CORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF MISSISSIPPI MILLS

3131 OLD PERTH ROAD • PO BOX 400 • RR 2 • ALMONTE ON • K0A 1A0

PHONE: 613-256-2064
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WEBSITE: www.mississippimills.ca

VIA E-MAIL

June 19, 2020

Hon. Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
doug.fordco@pc.ola.org

Hon. Steve Clark
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
minister.mah@ontario.ca

Hon. Vic Fedeli
Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade
MEDJCT.Minister@ontario.ca

Hon. Lisa MacLeod
Minister of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries
Minister.MacLeod@ontario.ca

Hon. Stephen Lecce
Minister of Education
minister.edu@ontario.ca

Hon. Laurie Scott
Minister of Infrastructure
laurie.scottco@pc.ola.org

Dear Premier and Ministers,

RE: Support for Rural Broadband

On behalf of the Council of the Corporation of the Municipality of Mississippi Mills, this is to advise you that the following resolution was adopted by Council at its meeting held on June 16, 2020.

Resolution No. 246-20
Moved by Councillor Maydan
Seconded by Councillor Dalgity

WHEREAS in December 2016 the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission declared broadband internet an essential service for Canadians;

AND WHEREAS access to internet in many rural communities in Ontario is limited or non-existent;

AND WHEREAS current broadband investment projects across Ontario will still leave many residents unserved;

AND WHEREAS the COVID-19 pandemic has underscored the digital divide leaving many rural residents unable to participate in e-commerce, online schooling, are unable to move businesses online or access healthcare and other services online;

AND WHEREAS communities and municipalities are developing economic recovery plans;

AND WHEREAS there may be potential federal and provincial funding for shovel-ready infrastructure programs to kick-start the economy;


THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Municipality of Mississippi Mills calls on the provincial and federal governments to include rural broadband investment as part of the economic recovery shovel-ready projects for municipalities;

AND THAT Council direct staff to circulate this resolution to the Prime Minister of Canada; the Federal Minister of Rural Economic Development; the Federal Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry; the Federal Minister of Economic Development; the Minister of Infrastructure and Communities; the Federal Minister of Health; the Premier of Ontario; the Minister of Municipal Affairs; the Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade; the Minister of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries; the Minister of Education; the Minister of Infrastructure; and all Ontario Municipalities; the Association of Rural Municipalities of Ontario; the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and The Federation of Canadian Municipalities.

CARRIED

Should you have any questions please feel free to follow up with our office directly at 613-256-2064 or jharfield@mississippimills.ca

Kind Regards,


Jeanne Harfield
Clerk



DISTRICT OF PARRY SOUND

56 ONTARIO STREET
PO BOX 533
BURK'S FALLS, ON
POA 1C0

(705) 382-3332

(705) 382-2954

Fax: (705) 382-2068

Email: info@armourtownship.ca

Website: www.armourtownship.ca

April 29, 2020

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

Re: Support Resolution - High Speed Internet Connectivity in Rural Ontario

At its meeting held on April 28, 2020, the Council of the Township of Armour passed Resolution #6 supporting our Councillor Rod Ward's letter regarding the need to make substantial investments in high-speed internet connectivity in the rural areas of Ontario.

A copy of Council's Resolution #6 dated April 28, 2020 and Councillor Ward's letter is attached for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Charlene Watt
Deputy Clerk

Cc: MPP Norm Miller, MP Scott Aitchison and Ontario Municipalities

Enclosures



CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ARMOUR

RESOLUTION

Date: April 28, 2020

Motion # 6

That the Council of the Township of Armour supports the letter, dated April 15, 2020 from Councillor Rod Ward, on the need to make substantial investments in high-speed internet connectivity in rural areas. Furthermore, that this resolution and the letter be circulated to Scott Aitchison, MP for Parry Sound-Muskoka, Norm Miller, MPP for Parry Sound-Muskoka and all Ontario municipalities requesting their support.

Moved by:

Blakelock, Rod	<input type="checkbox"/>
Brandt, Jerry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
MacPhail, Bob	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ward, Rod	<input type="checkbox"/>
Whitwell, Wendy	<input type="checkbox"/>

Seconded by:

Blakelock, Rod	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Brandt, Jerry	<input type="checkbox"/>
MacPhail, Bob	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ward, Rod	<input type="checkbox"/>
Whitwell, Wendy	<input type="checkbox"/>

Carried / Defeated

[Signature]

Declaration of Pecuniary Interest by:

Recorded vote requested by:

Recorded Vote:

Blakelock, Rod
 Brandt, Jerry
 MacPhail, Bob
 Ward, Rod
 Whitwell, Wendy

For	Opposed
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

April 15, 2020

To whom it may concern,

The COVID-19 pandemic in Ontario has highlighted both our positive responses to a crisis, and some definite shortcomings in infrastructure, systems and services which need to be addressed on a long-term basis. Setting priority on solving these issues will be a challenge, given the differing agendas and the strained budgets. Solving fundamental issues should focus on the most basic needs as a starting point. One of the clear needs in a rural community such as the Almaguin Highlands, highlighted further by recent events, is the need for proper high-speed internet connectivity. Healthcare and education are both going down a path where appropriate connectivity is assumed. Like many models that move outward from metropolitan areas, this assumption is lost on rural areas. For the vast majority of households in our community, true high-speed connectivity simply does not exist. For the vast majority of future strategies in healthcare and education, there is an assumption that it does exist.

Even in areas in the Almaguin Highlands which have 'high-speed' internet, the overall infrastructure is still limited. It is certainly not designed to deal with a sudden huge peak in demand. Whereas the capacity in large urban centres is built to handle the added throughput, there are clear limitations here. The best way to explain it is a comparison to hydro. Imagine if everyone went home at the same time and turned their lights on, but because there wasn't enough hydro capacity overall, all lights were 50% dimmer than normal and some appliances simply didn't work. We no longer have to imagine what happens with internet speed during peak usage. Suddenly during the COVID pandemic, people are working from home who have never worked from home. Kids are trying to do courses on-line. People who are not working are turning on-line to stay connected. Video-conferencing, which was a totally foreign concept to many, is now part of daily routine. Any idea how much internet bandwidth video uses? It's no wonder we hit a wall.

The future of healthcare sees patients being monitored and cared for in their own homes, through the use of technology. The future of education sees students doing much of their learning on-line. The future of business and commerce sees the ability to function outside the 'bricks and mortar' of an office location. Malls disappear and on-line shopping is the norm. For some, that future has already arrived. Our area has already been drastically affected by cutbacks in the area of healthcare and education through gradual decreases in budgets and services. Technology offers us the ability to level the playing field to a great extent. High-speed connectivity cannot be seen as a luxury or a nice-to-have, any more than hydro should be seen that way. In order to solve some other problems (i.e. skyrocketing budgets in healthcare and education) the wise investment is in providing connectivity for every resident in the province.



Rod Ward
Councillor
Armour Township