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www.on.legion.ca

## The Royal Canadian Legion Ontario Command

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### *“Military Service Recognition Book”*

Dear Sir/Madam:

Thank you for your interest in **The Royal Canadian Legion Ontario Command**, representing **Ontario’s Veterans**. Please accept this written request for your support, as per our recent telephone conversation.

**The Royal Canadian Legion Ontario Command** is very proud to be printing **20,000 copies** of our fourth annual **“Military Service Recognition Book”**, scheduled for release by September 2017. This book will assist us in identifying and recognizing many of our Veterans within the Province of Ontario and to serve as a reminder for generations to come, while at the same time assist us in our job as the **“Keepers of Remembrance”**.

We would like to have your organization’s support for this Remembrance project by sponsoring an advertisement space in our **“Military Service Recognition Book.”** Proceeds raised from this important project will cover the cost of printing and distributing this unique publication. Additional proceeds received through this program will assist and support many important Legion initiatives that in turn will assist our over 400 branches to remain a viable partner in their communities. The Legion is recognized as Canada’s largest Veteran Organization and we are an integral part of the communities we serve. This project ensures the Legion’s continued success in providing these very worthwhile services.

Please find enclosed a rate sheet for your review. Whatever you are able to contribute to this worthwhile endeavor would be greatly appreciated. For further information please contact **Ontario Command Campaign Office** toll free at **1-855-584-1374**.

**Thank you for your consideration and/or support.**

Sincerely,

Brian Weaver  
President



www.on.legion.ca

## The Royal Canadian Legion Ontario Command

### *“Military Service Recognition Book”*

#### Advertising Prices

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Full Colour Outside Back Cover	\$2,030.97	+ \$264.03	= \$2,295.00
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A complimentary copy of this year's publication will be received by all advertisers purchasing space of 1/10 page and up, along with a Certificate of Appreciation from the Ontario Command.



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 P O Box 8055, Station T CSC  
 Ottawa, ON K1G 3H6





December 5, 2016

The Honourable Bill Mauro  
Ministry of Municipal Affairs  
777 Bay Street, 17th Floor  
Toronto ON M5G 2E5

*Sent via email:*  
[minister.mma@ontario.ca](mailto:minister.mma@ontario.ca)

Dear Minister Mauro:

**Re: Legislative Changes Impacting Tax Registrations and Tax Sales**

At a recent meeting of the Council of the Township of Havelock-Belmont-Methuen a discussion took place regarding some key changes to the Municipal Act that will have a significant impact on tax registrations and tax sales. The discussion concluded with Council passing the following resolution:

R-743-16      Moved by Councillor Pomeroy  
                    Seconded by Deputy Mayor Martin

*That the Council of the Township of Havelock-Belmont-Methuen opposes the legislative changes to the Municipal Act coming into effect on December 10, 2016 that will impact tax sales and related matters; and further*

*That the Province of Ontario re-open the consultation period to allow for informed public input regarding the changes to the Municipal Act that are being brought about by the implementation of the Forfeited Corporate Property Act, 2015; and further*

*That this resolution be circulated to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and all Ontario municipalities for support.*

Carried

Council thanks you in advance for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

*Bob Angione*

Bob Angione, M.P.A., B.Admin.  
Municipal Clerk

Copy: Monika Turner, Director of Policy  
Association of Municipalities of Ontario

Ontario Municipalities.

**Melinda Reith, Head, Clara & Maria**

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**From:** AMO Communications <communicate@amo.on.ca>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 30, 2016 3:41 PM  
**To:** hcmclerkmreith@gmail.com  
**Subject:** AMO Policy Update: Bill 151 - The Waste-Free Ontario Act

November 30, 2016

## **The Province Proclaims Bill 151 - *The Waste-Free Ontario Act* – and Moves Toward Full Producer Responsibility**

Today the provincial government proclaimed Bill 151, *The Waste-Free Ontario Act* (WFOA). This Act creates a new legislative framework for waste management in the Province and will transition the existing diversion programs under the *Waste Diversion Act* (WDA) including the Blue Box, Municipal Hazardous and Special Waste, Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment and Tires to the new framework. The Act is focused on creating a circular economy strategy through supporting Provincial Policy Statements and the development of an organic strategy.

We are transitioning from the municipally-run and co-funded Blue Box program toward an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) regime that requires producers to cover all end-of-life costs for waste. The municipal role in this system will be evolving. Eventually, producers will be fully responsible for meeting target recovery rates for designated products and packaging.

Until we know significant post-transition issues such as level of diversion rates, geographic requirements and what materials will be designated, our municipal programs will continue to run so that our communities receive a convenient, reliable waste services that residents depend on. Although it is too early for councils make informed decisions, municipal governments may be approached by producers to provide post-transition collection and/or processing services for designated materials.

The WFOA is based on open competition and free markets instead of the previous industry monopolies. The government has voiced a commitment to ensuring competition at the producer level throughout the market. We fully support and need competition in the system.

One of the biggest municipal risks is that this transition period could be drawn out — or worse, become the new normal. Municipal governments remain responsible for the majority of the waste management system until the transition is complete. Therefore, AMO will continue to work with our members, the government, the new Resource Productivity and Recovery Authority, Producers, Waste Management Service Providers and other interested stakeholders to ensure that the transition period is as efficient as possible, and maintains the same level of quality that residents come to expect with the Blue Box program.

In addition to working with key stakeholders, AMO is planning a one-day session for municipal elected officials to discuss the transition to the WFOA and the municipal challenges and opportunities. Mark your calendars for February 8, 2017 (location TBD). Admission will be free with participation by teleconference and web also available. More information about this session will be posted shortly on our website at [www.amo.on.ca](http://www.amo.on.ca).

**AMO Contact:** Dave Gordon, Senior Advisor, 416.971.9856 ext. 371, [dgordon@amo.on.ca](mailto:dgordon@amo.on.ca).

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# Township of McKellar

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P.O. Box 69, McKellar, Ontario P0G 1C0

Phone: (705) 389-2842

Fax: (705) 389-1244

VIA EMAIL

November 22, 2016

The Honourable Kathleen Wynne  
The Honourable Brad Duguid  
The Honourable Bob Chiarelli  
Norm Miller, MPP for Parry Sound-Muskoka  
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)  
Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM)  
Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA)  
All Ontario Municipalities

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Please be advised that at its regular meeting held, Monday November 21, 2016 the Council of the Township of McKellar passed the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION: 16-384**

**WHEREAS** the *Fire Protection and Prevention Act, 1997*, legislates that fire prevention, public education and fire protection services are a mandatory municipal responsibility;  
**AND WHEREAS** there are a total of 449 Fire Departments operating in the province comprised of 32 Full-Time Departments, 191 Composite Departments and 226 Volunteer Departments with 11,376 Full-Time Firefighters, 19,347 Volunteer Firefighters and 343 Part-Time Firefighters staffing these departments;

**AND WHEREAS** the fire service represents a significant percentage of small, rural and northern municipalities' managed capital assets;

**AND WHEREAS** the Municipal Fire Department and associated assets represent critical municipal infrastructure;

**AND WHEREAS** there are currently no funding opportunities available from the Provincial or the Federal Government for the equipment, training, maintenance, operating or capital requirements of local fire departments;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Council of the Township of McKellar hereby petition the Provincial Government to recognize the municipal fire service as critical infrastructure by including funding for Fire Department infrastructure as part of the Provincial Governments Infrastructure Strategy to Move Ontario Forward;

**AND FURTHER** that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Economic Development, Employment and Infrastructure, Norm Miller, MPP for Parry Sound-Muskoka, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM), the Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) and all Ontario municipalities.

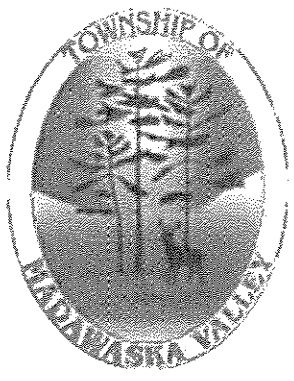
As per the above resolution, please accept this correspondence for your information and consideration.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact undersigned.

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Sincerely,

Shawn Boggs  
Clerk Administrator  
Township of McKellar



**THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP  
OF MADAWASKA VALLEY**

P.O. Box 1000  
85 Bay Street  
Barry's Bay ON K0J 1B0  
Ph 613-756-2747 Fax 613-756-0553  
[info@madawaskavalley.ca](mailto:info@madawaskavalley.ca)

**Moved by: Mayor Love**

**20-0711-16**

**Seconded by: Councillor Maika**

**07 November 2016**

**BE IT RESOLVED**

WHEREAS: The Government of Ontario has introduced Bill 7, the Promoting Affordable Housing Act, 2016, an omnibus Bill that includes amendments to the Residential Tenancies Act, 2006 (RTA), and

WHEREAS: Schedule 5 of the Bill prescribes that local municipalities shall assume enforcement responsibility for residential rental maintenance standards (O. Reg. 517/06) under the RTA on July 1, 2018, and

WHEREAS: The Ministry of Housing currently enforces residential rental maintenance standards in municipalities that do not have a property standards by-law, or have a "partial" by-law that does not address the interior of rental buildings, and

WHEREAS: The Minister currently receives complaints from tenants respecting residential rental maintenance standards and appoints inspectors to provide this service to municipalities on an as needed basis, for a cost-effective set fee of \$265 for each inspection or re-inspection, and

WHEREAS: The download of enforcement responsibility will require each municipality to receive written complaints from tenants, cause an inspector to make an inspection to determine whether the provincial standards have been complied with, issue work orders to landlords who have not complied with a prescribed maintenance standard, monitor compliance, investigate allegations of failure to comply, and where circumstances warrant, to prosecute landlords for non-compliance, and

WHEREAS: The Government of Ontario intends to download these responsibilities with no compensatory funding, leaving municipalities that do not currently enforce residential rental maintenance standards with the significant fiscal challenge of providing this service cost-effectively,

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**

**THAT** the Council of the Township of Madawaska Valley calls on the Government of Ontario and the Ministry of Housing to halt the download of enforcement responsibility for residential



rental maintenance standards proposed in Schedule 5 of Bill 7, in light of the significant fiscal challenge each municipality will face to provide this service to the public in a cost-effective manner.

AND THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to the Honourable Kathleen Wynne, Premier of Ontario, the Honourable Chris Ballard, Minister of Housing, Mr. Patrick Brown, Leader of the Progressive Conservative Party, Ms. Andrea Horwath, Leader of the New Democratic Party, and all Members of Provincial Parliament in the Province of Ontario; and

THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA), the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM), and to all Ontario municipalities for consideration.

X CARRIED.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Craig Kelley', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and somewhat abstract.

Craig Kelley, CAO/Clerk



**Melinda Reith, Head, Clara & Maria**

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**From:** AMO Communications <communicate@amo.on.ca>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 14, 2016 5:03 PM  
**To:** hcmclerkmreith@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Provincial 2016 Fall Economic Statement Highlights

November 14, 2016

**Provincial 2016 Fall Economic Statement Highlights**

Today Finance Minister Charles Sousa delivered the 2016 Fall Economic Statement. We are awaiting introduction of the related legislation which may include matters not specifically included in today's Statement.

**Overall Fiscal Outlook**

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The 2016-17 deficit will remain at \$4.3 billion, unchanged from the 2016 Budget projection. The government remains committed to balancing the budget by 2017-18 and continuing to remain in a balanced position for 2018-19.

For 2016-17, the Province's net debt (which includes total liabilities and total financial assets) is projected to be \$317.9 billion. This is above the projections made in the last three budgets (\$308.3 billion in the 2016 Budget, \$311.5 billion in the 2015 Budget and \$317.2 billion in the 2014 Budget).

The following highlights matters that are new and re-confirmed that will interest municipal governments.

**New Matters:**

**Business Property Tax Capping Program – Further Enhancements**

Eligibility criteria to allow municipalities to phase out the capping program will be broadened further to what was previously announced and, available beginning in 2017, municipal governments will have the option to limit the capping program to reassessment-related changes prior to 2017. AMO appreciates the further flexibility to the program.

**Creation of New Financial Services and Pension Regulator**

The Ontario government is following the Expert Advisory Panel's Report recommendations to create a new Financial Services Regulatory Authority that is to be independent of the government. Until we see the legislation, we cannot report on the details. It would replace three current regulating bodies including the Financial Services Commission, which among other matters deal with pension plans, including OMERS. The new regulator would be more consumer-focused and improve protections for consumers, investors and pension plan beneficiaries. AMO's Municipal Employer Pension Centre of Ontario (MEPCO) will monitor this matter closely.

**Housing**

Ontario will double the maximum provincial Land Transfer Tax refund for eligible first-time home buyers to \$4,000. On Jan.1, 2017 eligible home buyers will avoid paying Land Transfer Tax to the province on the first \$368,000 of the cost of their first home. This benefit will be recuperated by increasing land taxes on single or two family house transactions over \$2M. This will not impact municipal budgets.

If the legislation is passed, apartment buildings that have a tax ratio two times or more than other residential (such as condominiums) will have the tax burden frozen while the province reviews how the property tax burden on these buildings affects rental market affordability. This change will impact municipal taxes as the relative share paid by apartment building owners will decrease during the study. The Province confirms that it "will continue to set a single, consistent property tax rate for all forms of housing". AMO will be engaged in this upcoming review.

## Sharing Economy

The government has been consulting with municipal governments and other stakeholders on sharing economy platforms in Ontario. The Statement notes the work done by municipalities to develop local approaches to ride sharing and other areas. It also noted the government will continue to consult and develop an approach to home sharing which will take into account municipal work already done.

### The following items of municipal interest were reconfirmed:

#### Child Care

The government re-confirmed its commitment in the 2016 Budget to building 100,000 new child care spaces over the next five years. To start, \$65.5 million will be invested this fiscal year to create 3,400 new spaces. This is intended to expand access to more licensed child care for families in Ontario.

#### Climate Change

The Statement notes the government's Climate Change Action Plan and cap and trade revenues from the market which will commence in January with revenues going towards helping homeowners and businesses to invest in clean technology. The plan also notes that a new provincial adaptation plan will be developed next year.

#### Infrastructure

The Province reaffirmed its commitment to the \$160 billion, ten-year infrastructure strategy that includes the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (OCIF) increasing to \$300 million, \$30 million in Connecting Link funding, the Clean Water and Wastewater Fund (CWWF) and transit and other investments through Moving Ontario Forward inside and outside the GTHA.

#### Reducing Energy Costs/Natural Gas

The Province restated the recent list of changes and programs designed to lessen electricity bills and expand natural gas to rural and remote areas. For example, the Statement reiterated that the Province will launch the interest-free, \$200 million Natural Gas Access Loan program in fall 2016 which is to help finance the building of new natural gas infrastructure and the costs of converting to natural gas. To provide opportunities for remote communities to access affordable energy, liquefied and compressed natural gas infrastructure will also be eligible under the program. Access to natural gas can help stimulate the economy, particularly in smaller communities, by attracting new industry, making commercial transportation more affordable, benefiting agricultural producers and providing consumers with more energy choices.

#### Uploads

The Statement also reaffirmed the government's continuing commitment to upload court security and social assistance costs from municipalities on schedule for full implementation by 2018.

A full copy of the Statement is available at <http://www.fin.gov.on.ca/en/budget/fallstatement/2016/>.

**AMO Contact:** Matthew Wilson, Senior Advisor, E-Mail: [mwilson@amo.on.ca](mailto:mwilson@amo.on.ca), 416-971-9856, Ext. 323.

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**Melinda Reith, Head, Clara & Maria**

**From:** Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation <Indigenous.Relations@ontario.ca>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 7, 2016 2:56 PM  
**To:** hmcclerkmreith@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Inaugural Treaties Recognition Week / Première Semaine de reconnaissance des traités

**Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation**

**Ministère des Relations avec les Autochtones et de la Réconciliation**

Communications Services Branch

Direction des services de communications

160 Bloor Street East  
Suite 400  
Toronto ON M7A 2E6

160, rue Bloor Est  
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Toronto (Ontario) M7A 2E6

[ontario.ca/indigenous](http://ontario.ca/indigenous)

[ontario.ca/autochtones](http://ontario.ca/autochtones)



**Ce message est en français ci-dessous.**

The week of November 6 to 12, 2016 marks the inaugural Treaties Recognition Week in the Province of Ontario. The initiative recognizes the importance of treaties and brings awareness to the treaty relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people in the province. It is part of Ontario's commitment to the journey of healing and reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples.

A First Nations and Treaties map of Ontario was created by the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation to increase awareness about treaties in Ontario. Treaties are formal exchanges of promises that created rights and responsibilities for Canada, Ontario and First Nations. Treaties are as relevant today as when they were signed – Aboriginal and treaty rights exist within the Canadian constitutional framework. The First Nations and Treaties map of Ontario helps support learning and the exploration of the histories, cultures, perspectives and contributions of Indigenous Peoples in Ontario.

The First Nations and Treaties map and additional resources about treaties in Ontario are available at [ontario.ca/treaties](http://ontario.ca/treaties). Print copies can be ordered, at no cost, through **ServiceOntario Publications**. To order the map, search "First Nations Treaties" on the ServiceOntario site to find the publication, or use the item number #020040 to bring up the publication for ordering. It will be necessary to create an account with ServiceOntario Publications to complete your order.

Posting a First Nations and Treaties map in a public space can help raise the profile of Ontario treaties in your community. It is a reflection of the commitment to work together with Indigenous partners.

In Friendship,

Ian Ross  
Director  
Communications Services Branch  
Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation



**Melinda Reith, Head, Clara & Maria**

**From:** AMO Communications <communicate@amo.on.ca>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 21, 2016 5:34 PM  
**To:** hmcclerkmreith@gmail.com  
**Subject:** AMO Policy Update - Province Releases Discussion Paper on Expanding Medical Responses through Fire Services  
**Attachments:** Expanding Medical Responses Discussion Paper MOHLTC Nov 21 2016.pdf

November 21, 2016

**Members' Update: Province Releases Discussion Paper on Expanding Medical Responses through Fire Services**

The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) has released a discussion paper (attached) on a controversial proposal by the Ontario Professional Fire Fighters Association (OPFFA). The proposal would allow full-time firefighters, who are also certified primary care paramedics, to provide patient care in a tiered response situation. The Province says this approach would be voluntary for municipalities. AMO flagged this consultation in our June 14<sup>th</sup> communique, [Government to Consult on Expanding Medical Responses through Fire Services](#).

Premier Wynne, speaking at both the June OPFFA conference and the August AMO conference, clearly said that she and Cabinet want consultations before making an evidence-based decision on this proposal, which is expected early in 2017.

Municipal governments are deeply concerned about the direct and significant impact of the proposal on municipal emergency services, both financially and operationally. We will read the MOHLTC discussion paper carefully, but to date, there has been no evidence or cost-benefit analysis seen that shows such an approach would improve patient outcomes.

Given the lack of evidence, we don't know why this proposal is now a provincial priority, especially as municipalities would bear all the costs, labour challenges, and risks. Fire services are 100% funded by municipalities and only an elected Municipal Council has the authority to determine the level and type of fire protection services needed by its community. We are also concerned that if any Municipal Council agrees to this proposal it would be replicated throughout Ontario by the current interest arbitration system.

Municipal governments strongly prefer to work with the Province to improve and modernize our cost-shared land ambulance/EMS services. Specifically, municipalities have been asking the Province for years now to make improvements to land ambulance dispatch that would directly improve patient outcomes.

The MOHLTC discussion paper provides a clear overview of Land Ambulance and Fire Services Workforce Capacity. It demonstrates both the rising demand for paramedic services and decline in fire-related calls. We are very concerned about using municipal fire services to provide paramedic care – a shared provincial-municipal funding responsibility.

	Land Ambulance Services	Fire Services
Number of Workers	~8,000 municipal paramedics province-wide  22 dispatch centres across Ontario:  11 are ministry-operated  11 are operated under transfer payment agreements (6 hospitals, 4 municipalities, 1	30,000 firefighters in Ontario (~11,300 are full-time, ~19,300 volunteer, ~300 part-time)  Over 400 fire departments [municipal - 32 are full-time, 191 composite, 226 volunteer. Northern Fire Protection Program (NFPP) – 1 composite, 48 volunteer]

	private)	
Number of calls and percent change in calls	Approximately 1 million calls in 2014  Number of patients transported by land ambulance increased by about 3.5% year-over-year from 2009-2014	Fire services respond to more than 400,000 calls annually (461,830 in 2014) of which less than 19,000 were fire-related (4-5% of all calls). The number of fire-related responses has dropped 35% since 2005.
Average Cost Per Hour	2014 average cost per hour \$213	2014 average cost per hour \$331

Source: MOHLTC November 2016

AMO will fully review this discussion paper (attached) through its Task Force, which includes membership from Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA), Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM), Emergency Services Steering Committee (ESSC), Ontario Association of Paramedic Chiefs (OAPC), and Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs (O AFC).

Over the next months, MOHLTC will hold separate meetings with municipal employers, unions and associations, as well as technical medical advisors and will also accept written submissions from these stakeholders. AMO will take the lead in organizing these MOHLTC consultation meetings for municipal employers, including ROMA, OSUM, NOMA, FONOM, LUMCO, MARCO, EOWC and WOWC, along with the municipal staff associations we have been working closely with on this matter.

AMO will update members as this matter develops.

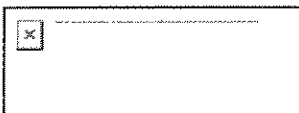
**For more information, please contact:**

Monika Turner, Director of Policy, [mtturner@amo.on.ca](mailto:mtturner@amo.on.ca), 416-971-9856 ext. 318.

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Chief Administrative  
Officer/Clerk



9 INTERNATIONAL DRIVE  
PEMBROKE, ON, CANADA  
K8A 6W5  
613-735-7288  
FAX: 613-735-2081  
www.countyofrenfrew.on.ca

December 6, 2016

Sent via email

To: All Municipalities of the County of Renfrew

**RE: Ontario's Long-term Energy Plan**

Attached for your information, is a letter to the Honourable Glenn Thibeault, Minister of Energy which is jointly written by the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus and Western Ontario Wardens' Caucus requesting the government to commit to a real investment in natural gas infrastructure across rural Ontario to provide a competitive edge for farms and rural businesses.

Energy is one of the largest inputs on farms, and a significant cost to rural residents and local business owners. Natural gas is a clean, affordable energy source that is readily available and is the single most important investment that will give farms, businesses and rural residents the competitive edge to drive growth.

County Council on November 30, 2016 passed the following resolution in support of this joint letter.

**"RESOLUTION NO. DP-CC-16-11-81**

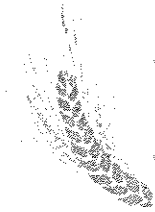
THAT County Council support the joint letter from the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, Western Ontario Wardens' Caucus and Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus to the Minister of Energy on Ontario's Long-term Energy Plan on behalf of the interests of the farming and rural communities across Ontario requesting the government to commit to making a real public investment in rural Ontario to enable access to natural gas; AND FURTHER THAT this joint letter be circulated to all lower-tier municipalities within the County of Renfrew."

Sincerely,

W. James Hutton  
Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk



**Ontario Federation of Agriculture**



**WOWC**  
Western Ontario Wardens' Caucus

**EOWC**  
Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus

November 2, 2016

Hon. Glenn Thibeault, Minister  
Ministry of Energy  
4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Hearst Block  
900 Bay Street  
Toronto, ON  
M7A 2E1

Dear Minister Thibeault:

We are inspired to write by the attached excerpt from the Discussion Guide to Ontario's Long-term Energy Plan consultation currently underway.

Our partnership represents the interests of the farming and rural communities across Ontario. We have been seeking a real public investment in natural gas infrastructure since before your government announced the \$200 million Natural Gas Access Loan program and the \$30 million Natural Gas Economic Development Grant.

We appreciate that these programs acknowledge that installing natural gas in rural Ontario is important and worth pursuing. Likewise, the LTEP discussion guide provides very sound reasons why natural gas would be a tremendous stimulus for our rural economy. As the discussion paper indicates natural gas is less costly, will attract new industry and will make commercial transportation more affordable.

The discussion paper goes on to note that: *"In the 2013 LTEP, Ontario committed to working with natural gas distributors and municipalities to pursue options for expanding natural gas pipelines to more communities in rural and northern Ontario."*

Minister, because of the tremendous advantages of natural gas access, it is now time to realize on this commitment and make a real investment in natural gas for our farms, rural businesses and communities.

To be blunt, rural Ontario is not interested in loans to try to secure vital infrastructure. That program, now three years in design, is simply inadequate. The action we seek is for a real public investment in rural Ontario to enable access to natural gas. Realistically, this will be a long-term project, as was the electrification of rural Ontario a century ago. We cannot overemphasize that it is equally as important.



**Excerpt from Ontario's Long-Term Energy Plan Discussion Guide:**

**Natural gas expansion**

Access to natural gas especially helps smaller communities in Ontario. It can stimulate their economies by attracting new industry and providing less-costly energy to consumers. Natural gas can also make commercial transportation more affordable, and allow agricultural producers to use less-costly natural gas to dry their crops and heat their buildings.

In the 2013 LTEP, Ontario committed to working with natural gas distributors and municipalities to pursue options for expanding natural gas pipelines to more communities in rural and northern Ontario. These commitments were reinforced in the most recent Ontario Budget when the government announced it would offer loans and grants to help communities work with their utilities to acquire natural gas service.

With support from the Ministries of Energy; Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs; and Infrastructure; the Ontario government is establishing two programs:

- A \$200 million Natural Gas Access Loan program to help communities work with utilities to get access to natural gas; and
- A \$30 million Natural Gas Economic Development Grant to accelerate projects that have a clear potential for economic development.

In June 2016, the OEB reviewed how it can facilitate the expansion of natural gas pipelines in the province. The OEB held hearings and received numerous submissions from interested parties. Its decision is expected in the early fall of 2016.

**For consideration**

- What are the significant challenges facing utilities and what can the government do to meet them?
- What are the most important benefits of a modern grid? Increased reliability? Greater information on your energy usage?
- What additional policies should the government consider to expand access to natural gas?



Minister, we would be pleased to meet with you at your convenience to discuss further how Ontario will prosper with a rural natural gas infrastructure and how we can best arrive at that successful outcome.

Sincerely,

Don McCabe  
OFA

Randy Hope  
WOWC

Peter Emon  
EOWC

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cc: Hon. Kathleen Wynne, Premier of Ontario  
Hon Jeff Leal, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs  
Hon. Bob Chiarelli, Minister of Infrastructure



Ontario Provincial Police  
Police provinciale de l'Ontario

## News Release/ Communiqué

**FROM/DE: EAST REGION HEADQUARTERS**

**DATE: December 6, 2016**

### EAST REGION ENCOURAGES FOCUS AND AWARENESS FOR PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

(Smiths Falls, ON) The Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) has investigated an alarming number of pedestrian fatalities in 2016.

Already 30 pedestrians have lost their lives on OPP patrolled roadways this year. This is 66% higher than the same period in 2015, when 18 pedestrians were killed.

Over this same time period, officers in East Region investigated 16 motor vehicle collisions that involved pedestrian fatalities. As of December 6, 2016 OPP have investigated 8 pedestrian fatalities which matches the total of pedestrian fatalities in 2015.

A reminder, that with winter upon us, there are not only reduced daylight hours, but the weather and road conditions can change in an instant which can present challenges to even the most experienced driver.

As a driver of a motor vehicle, there is an obligation to remain alert, focus on the road, avoid distractions, watch for pedestrians and always be prepared to stop.

If you find yourself involved in a motor vehicle collision you are encouraged to remain with your vehicle. If you do need to exit your vehicle, be certain it is safe to do so, be vigilant of the surroundings you are in and mindful of oncoming or passing vehicles.

As a pedestrian, it is imperative that you are aware of your surroundings, don't become distracted and do not ever assume a driver sees you, even if you can see them. If you are on the roadways during dusk, darkness or are in adverse weather conditions ensure you are visible by dressing with reflective or light coloured clothing, listen, watch for approaching traffic and stay on sidewalks or well onto the shoulder of the road.

Go to <http://www.mto.gov.on.ca/english/safety/> for additional safety tips.

“The OPP strives for safe highways and communities and whether you're driving or walking, safety is everyone's responsibility”, advises Traffic Inspector Paul Bedard.

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