

The Corporation of the City of Sault Ste. Marie
Council Correspondence

February 12, 2021

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OFFICE OF THE MAYOR



CORPORATION OF THE
CITY OF SAULT STE. MARIE

February 4, 2021

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau,

I am writing to you further to the resolution passed at the City of Sault Ste. Marie's City Council meeting on September 28, 2020 in response to the Throne Speech announcing the establishment of the Canada Water Agency. Noting that a site for the agency has not been selected, City Council wishes to express its belief that our community is a tremendous location.

Sault Ste. Marie is located at the heart of the Great Lakes, the world's largest and most critically important body of fresh water. The Great Lakes have been historically significant to the community and surrounding area for centuries, and the banks of the St. Mary's River have been a meeting place for Indigenous peoples for millennia.

Bawating (Sault Ste. Marie) is home to Garden River First Nation, Batchewana First Nation and the Historic Sault Ste. Marie Métis Council. Missanabie Cree First Nation's head office is also in Sault Ste. Marie. The Indigenous community has demonstrated leadership in protecting the Great Lakes and Sault Ste. Marie has a proven track record for providing world class education and research through the Ontario Forest Research Institute, the Great Lakes Canada Research Centre, the Invasive Species Centre, Algoma University and Sault College of Applied Arts and Technology. I also note an international opportunity for collaboration in that Lake Superior State University is home to Center for Freshwater Research and Education.

To put it simply, there is not a better or more appropriate place to locate the Canada Water Agency and we will be following up with our community partners and through our MP, Terry Sheehan, to canvass this opportunity further.

Sincerely,

Christian C. Provenzano, B.A., LL.B., LL.M

CC Chief Dean Sayers, Batchewana First Nation
Chief Andy Rickard, Garden River First Nation
President Kim Powley, Historic Sault Ste. Marie Métis Council
Chief Jason Gauthier, Missanabie Cree First Nation
The Honourable Jonathan Wilkinson, Minister of Environment and Climate Change
Terry Sheehan, Member of Parliament, Sault Ste. Marie
City Council



CITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Agenda Number: 8.4
Title: Canada Water Agency
Date: Monday, September 28, 2020

Moved by: Councillor C. Gardi
Seconded by: Councillor L. Vezeau-Allen

Whereas for centuries the Great Lakes, its fresh water and the bounties it has provided have been a precious resource for the Indigenous people of this area; and

Whereas the banks of the St. Marys River have been a meeting place for Indigenous peoples for centuries; and

Whereas the Great Lakes are the world's most vast and well known bodies of fresh water; and

Whereas Sault Ste. Marie is situated on the St. Marys River, at the heart of the Great Lakes, between Lake Huron and Lake Superior; and

Whereas fresh water and these Great Lakes have been so historically significant to the city and surrounding area; and

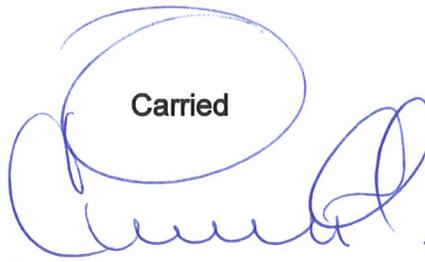
Whereas Sault Ste. Marie has a proven track record for providing world class study and research through Centres and Institutes including the Ontario Forest Research Institute, the Great Lakes Canada Research Centre and the Invasive Species Centre; and

Whereas Her Excellency the Right Honourable Julie Pyette, Governor General of Canada, on behalf of the Federal Government announced the establishment of a new Canada Water Agency during the Speech From the Throne Wednesday, September 23, 2020;

Now Therefore Be It Resolved that Mayor Provenzano communicate with both Chiefs of Batchewana First Nation and Garden River First Nation about pursuing this opportunity for our area and working together to showcase our unique history and environment to the Federal Government;

Further Be It Resolved that Mayor Provenzano on behalf of City Council and the citizens of Sault Ste. Marie pen a letter to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Minister of Environment and Climate Change, Jonathan Wilkinson, and Member of Parliament Terry Sheehan expressing interest in establishing the new Canada Water Agency here in Sault Ste. Marie, outlining the unique aspects of our community and surrounding area which make us an excellent location for this agency.

Carried **Tied, Defeated**



Defeated

**Officially Read and Not
Dealt With / Postponed**

Christian Provenzano



SAULT STE. MARIE REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Regular Meeting Agenda

**Tuesday, February 16, 2021 @ 4:45 p.m.
Electronic Meeting**

1. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

2. Finance and Administration

- AGM (January 19, 2021) Meeting Minutes
- Accounts Payable
- February Health and Safety Meeting Minutes
- 2021 Proposed Mapping Fee Schedule

3. Water and Related Land Management

- Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses
- Application Approvals
- 2021 WECI Funding Application

4. New Business / Other

- Correspondence from MECP re: Proclamation of Provisions to the CA Act
- Request to the Minister re: Governance
- Request from Sault Stryders re: Placement of Memorial Plaque
- February 2021 SSMRCA Newsletter - Think Safety!
- Update on Program Related Funding Applications / Opportunities
- Update on COVID Related Office Procedures

5. Adjournment

For members of the public interested in attending this meeting, please contact the General Manager, Corrina Barrett, at cbarrett@ssmrca.ca to make arrangements. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

EXPANDED LIBRARY BROADBAND + AMO RESPONSE TO LTC COMMISSION

February 4, 2021

Expanded Library Broadband

Today the Province announced a \$4.8 million investment to upgrade broadband at public libraries in unserved and underserved communities. This investment is part of the Province's Up to Speed: Ontario's Broadband and Cellular Action Plan.

The Ontario Library Service will oversee and deliver the project. As a first step in the broadband upgrade process, site surveys and assessments will be conducted to identify eligible library branches, with priority given to those with inadequate broadband located within five kilometres of a secondary school.

AMO's Response to the Long-Term Care COVID-19 Commission

In June 2020, AMO's Health Task Force established a working group on long-term care to help provide advice to the independent Long-Term Care COVID-19 Commission over the course of its investigation. In October 2020, AMO submitted interim recommendations on an ongoing provincial pandemic response to the Commission for their consideration. The working group on long-term care was also provided an opportunity to meet with the Commissioners on October 26, 2020. The testimony from that meeting can be found on the LTC Commission website.

AMO provided a final submission, Improving the Long-Term Care Outbreak Response in Ontario: AMO's Final Submission to the Long-Term Care COVID-19 Commission, on January 29, 2021. Looking forward, AMO will continue to provide perspectives to the Commission and the Ministry of Long-Term Care on how municipal long-term care homes are handling the COVID-19 pandemic.

AMO's COVID-19 Resources page is being updated continually so you can find critical information in one place. Please send any of your municipally related pandemic questions to covid19@amo.on.ca.

CONTACT

AMO COVID-19
covid19@amo.on.ca
T 416.971.9856
TF 1.877.426.6527



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GRADUAL RETURN TO COVID-19 RESPONSE FRAMEWORK, *CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES ACT* UPDATE

February 8, 2021

Gradual Return to COVID-19 Response Framework

Ontario has announced that we are moving to a regional approach and maintaining the shutdown in the majority of the public health regions in Ontario, including the Stay-at-Home order and all existing public health and workplace safety measures.

When safe to do so, the Province will gradually transition each region from the shutdown measures to a revised and strengthened *COVID-19 Response Framework: Keeping Ontario Safe and Open* (the "Framework").

With improving local trends of key health and public health indicators, **3** regions will be moving back to the Framework at the Green-Prevent level on Wednesday, February 10, 2021 at 12:01 a.m. and will no longer be subject to the Stay-at-Home order:

- Hastings Prince Edward Public Health;
- Kingston, Frontenac and Lennox & Addington Public Health; and
- Renfrew County and District Health Unit.

The Stay-at-Home order will continue to apply to **28** public health regions until Tuesday, February 16, 2021.

For Toronto, Peel and York regions, it is expected that the Stay-at-Home order will continue to apply until Monday, February 22, 2021. Final decisions by the Province will be subject to review of the trends in public health indicators at that time.

The Framework has been updated to allow a safer approach to retail. Limited in-person shopping in Grey-Lockdown zones will be permitted with public health and safety measures, such as limiting capacity to 25 per cent in most retail settings. In addition, public health and safety measures in retail settings will be strengthened for other levels of the Framework. All public health measures such as wearing a face covering and maintaining physical distancing will continue to be required.

The Province is also introducing an "emergency brake" to allow for immediate action if a public health unit region experiences rapid acceleration in COVID-19 transmission or if its health care system risks becoming overwhelmed. If this occurs, the Chief Medical Officer of Health, in consultation with the local medical officer of health, may advise immediately moving a region into Grey-Lockdown to interrupt community COVID-19 transmission.

The provincial emergency declared under s 7.0.1 of the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act* (EMPCA) will end as of 11:59 pm, Tuesday February 9, 2021.

The 31 orders currently in force under the EMCPA have been extended to February 23, 2021 and will be extended further if necessary. O.Reg.55/21 (Compliance Orders for Retirement Homes) is currently in effect until February 19,

2021. 30-day extensions of these orders can occur after February 19 with Cabinet (LGIC) approval. These extended orders should be posted in the next day or so.

Parts of *Conservation Authority Act* Proclaimed

On February 2, 2021, some specific provisions in the *Conservation Authorities Act* were proclaimed to start changes to conservation authority governance, for consistency in administration, transparency, and financial accountability, as well as increased municipal and provincial oversight of conservation authority operations. These provisions include those requiring 70 per cent of municipally appointed members to be elected officials, with provision for the Minister to permit less than 70 per cent on application by a participating municipality.

Immediate action is not required on the part of conservation authorities or by municipalities related to the provision requiring 70% of municipally appointed members be elected officials. Current members should complete the remaining duration of their appointments. As new members are appointed, conservation authorities should be appointing members in a way that complies with this new requirement.

A participating municipality may also apply to the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks requesting an exception to this 70% requirement. The request should include the rationale for the request, and what proportion of members the municipality is proposing to be elected officials. Requests should be sent to minister.mecp@ontario.ca.

AMO's COVID-19 Resources page is being updated continually so you can find critical information in one place. Please send any of your municipally related pandemic questions to covid19@amo.on.ca

CONTACT

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SOCIAL ASSISTANCE VISION PAPER RELEASED AND MARCH BREAK DELAYED

February 11, 2021

Province Outlines New Social Assistance Vision with Municipal Role Changes

Today the provincial government released a paper outlining a vision for social assistance transformation. The Province is proposing a significant change to the municipal social assistance delivery role. A new division of labour would see the Province assuming responsibility for financial assistance administration. Municipal governments will focus on life stabilization services to people, including persons with disabilities. Employment services would be delivered by third party service system managers through the Employment Ontario network.

AMO has engaged in conversations and advocacy with successive provincial governments about social assistance transformation for decades. The discussions with the current government about the new vision are ongoing in a productive and collaborative manner. As part of the announcement, the Province is committing to working with municipal partners to co-design the implementation of the new vision over the next few years. This is welcome.

AMO will provide a more detailed note for members with an impact analysis of these changes in the coming weeks.

March Break Delayed

As a method to reduce community COVID transmission, Ontario has announced that they are postponing March break until April 12-16, 2021.

It was noted that this challenging decision was made with the best advice of Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health and public health officials, including consultations with many local Medical Officers of Health.

AMO's COVID-19 Resources page is being updated continually so you can find critical information in one place. Please send any of your municipally related pandemic questions to covid19@amo.on.ca.

CONTACT

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February 4, 2021

MEDIA RELEASE

FONOM comments on the creation of a Provincial Working Group, looking at 2 + 1 Highways

The Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities is pleased with recent transportation safety and improvements in northern Ontario.

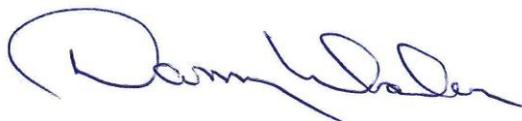
“The commitment to a working group to determine suitable locations and criteria for a 2 + 1 model pilot project comes as welcome news to municipalities across the North,” says FONOM President Danny Whalen.

Municipalities across the North have provided resolutions supporting the proposed project and see it as a financially feasible way to create safer and more efficient travel.

Mark Wilson was the lead for "Going the Extra Mile for Safety (GEMS)," a committee of the Temiskaming Shores and Area Chamber of Commerce. Mark has been named to the Provincial working group. He brings a wealth of knowledge, having studied the model for years and has traveled to Sweden and Ireland to see the construction and maintenance in both winter and summer seasons.

Wilson also presented the concept during presentations to the annual conferences of the Ontario Good Roads Association and FONOM. Both presentations generated significant interest and support for the 2+1 model, which has significantly reduced fatalities and severe injuries in many countries worldwide.

FONOM greatly appreciates the involvement in discussions by Minister Caroline Mulroney and the interest and guidance provided to GEMS by ministry staff. *“Safe and efficient travel is vital to growing the North”* said Whalen, *“and having the provincial government as a partner in new ideas is a direct benefit to northern communities.”*



President Danny Whalen
705-622-2479



The Corporation of the
TOWNSHIP OF BALDWIN

P.O. Box 7095, 11 Spooner Street
MCKERROW, ONTARIO POP 1M0
TEL: (705) 869-0225 FAX: (705) 869-5049
CLERK: Karin Bates – karin@baldwin.ca

MOVED BY: JOANNE BOUCHER DATE: February 1, 2021

SECONDED BY: DAVID FURBER MOTION NO.: 21- 013

WHEREAS the province wants to mandate training levels for Fire Fighters and now wishes to close the Ontario Fire College located in Gravenhurst, Ontario which has been used for many Government agencies such as Ministry of Transportation, Ontario Provincial Police, Fire Fighters, both full time and volunteer; and

WHEREAS only a small percentage of our department has any formal training and are responsible to train junior fire fighters with the minimal training we receive; and

WHEREAS as volunteers, we are on call 24/7/365 with day jobs and families that expect us to come home safely each and every time; and

WHEREAS the Fire College makes top tier training accessible to all Fire Departments in Ontario; and

WHEREAS municipalities are mandated to have fire departments, yet there is no provincial or federal funding for volunteer fire departments for much needed equipment and training; and

WHEREAS without a plan in place it is irresponsible to close down a vital training centre that serves Ontario and it would put Municipalities at risk which is shortsighted and not acceptable.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The Corporation of the Township of Baldwin requests the Province of Ontario to reconsider closing this all-important facility for dollars over lives.

Carried ✓ Defeated _____ Mayor _____

February 8, 2021

Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

17th Floor, 777 Bay Street
Toronto, ON
M7A 2J3

Attention: The Hon. Steve Clark

Re: Advocacy for Reform – MFIPPA Legislation

At the Township of Guelph/Eramosa's Regular Meeting of Council held on Monday February 1, 2021, the following resolution was put forward and passed:

Be it resolved that the Council of the Township of Guelph/Eramosa has received Clerk's Department Report 21/03 regarding Advocacy for Reform – MFIPPA Legislation; and

That that the following motions be passed in support of a request to review and reform of the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act:

WHEREAS the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act R.S.O. 1990 (MFIPPA) dates back 30 years;

AND WHEREAS municipalities, including the Township of Guelph/Eramosa, practice and continue to promote open and transparent government operations, actively disseminate information and routinely disclose public documents upon request outside of the MFIPPA process;

AND WHEREAS government operations, public expectations, technologies, and legislation surrounding accountability and transparency have dramatically changed and MFIPPA has not advanced in line with these changes;

AND WHEREAS the creation, storage and utilization of records has changed significantly, and the Municipal Clerk of the Municipality is responsible for records and information management programs as prescribed by the Municipal Act, 2001;

Jenni Spies
Deputy Clerk

Tel: 519-856-9596
jspies@get.on.ca

AND WHEREAS regulation 823 under MFIPPA continues to reference antiquated technology and does not adequately provide for cost recovery, and these financial shortfalls are borne by the municipal taxpayer;

AND WHEREAS the threshold to establish frivolous and/or vexatious requests is unreasonably high and allows for harassment of staff and members of municipal councils, and unreasonably affects the operations of the municipality;

AND WHEREAS the Act fails to recognize how multiple requests from an individual, shortage of staff resources or the expense of producing a record due to its size, number or physical location does not allow for time extensions to deliver requests and unreasonably affects the operations of the municipality;

AND WHEREAS the name of the requestor is not permitted to be disclosed to anyone other than the person processing the access request, and this anonymity is used by requesters to abuse the MFIPPA process and does not align with the spirit of openness and transparency embraced by municipalities;

AND WHEREAS legal professionals use MFIPPA to gain access to information launch litigation against institutions, where other remedies exist;

AND WHEREAS there are limited resources to assist administrators or requestors to navigate the legislative process;

AND WHEREAS reform is needed to address societal and technological changes in addition to global privacy concerns and consistency across provincial legislation;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Ministry of Government and Consumer Services be requested to review the MFIPPA, and consider recommendations as follows:

1. That MFIPPA assign the Municipal Clerk, or designate to be the Head under the Act;
2. That MFIPPA be updated to address current and emerging technologies;
3. That MFIPPA regulate the need for consistent routine disclosure practices across institutions;
4. That the threshold for frivolous and/or vexatious actions be reviewed, and take into consideration the community and available resources in which it is applied;
5. That the threshold for frivolous and/or vexatious also consider the anonymity of requesters, their abusive nature and language in

requests to ensure protection from harassment as provided for in Occupational Health and Safety Act;

6. That the application and scalability of fees be designed to ensure taxpayers are protected from persons abusing the access to information process;
7. That administrative practices implied or required under the Act, including those of the IPC, be reviewed and modernized;
8. That the integrity of the Act be maintained to protect personal privacy and transparent governments.

Please accept this for your information and any necessary action.

Sincerely,



Jenni Spies
Deputy Clerk

Cc. Ted Arnott, MPP Wellington-Halton Hills
Michael Chong, MP Wellington-Halton Hills
Minister of Consumer Services
Information and Privacy Commissioner of Ontario
Association of Municipalities of Ontario
Association of Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario
Ontario Clerks

February 1, 2021

Sent by E-mail
sylvia.jones@pc.ola.org

Honourable Sylvia Jones
Solicitor General
18th Floor - 25 Grosvenor St.
Toronto, ON M7A 1Y6

Re: Community Safety & Well-Being Plan - Extension Request

Dear Solicitor General Jones,

The Township of Asphodel-Norwood is participating in a regional Community Safety & Well-Being Plan (CSWB) plan with the City of Peterborough and the eight (8) lower-tier municipalities located within the County of Peterborough. The decision to develop a joint plan was derived after consulting with our municipal neighbours. Our vision for a long-term tool that addresses the unique needs of our area while supporting safe, healthy, and sustainable communities by moving away from reactionary, incident-driven responses and re-focusing on proactive, collaborative initiatives to take the strain off the emergency response system is shared by all of our municipal partners; as the success of our community is dependent upon each and every individual's well-being.

Preparations are underway, but the response efforts needed to manage the COVID-19 outbreak have taken priority and an unprecedented amount of time, energy, and resources. A meaningful CSWB Plan requires extensive public consultation and engagement in order to prepare a document that is both comprehensive and in alignment with the legislative intent. Given the current political climate and the ongoing effects of the pandemic, a deadline extension for the completion and adoption of a CSWB Plan would be the most appropriate course of action. The Township appreciates the extension previously granted from January 1, 2021 to July 1, 2021, but humbly asks the Solicitor General consult with municipalities before prescribing a new deadline.

With that in mind, I put forward the following resolution for your consideration:

WHEREAS the Police Services Act, 1990, was amended on January 1, 2019 to mandate every municipality in Ontario to prepare and adopt a Community Safety and Well-Being (CSWB) Plan; and

WHEREAS the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing introduced the Municipal Emergency Act, 2020 to assist municipal governments and local boards during the COVID-19 emergency; and

WHEREAS the protective measures municipalities have put in place to protect their communities, Councillors, and staff members include eliminating face-to-face meetings, closing municipal offices, and directing staff to work from home; and

WHEREAS Bill 189, Coronavirus (COVID-19) Support and Protection Act, 2020 was passed to amend various acts to support municipal, policing, and community partners during the pandemic;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that while these measures are imperative and necessary, they impose undue hardship on municipalities to meet provincial deadlines such as the completion and adoption of a Community Safety & Well-Being (CSWB) Plan prior to July 1, 2021. The Council of the Township of Asphodel-Norwood calls upon the Solicitor General to review the imposed deadline for municipalities to complete and adopt a Community Safety & Well-Being (CSWB) Plan in consultation with local governments to address the unique challenges facing individual regions.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration of our request. Please do not hesitate to reach out should you require any further information.

Sincerely,



Candice White, CAO/Clerk/Treasurer
Township of Asphodel-Norwood

Cc: Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services
All Ontario Municipalities in Ontario