

Request for Decision United Townships of Head, Clara & Maria Council

Type of Decision									
Meeting Date	Friday, March 28, 2014				Report Date	Thursday, March-13-14			
Decision Required	X	Yes		No	Priority	X	High		Low
Direction	X	Information Only			Type of Meeting	X	Open		Closed

Resolution of Support – Niagara Region and Electricity Rates- Report #28/13/14/1202

Subject:

Resolution of Support – Niagara Region and call to stop increases to Electricity Rates

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council adopt the attached resolution in support of lobbying the province to immediately stop increasing electricity rates.

WHEREAS the province’s recently released Long Term Energy Plan anticipates that consumers will face hydro rates that will rise by 42% over the next five (5) years;

AND WHEREAS the Minister of Energy recently announced that past FIT prices are driving electricity prices higher and that changes to domestic content requirements for construction of future renewable energy projects are necessary to lower future electricity rate;

AND WHEREAS the recent auditor-general’s report advised of extreme amounts of waste in the energy sector, particularly at Ontario Power Generation and Hydro One, due to high labour costs and generous public sector pension plans;

AND WHEREAS decisions including but not limited to the cancellation of gas plants in Ontario could cost taxpayers close to \$1.1 billion;

AND WHEREAS it is essential for the residents and businesses of Niagara to have access to affordable hydro to thrive and prosper;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the United Townships of Head, Clara & Maria does hereby support the Regional Municipality of Niagara and call on Premier Wynne and the Province of Ontario to take immediate action to prevent these and any other rate increases from being implemented.

BACKGROUND/EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Self-Explanatory. The province needs to hear loud and clear that rates increasing at these levels is not sustainable. The resolution will be circulated to all party leaders as well as energy ministers and critics.

Options/Discussion:

Support or not.

Financial Considerations/Budget Impact:

Will not specifically affect the municipal budget but may work towards making a point province wide and saving all residents from continuously increasing fees.

Policy Impact:

Does not affect Council policy.

Others Consulted:

Resolution of Niagara Region from meeting held January 16, 2014.

Approved and Recommended by the Clerk

Melinda Reith,
Municipal Clerk