



Motion

Re: Support for News Media

Whereas a healthy, professional news media is essential for the proper functioning of civil society and democracy at the local, regional, federal and international levels; and

Whereas residents of 190 Canadian communities — lost 250 established news outlets because of closings or mergers between 2008 and 2018; and

Whereas the federal government allocated nearly \$600 million in aid for Canadian media over five years in its 2019 budget, including a 25-percent tax credit for newsroom salaries; a 15-percent tax credit for digital media subscribers; and charitable tax status for non-profit news outlets; and

Whereas Canadians have lost the essential services provided by nearly 500 journalists due to layoffs in the Canadian media since the COVID-19 pandemic began to mid-April of 2020 — a time it became clearer to the public how important it is for Canadians to receive factual information — and advertising revenues have plunged, prompting an emergency \$30-million advertising-buy by the federal government; and

Whereas the news media in Chatham-Kent have been instrumental during the COVID-19 pandemic, ensuring local citizens have timely and factual local information; and

Whereas periodic misinformation on social media sites hampers the ability to communicate factually with local citizens; and

Whereas a stronger local media would demonstrate the value of accurate information and provide a more balanced perspective for discussion of public issues,

Be it therefore resolved that Chatham-Kent Council encourage other Municipal Councils within the province and across Canada

- **to acknowledge that a robust news media is essential to the proper functioning of democracy in their jurisdictions,**
- **to endorse legislation and regulations to support and rejuvenate news outlets across Canada and**
- **to urge the Federal Government to move quickly to pass legislation to ensure an ecosystem for a healthy news media to serve all Canadians**

And further that this resolution be forwarded to area municipalities, local M.P.s and M.P.P.s, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and Association of Municipalities of Ontario

And further that Chatham-Kent Council encourage all residents to support local journalism.

Signed: Councillor Karen Kirkwood-Whyte

Notice Given On: March 22, 2021