

## Memorandum

**To: Mayor and Members of Chatham-Kent Council**

**From: Maggie Downey, Administrative Assistant**

**Date: November 18, 2024**

**Re: Council Information Package**

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I have attached a list of items that have come into the office 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 November 4, 2024 Council Meeting.

### **2. Correspondence From**

- (a) Jodi Benvenuti, Senior Program Advisor, Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) dated October 31, 2024, re Notification: November 26, 2024 Telephone Town Hall re: Old and Inactive Petroleum Wells for the Municipality of Chatham-Kent and County of Essex
- (b) Spencer Pray, Senior Advisor, Municipal and Stakeholder Engagement, Enbridge Gas Inc. dated October 31, 2024, re Enbridge Gas' Community Investments.
- (c) Honourable Graydon Smith, Minister of Natural Resources dated October 31, 2024, re Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Conference Follow Up

### **3. Committee and Board Highlights**

- (a) Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) Update dated October 29, 2024, re Broadband
- (b) Southwestern Integrated Fibre Technology Inc. (SWIFT), Barry Field, Executive Director dated November 1, 2024, re 2025 SWIFT Board Member Representation
- (c) Letter from Glen McNeil, Chair Western Ontario Wardens' Caucus (WOWC) to Hon. Justin Trudeau dated October 22, 2024, re Support of the Ontario Big City Mayors Solve the Crisis Campaign.

- (d) Communication from St. Clair Region Conservation Authority (SCRCA) re October 24, 2024 Meeting Highlights

#### **4. Resolutions**

- (a) Resolution from Town of Auora dated October 29, 2024, re Fair Share of Funding from both Provincial and Federal governments
- (b) Resolution from Township of Puslinch dated November 7, 2024, re Protection of Agricultural Lands and Sustainable Development in Relation to Provincial Projects and Excess Soil Management Practices

Date	Item	Department	Requestor
November 4, 2024	<b>Education Campaign for Road Safety</b> - Whereas road safety and speeding are issues of concern to the residents of Chatham-Kent; And whereas Council has reiterated its commitment to road safety through the adoption of the Road Safety Action Plan as well as other measures; And whereas the Road Safety Action Plan has identified an emphasis on safety in school areas, pedestrians, and driver education; I therefore move that administration carry out an education campaign focused on the priorities identified the Road Safety Action Plan, including speeding.	IES	CI Ceccacci
November 4, 2024	<b>Budget Motion</b> - Whereas administration has forecasted the tax increase for 2025 to be 9.4%. Therefore, be it resolved that a 7.5% departmental budgetary annual decrease be realized. The reduction can be achieved with a maximum allowance of a 2.5% reduction in front line services to the public.	FBITT	CI Doyle

From: Benvenuti, Jodi (MNR) <[jodi.benvenuti@ontario.ca](mailto:jodi.benvenuti@ontario.ca)>

Date: Thursday, Oct 31, 2024 at 1:23 PM

To: Michael Duben <[Michael.Duben@chatham-kent.ca](mailto:Michael.Duben@chatham-kent.ca)>

**Subject: Notification: November 26, 2024 Telephone Town Hall re:Old and Inactive Petroleum Wells for the Municipality of Chatham-Kent and County of Essex**

Hello Michael Duben,

The Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) is leading a comprehensive Action Plan to understand and address the risks from old and inactive gas and oil wells (also referred to as “legacy” wells), and subsurface gas migration hazards. A key component of the Action Plan is the ministry’s ongoing engagement and collaboration with partners, stakeholders and the public.

The ministry is hosting a telephone town hall for residents in the Municipality of Chatham-Kent and County of Essex on Tuesday November 26, 2024 at 7:00pm-8:00pm. The ministry is sharing information about old and inactive gas and oil wells and seeking feedback from residents and landowners to ensure the ongoing relevancy and effectiveness of the implementation of the Action Plan

Starting November 19, the ministry through our vendor, will be contacting phone numbers in the community with automated messages about the event. This may lead to public inquiries. To support the Municipality in addressing public enquiries about the telephone town hall, the ministry has developed a list of frequently asked questions (FAQ) which are attached. The Municipality may also direct the public to the ministry’s webpage at [Ontario.ca/gasandoilwells](https://Ontario.ca/gasandoilwells). We encourage the Municipality to share the date and time of the telephone town hall with their communities and/or post on your website if possible. Additionally, should you prefer the ministry reach out to the separate communities to inform them of the upcoming telephone town hall, please let me know at [jodi.benvenuti@ontario.ca](mailto:jodi.benvenuti@ontario.ca).

Thank you for your continued support of the ministry’s old and inactive gas and oil wells Action Plan. We look forward to hearing from community members on November 26, 2024.

Jodi Benvenuti  
Senior Program Advisor | Strategic Petroleum Initiatives Section  
Ministry of Natural Resources | Ontario Public Service

**Ontario** 

## Frequently Asked Questions:

### 1. I received a call from the Ministry of Natural Resources. Why are they contacting me?

As part of the ministry's commitment for public engagement under the [Legacy Oil and Gas Wells Action Plan](#), the Ministry of Natural Resources is hosting a Telephone Town Hall for residents and landowners in the County of Essex and Municipality of Chatham-Kent. The ministry has engaged Sussex Strategy Group, a public relations firm, on how best to engage and maximize participation within the community and to support the delivery of the Telephone Town Hall. Information about the upcoming public engagement activities is available on the ministry's webpage: [Ontario.ca/gasandoilwells](http://Ontario.ca/gasandoilwells).

### 2. How do I know if I have a well and if this Telephone Town Hall applies to me?

The ministry is targeting public engagement with communities in Southwestern Ontario where there are many old and inactive wells.

You have been contacted by the ministry to participate in the Telephone Town Hall as this information may be relevant to you as a resident and/or landowner in Essex or Chatham-Kent. Even if you are not aware of an old and inactive oil or gas well on your property, there could be a well nearby.

The Telephone Town Hall will increase awareness and help residents and landowners better understand what it means to have an old and inactive well on their property. The ministry is also seeking feedback from residents and landowners to ensure the ongoing relevancy and effectiveness of the implementation of the old and inactive oil and gas wells Action Plan.

### 3. I'm not sure if I have a well on my property. How do I find that out?

To find out if there is a record of a well on or near your property, you can search the [Petroleum Well Map](#). Once you see the map of the petroleum wells, you can further search a specific address or area to find any well record in the provincial database.

If you know you have an old or inactive oil or gas well on your property and want to view more detailed records about it, you may also use the [Oil, Gas and Salt Resources Library Petroleum Well Map](#). If you need help understanding the data concerning a particular well, call the Oil, Gas and Salt Resources Library at 519-686-2772.

If you are unable to find a well record, there could still be an undocumented well on your property. If you discover a well on your property that is not in the petroleum well databases, or you are not sure, contact the Ministry of Natural Resources Petroleum Operations Section by email at [POSrecords@ontario.ca](mailto:POSrecords@ontario.ca) or at 519-873-4634.

For further information you can refer to [Ontario.ca/gasandoilwells](http://Ontario.ca/gasandoilwells).

#### **4. When should I contact the ministry?**

If you suspect that there may be a petroleum well, it is recommended that you stay a safe distance and contact the ministry at [posrecords@ontario.ca](mailto:posrecords@ontario.ca) or at (519) 873-4634.

If you find signs of a leaking well on your property, please visit the ministry's [webpage](http://Ontario.ca/gasandoilwells) (Ontario.ca/gasandoilwells) for reporting information.

#### **5. Where can I find more information about the Telephone Town Hall?**

Information about the upcoming public engagement activities is available on ministry's webpage: [Ontario.ca/gasandoilwells](http://Ontario.ca/gasandoilwells).

For more information about the Telephone Town Hall and how to participate, please email the ministry's Strategic Petroleum Initiatives Section at [contact.SPIS@ontario.ca](mailto:contact.SPIS@ontario.ca).

**From:** Spencer Pray <[spencer.pray@enbridge.com](mailto:spencer.pray@enbridge.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 31, 2024 4:33 PM  
**To:** Spencer Pray <[spencer.pray@enbridge.com](mailto:spencer.pray@enbridge.com)>  
**Cc:** Megan Shannon <[megan.shannon@enbridge.com](mailto:megan.shannon@enbridge.com)>  
**Subject:** Panhandle Regional Expansion Project - October 2024 Newsletter

Good afternoon,

I am happy to share with you all that our \$358 million Panhandle Regional Expansion Project is near completion. Enbridge Gas expects the project to be in-service this winter.

Enbridge Gas is excited to support local organizations through our community investment grants. If you know an organization that is making a difference and could use additional funding, please share this opportunity with them. We welcome applications that align with our focus areas and encourage eligible organizations to apply.

To [apply](#), follow these steps:

- Review our focus areas and ensure that the proposed project aligns with them.
- Click the big yellow "Apply for a Sponsorship" button at the bottom of the page to apply.
- Ensure that the submission identifies EGI - Southwest in the Enbridge region mapping tool.
- Mention the "Panhandle Project" in the project description to ensure proper review.

Have a safe and happy Halloween!

**Spencer Pray**  
**Senior Advisor, Municipal and Stakeholder Engagement**

**ENBRIDGE GAS INC.**

CELL: 519.437.9482 | EMAIL: [spencer.pray@enbridge.com](mailto:spencer.pray@enbridge.com)  
50 Keil Drive North, Chatham, ON N7M 5M1

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Ministry of Natural  
Resources

Office of the Minister

99 Wellesley Street West  
Room 6630, Whitney Block  
Toronto ON M7A 1W3  
Tel: 416-314-2301

Ministère des Richesses  
naturelles

Bureau du ministre

99, rue Wellesley Ouest  
Bureau 6630, Édifice Whitney  
Toronto ON M7A 1W3  
Tél.: 416 314-2301



October 31, 2024

354-2024-1203

His Worship Darrin Canniff  
Mayor  
Municipality of Chatham-Kent  
[ckmayor@chatham-kent.ca](mailto:ckmayor@chatham-kent.ca)

Dear Mayor Canniff: *DARRIN*

I want to thank your delegation for meeting with me at this year's Association of Municipalities of Ontario conference.

I appreciate being able to learn about your community's concerns regarding oil and gas wells emergency response and coastal erosion. It is important that we continue to collaborate on shared issues to find mutually beneficial solutions.

If you have any further questions, my office is happy to help. Please contact Holly Fullager, Director of Stakeholder Relations, at 437-224-6690 or [holly.fullager@ontario.ca](mailto:holly.fullager@ontario.ca).

Thank you again for meeting. I look forward to continuing our work together.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Graydon Smith".

The Honourable Graydon Smith  
Minister of Natural Resources

c: Holly Fullager, Director of Stakeholder Relations, Minister's Office  
Chief Administrative Officer, Michael Duben, Municipality of Chatham-Kent



**From:** ROMA Communications <[roma@roma.on.ca](mailto:roma@roma.on.ca)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2024 4:50 PM  
**To:** Judy Smith <[JUDYS@chatham-kent.ca](mailto:JUDYS@chatham-kent.ca)>  
**Subject:** ROMA UPDATE – Broadband



## ROMA UPDATE – Broadband

### **New tools to help municipalities work with ISPs to rollout high speed internet across Ontario by 2025**

#### **New Municipal Access Agreement (MAA) Template**

- Municipal governments now have access to a new [Municipal Access Agreement Light Template](#) to help save time and reduce risk/liabilities related to the rollout of the Accelerated High-Speed Internet Program (AHSIP).
- The template was developed by Ministry of Infrastructure working with the Eastern Ontario Regional Network to help municipalities negotiate Internet Service Provider (ISP) access to their rights-of-way and mitigate risks. ([See memo from MOI.](#))
- While not mandatory, municipalities should prioritize negotiating MAAs with ISPs. MAAs offer two key benefits to municipalities:
  1. Streamlined deployment, as clear terms for fiber installation and maintenance reduce bureaucratic hurdles, and
  2. Risk mitigation, as MAAs protect municipalities from potential liabilities and costs.
- The proposed MAA template provides small and medium-sized municipalities with a solid foundation for negotiations. It outlines essential terms and conditions that are reasonable for municipalities to seek from ISPs installing broadband in their roadways.
- While it's ideal to negotiate an MAA before construction starts, it's important to remember that a finalized MAA is not a legal requirement to begin construction. To ensure timely deployment, municipalities can require ISPs to formally commit to negotiating an agreement as soon as possible, while still proceeding with the

project.

- These standard terms may not be suitable for every municipality or ISP. However, they can serve as a useful reference point for negotiations.
- Municipalities can contact Infrastructure Ontario's [Technical Assistance Team](#) to seek support in working through disputes that may arise with ISPs, including on MAA negotiation.
- Watch for an upcoming webinar where ERON and the MAA Template drafters will explain the resource and its capabilities. Check out this and other broadband resources on [ROMA's Broadband webpage](#).




### **New Bill Proposes Stronger Broadband Expropriation Powers**

Last week, the Minister of Transportation tabled [Bill 212: Reducing Gridlock, Saving You Time Act](#). The bill proposes to expedite the expropriation process for easements required by internet service providers to install and build new broadband infrastructure. This power would be granted to the Minister of Infrastructure. This responds directly to ROMA member feedback shared at the Minister's June 2024 Roundtable on Broadband.

AMO will be commenting on the associated Regulatory Registry posting [here](#).

For more information contact: Karen Nesbitt, Senior Manager, AMO Policy Centre  
[knesbitt@amo.on.ca](mailto:knesbitt@amo.on.ca) | 416-971-9856 ex.319



789 Broadway Street   
Wyoming, ON | N0N 1T0  
519.914.1308   
[swiftruralbroadband.ca](http://swiftruralbroadband.ca) 

November 1, 2024

**Sent VIA Electronic Mail**

Mayor Darrin Canniff and Members of Chatham-Kent Council.

**RE: 2025 SWIFT Board Member Representation**

At the October 18<sup>th</sup> board meeting the SWIFT Board of Directors set the 2025 Annual General Meeting (AGM) date to May 9, 2025. At the end of the 2025 AGM Chatham-Kent's representative on the SWIFT board, Jamie McGrail, will end her current term.

At this time, SWIFT asks that Chatham-Kent either reappoint the current SWIFT representative to the SWIFT Board or nominate a member of council for consideration as a WOWC member representative. This appointment is a two-year term ending at the 2027 AGM. As noted in the attached Board of Directors Selection Whitepaper "*If a Director is appointed for a 2-year term and is not re-elected after the municipal election their term will end at the next AGM*".

We respectfully ask that nominee/re-appointee confirm their availability for the May 9, 2025 AGM and Inaugural Board meeting and submit, along with the supporting council resolution, a completed [online application form](#) for SWIFT's consideration.

We ask that Chatham-Kent Council confirm support for their council nominee through resolution, and that such supported applications be submitted by January 24, 2025 to SWIFT's Executive Assistant Jen Broos [jen.broos@swiftruralbroadband.ca](mailto:jen.broos@swiftruralbroadband.ca). Please find below important dates for the SWIFT Board of Director selection process:



DATE	DESCRIPTION
24-Jan-25	WOWC and Contributing Director Applications due date
14-Feb-25	SWIFT Executive Committee meeting to review applications for eligibility
14-Feb-25	Contributing Member class partner and candidate notified
7-Mar-25	WOWC Caucus meeting and approval of SWIFT Director candidates
16-Apr-25	SWIFT New Directors Orientation
9-May-25	SWIFT AGM and Directors confirmation vote
9-May-25	SWIFT Inaugural Board meeting

Should you have any questions regarding the Director selection process, please contact either myself or Executive Assistant Jen Broos.

The SWIFT Board and staff extend their sincere appreciation for your continued support.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Regards,

**Barry Field**

SWIFT Executive Director

519-319-1112

[barry.field@swiftruralbroadband.ca](mailto:barry.field@swiftruralbroadband.ca)

**Cc:**

Jamie McGrail, SWIFT Board of Director

Michael Duben, Chatham-Kent CAO

Jen Broos, SWIFT Executive Assistant

**Encl:**

Board of Directors Terms of Reference

Board of Directors Selection Whitepaper

[Board of Directors Application](#)

## SWIFT BOARD OF DIRECTOR SELECTION WHITEPAPER

### Joining the SWIFT Board

#### *Contribution to Southwestern Ontario, Caledon and Niagara Region*

SWIFT Board Directors have the opportunity to:

- a) Serve a two-year term with the objective of helping SWIFT achieve its vision.
- b) Apply their skills and expertise to help develop the strategic direction of SWIFT.
- c) Gain valuable insight and experience developing and implementing policies that promote the region's economic success.
- d) Help build a better region by supporting the ongoing development of broadband infrastructure.
- e) Have an impact on the day-to-day lives of Ontarians by enhancing the quality of their experiences online.

#### *Board Director Role*

The role of the SWIFT Board Directors is to help foster the development of SWIFT. The board provides strategic direction and oversight for the corporation. As well, the board plays a key role in helping build broadband in southwest Ontario, Caledon and Niagara.

A SWIFT Board Director is responsible to:

- a) Provide strategic direction and oversight for the SWIFT Project.
- b) Help develop and implement policies that support the SWIFT vision.
- c) Attend four to six in-person weekday meetings in various locations across southwest Ontario, Caledon and Niagara and the Annual General Meeting (travel and expenses are reimbursed).
- d) Participate in committee work and associated conference calls.
- e) Approve SWIFT's corporate plan and annual budget.

Directors are expected to serve on committees and attend board meetings regularly.

If elected to the board, successful candidates are expected to attend the Annual General Meeting (AGM) and the inaugural board meeting in April of each year.

#### *Desired Skills & Experience*

The SWIFT board has a board skills matrix (see Appendix A) that outlines the skills and experience SWIFT looks for when reviewing applications.



SWIFT seeks members who have:

- a) Experience in the telecommunications industry;
- b) Finance, accounting and audit experience;
- c) Legal experience;
- d) Senior organization leadership;
- e) Experience with and understanding of the board's oversight role with respect to risk management; and
- f) Previous board experience with solid understanding of board governance.

### *Director Classes*

The SWIFT board is broken into two classes:

- a) **WOWC Directors** - up to fifteen (15) directors elected by the WOWC (Western Ontario Wardens Caucus) Member class that includes the 15 upper and single tier municipalities of the WOWC.
- b) **Contributing Directors** - up to five (5) directors elected by the Contributing Member class that includes the other municipalities that have funded the project and are not members of the Western Ontario Wardens Caucus (WOWC).

### *Board Director Term Length*

The term length for open WOWC and Contributing Directors is two years.

Term limits have been set to eight (8) years total for all classes of director.

### **Director Qualifications**

To be eligible to become a director, an individual must:

- a) Consent to be a candidate, and, if elected, a director;
- b) Must not be a direct employee or director of a Telecom Service Provider (example, Municipal Utility-Telcom, Telecom Cooperative, etc.); and
- c) On application due date;
  - I. is 18 years of age or older;
  - II. has not been declared incapable by a court in Canada or in another country; and
  - III. does not have the status of a bankrupt.



### *How to Join the Board as a WOWC Director*

Joining the board as a WOWC Director is open to individuals who are members of the board of directors of the Western Ontario Wardens' Caucus and/or an elected official of a WOWC Member.

Becoming a WOWC Director can be achieved by following these steps:

- a) Each WOWC Member will nominate a representative to the board via a resolution of council.
- b) Member nominee will complete SWIFT's online application.
- c) SWIFT Executive Committee reviews each application for eligibility. Candidates may be contacted by the Executive Committee with follow-up questions to help make their decision. The list of eligible candidates is then forwarded to WOWC for review and approval.
- d) WOWC reviews the candidates and presents the slate to the WOWC Caucus for approval.
- e) Formal appointment of the WOWC member slate at the SWIFT AGM.

Both WOWC and Contributing Directors who have previously served on the Board and are nominated to serve another term are not required to resubmit an application. (step b.)

### *How to Join the Board as a Contributing Director*

Joining the board as a Contributing Director is open to elected officials of a municipality that is (i) not a member of the Western Ontario Wardens' Caucus and (ii) a member of the Corporation. Contributing Directors must be an elected official of a municipality that is a Contributing Member of the Corporation.

Becoming a Contributing Director can be achieved by following these steps:

- a) Each Contributing Member will nominate a representative to the board via a resolution of council.
- b) Member nominee will complete SWIFT's online application.
- c) SWIFT Executive Committee reviews each application for eligibility. Candidates may be contacted by the Executive Committee with follow-up questions to help make their decision.
- d) The slate will be confirmed by a vote at the SWIFT AGM.

**Both WOWC and Contributing Directors who have previously served on the Board and are nominated to serve another term are not required to resubmit an application. (step b.)**



## **Director Compensation**

Remuneration for elected directors is based on an annual resolution passed by the Board of Directors. This remuneration includes an annual base salary, per meeting per diem and reimbursed expenses.

### *Which Directors Are Eligible for Compensation?*

Both classes of elected directors of SWIFT are given remuneration to recognize their time and effort and to help the organization attract and retain experienced and knowledgeable members to its board.

### *What Compensation Do Directors Receive?*

Directors are compensated based on their role within the board of directors, the number and types of meetings they attend, and any additional committee work performed.



## Appendix A – Board Skills Matrix

Following is the board skills matrix.

DIRECTOR KEY STRENGTHS	COMPETENCY
<b>Previous Board of Directors Experience</b>	Experience in serving on public, private, or not-for-profit Boards operating with strong governance policies and practices.
<b>Not-for-Profit and Public-Sector Experience</b>	Not-for-Profit and Public-sector experience including knowledge of how governments operate, and the Canadian regulatory regime in which SWIFT operates.
<b>Organizational Strategic Planning</b>	Experience with planning, evaluating, and developing organizational strategic plans, and allocating resources to achieve desired outcomes. This includes a demonstrated ability to focus on longer-term goals and strategic outcomes, as separate from day-to-day management and operational experience.
<b>Business/Corporate Planning</b>	Experience in business/corporate planning for public, private, or not-for-profit sectors.
<b>Financial Management Knowledge</b>	Understanding of financial operational management and the proper application of internal controls for public, private, or not-for-profit sectors.
<b>Accounting and Audit Experience</b>	Financial literacy and knowledge of financial reporting, and knowledge of the considerations and issues associated with the auditing requirements for public, private or not-for-profit sectors.
<b>Risk Management Experience</b>	Experience in the process of identifying principal enterprise-wide corporate risks and to ensure that management has implemented the appropriate systems to mitigate and manage risk.
<b>Legal Background</b>	Background, experience, and understanding of the areas of law related to SWIFT's business, such as contract, Telecom, IT, privacy, trademark, patent, etc.
<b>Human Resources Experience</b>	Understanding of human resource considerations and issues such as executive recruitment, succession planning, total compensation, performance management and organizational development.
<b>Telecommunications Industry Experience</b>	Telecommunications experience related to SWIFT's line of business and mandate, including an understanding of emerging industry trends.
<b>Technical Knowledge</b>	Experience and understanding of telecommunications technology including wireline and wireless technologies.
<b>Marketing and Communications Experience</b>	Experience in marketing and communications.



Tuesday, October 22, 2024

Sent via email  
[justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca](mailto:justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca)

Hon. Justin Trudeau  
Prime Minister of Canada  
Office of the Prime Minister  
80 Wellington Street  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

**Re: Support for Ontario Big City Mayors Caucus, Solve the Crisis Campaign**

At its regular meeting held on October 4, 2024 the Western Ontario Wardens' Caucus passed the following motion:

**Moved by B. Milne, seconded by A. Lennox:**

“THAT the presentation from Mayor Marianne Meed Ward, Chair, and Michelle Baker, Executive Director, Ontario's Big City Mayors, be received and

THAT the Western Ontario Wardens' Caucus supports the SolvethCrisis.ca Campaign and requests that the Provincial and Federal Governments take Action to Address the Growing Mental Health, Addictions and Homelessness Crisis in Ontario

WHEREAS there is a humanitarian crisis unfolding on the streets in our cities, large and small, urban and rural, across Ontario. The time for words is over, we need immediate action at all levels of government, starting with the Province of Ontario

WHEREAS the homelessness, mental health and addictions crisis continues to grow with 3432 drug related deaths in Ontario in 2023 and over 1400 homeless encampments across Ontario communities in 2023; and

WHEREAS the province has provided additional funding and supports, such as the recent investment of \$378 million for HART Hubs and approximately 375 beds with wraparound supports, it does not adequately address the growing crisis and the financial and social impact on municipalities and regions across the province; and

WHEREAS municipalities and regions are stepping up and working with community partners to put in place community-specific solutions to address this crisis, but municipalities and regions lack the expertise, capacity, or resources to address these increasingly complex health care and housing issues alone; and

WHEREAS this is primarily a health issue that falls under provincial jurisdiction and municipalities and regions should not be using the property tax base to fund these programs; and

WHEREAS there is no provincial lead focused on this crisis leading to unanswered questions that span over a dozen ministries, and a lack of support to manage the increasing needs of those who are unhoused.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Western Ontario Wardens' Caucus supports the SolveTheCrisis.ca Campaign;

AND calls on provincial and federal governments to commit to immediate action to solve the Humanitarian Crisis that Ontario is facing as the numbers of unhoused individuals and those suffering with mental health & addictions grows exponentially;

AND that the province officially makes Homelessness a Health Priority;

AND appoints a responsible Minister and Ministry with the appropriate funding and powers as a single point of contact to address the full spectrum of housing needs as well as mental health, addictions and wrap around supports;

AND that the provincial government strike a task force with broad sector representatives including municipalities, regions, healthcare, first responders, community services, the business community and the tourism industry to develop a Made in Ontario Action Plan;

AND that this provincial task force reviews current programs developed by municipalities, regions and community partners that have proven successful in our communities, to ensure that solutions can be implemented quickly and effectively to tackle this crisis.

AND that the federal government is included in these conversations.

AND that both levels of government provide adequate, sufficient and sustainable funding to ensure that municipalities have the tools and resources to support individuals suffering with mental health and addictions, including unhoused people and those from vulnerable populations that may be disproportionately impacted;

AND THAT the Western Ontario Wardens' Caucus calls on the municipalities in Western Ontario to join us in appealing to the provincial and federal governments for support by visiting SolveTheCrisis.ca and showing your support;

AND further that a copy of this motion be sent to:

- The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada
- The Honourable Sean Fraser, Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities of Canada
- The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
- The Honourable Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health
- The Honourable Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
- The Honourable Michael Parsa, Minister of Children, Community and Social Services
- The Honourable Michael Tibollo, Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions
- Local MPs
- Local MPPs
- Ontario's Big City Mayors
- 117 Western Ontario Municipalities"

**– CARRIED**

Please contact the office if you require any further information.

Yours sincerely,

*Glen McNeil*

Glen McNeil  
Chair, Western Ontario Wardens' Caucus

cc:



## St. Clair Region Conservation Authority Meeting Highlights – October 24, 2024

Below is a list of highlights from the SCRCA board meeting held in October. For details, please refer to the entire meeting package which can be found at [www.scrca.on.ca/about-us/board-meeting-packages](http://www.scrca.on.ca/about-us/board-meeting-packages).

**Great Lakes Freshwater Ecosystem Initiative (GLFEI):** Following a successful funding application, the SCRCA has secured \$7.85 million over 4 years through GLFEI (administered by the Canada Water Agency) to operate the Sydenham Phosphorus Reduction Initiative (SPRI). The Sydenham River watershed is the third largest Canadian contributor of phosphorus loads in the Lake Erie Basin. Building off the Sydenham River Watershed Phosphorus Management Plan, SPRI will aim to decrease overall non-point source phosphorus loads in the Sydenham River watershed and St. Clair River tributaries by adopting and implementing agricultural and rural best management practices, strategic water quality monitoring, and outreach, engagement, and education.

**Watershed-Based Resource Management Strategy:** Under new regulations prescribed under the *Conservation Authorities Act* in early 2022, the SCRCA has completed a draft Watershed-Based Resource Management Strategy. The strategy sets out the guiding principles, objectives, and resources of the SCRCA, its categories of programs and services, and the knowledge base for the work the SCRCA conducts on a day-to-day basis. The Board of Directors directed staff to begin the public and Indigenous consultation period that will occur over the next two months.

**2025 Draft SCRCA Budget:** Staff presented the draft 2025 budget to the Board of Directors. The proposed total budget for the SCRCA in 2025 is \$11,179,180 with a municipal general levy of \$1,675,950, constituting a 4% increase. The Board directed staff to circulate the budget booklet to member municipalities for information and input and post it on the Governance section of the SCRCA website.

**Watershed Conditions:** The current flood threat in the St. Clair Region is low due to low precipitation experienced throughout the month of September. Stream flows and levels are seasonal for this time of year, however, water levels in Lake Huron and St. Clair are above average. Lake levels are expected to remain above their seasonal average.

**Planning and Regulations Activity:** Between August 1<sup>st</sup> and September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024, staff issued 58 permits and responded to 121 inquiries under O. Reg 41/24 – *Prohibited Activities, Exemptions, and Permits* under O. Reg 97/04. Additionally, 2 permits were issued during the same timeframe under the *Drainage Act* and Section 28 Regulations Team (DART) protocol. Planning activity between August 1<sup>st</sup> and September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024, included the review and comment on 55 municipal plan input and review files, 1 environmental assessment, and 11 legal inquiries.

**St. Clair Region Conservation Foundation Memorial Forest Dedication:** The St. Clair Region Conservation Foundation Memorial Forest Dedication was held on Sunday, September 29<sup>th</sup> at the Lorne C. Henderson Conservation Area in Petrolia. Duncan Skinner and Pat Brown provided remarks on behalf of the Foundation and Authority, respectively. Over 100 people attended the dedication where a Tulip Tree was planted as a symbol for all trees dedicated over the last year through donations from individuals not associated with a funeral home program. From September 2023 to August 2024, 91 trees were dedicated through individual donations to the program and planted throughout 17 Authority and Foundation properties. To date, a total of 2,593 trees have been dedicated through the Foundation's Memorial Forest program.

**St. Clair River Area of Concern:** The Canadian Remedial Action Plan Implementation Committee held the second annual Honouring the St. Clair River event on September 26, 2024, in Sarnia, to provide an update to the community on progress in restoring the St. Clair River. The evening included a presentation by Eden Hataley, from the University of Toronto on microplastics in the Great Lakes, a presentation by the Friends of the St. Clair River on their recent public outreach activities, and a presentation by BASES on water quality monitoring in the St. Clair River. Approximately 70 individuals attended the event.

**Upcoming Events:** Several events are planned over the coming months. For more information, visit [www.scrca.on.ca/events](http://www.scrca.on.ca/events).

**Erosion Control Practices for Building Soil Resiliency Workshop**

Date: Wednesday, December 4, 2024

Time: 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Location: Warwick Community Centre, Warwick

Other Details: Registration will be required; Light refreshments provided

**Rural Landowner Workshop**

Date: Tuesday, February 4, 2025

Time: 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Location: Strathroy Lion's Club, Strathroy

Other Details: Co-hosted with Thames Talbot Land Trust and Ontario Nature,

Light refreshments provided

For more information, contact:  
Ken Phillips, General Manager  
519-245-3710 ext. 236  
[kphillips@scrca.on.ca](mailto:kphillips@scrca.on.ca)

**From:** De Bartolo, Betty <[BDeBartolo@aurora.ca](mailto:BDeBartolo@aurora.ca)>

**Sent:** October 29, 2024 1:42 PM

**To:** Mrakas, Tom <[TMrakas@aurora.ca](mailto:TMrakas@aurora.ca)>

**Subject:** Motion - Fair Share

Good day Elected Official,

For many years, we have advocated for our fair share of funding from both Provincial and Federal governments. Through FCM and AMO, we've pushed for reforms and for sustainable, predictable funding for municipal infrastructure. With both Provincial and Federal elections approaching, I believe it's time for us to unite and propose a solution for municipalities' fair share.

As we're asked to meet growth targets, our municipalities urgently need predictable, long-term funding to support critical infrastructure, including roads, bridges, and public transit. We need all levels of government to collaborate on a solution that doesn't rely solely on property taxes to fund essential infrastructure in our communities. That's why we're calling on the Province to allocate a portion of the Land Transfer Tax, and on the Federal Government to allocate a portion of the GST from new home sales—no new taxes, just a fair distribution of our own funds for our communities!

Bellow is a Motion I respectfully ask you to bring forward at your council.

This motion ensures that we have the resources to build and maintain the infrastructure that keeps our municipalities running smoothly, without increasing property taxes.

Please consider adding this Motion to your Council agendas. It is essential that our collective voices are heard. Local governments deserve predictable, long-term funding to support critical infrastructure. Together, we can build a brighter future for all Ontarians.

**Motion: Request the Redistribution of the Provincial Land Transfer Tax and GST to Municipalities for Sustainable Infrastructure Funding**

Whereas municipalities face growing infrastructure needs, including roads, bridges, public transit, water systems, and other critical services, which are essential to community well-being and economic development; and

Whereas the current sources of municipal revenue, including property taxes and user fees, are insufficient to meet these increasing demands for infrastructure investment; and

Whereas the Province of Ontario currently collects the Land Transfer Tax (LTT) on property transactions in municipalities across the province, generating significant revenue that is not directly shared with municipalities; and

Whereas the Federal Government collects the Goods and Services Tax (GST) on property transactions, a portion of which could be directed to municipalities to address local infrastructure needs; and

Whereas redistributing a portion of the Provincial Land Transfer Tax and GST to municipalities would provide a predictable and sustainable source of funding for local infrastructure projects without creating a new tax burden on residents or homebuyers; and

Whereas a redistribution of a portion of the existing Land Transfer Tax and GST would allow municipalities to better plan and invest in long-term infrastructure initiatives, supporting local economic growth and improving the quality of life for residents;

1. Now Therefore Be It Hereby Resolved That \_\_\_\_Municipality\_\_\_\_ Council formally requests the Provincial Government to consider redistributing a portion of the Land Transfer

Tax collected on property transactions to municipalities; and

2. Be It Further Resolved That \_\_\_\_Municipality\_\_\_\_ Council calls on the Federal Government to allocate a percentage of the GST collected on property sales to municipalities; and

3. Be It Further Resolved That this redistribution of the Land Transfer Tax and GST should be structured to provide predictable and sustainable funding to municipalities, allowing for better long-term planning and investment in infrastructure projects that benefit local communities, thus ensuring that local governments receive a fair share of the revenue to address critical infrastructure needs; and

4. Be It Further Resolved That copies of this resolution be forwarded to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Premier Doug Ford, the Ontario Minister of Finance, the



Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, local Members of Parliament (MPs) and Members of Provincial Parliament (MPPs); and

5. Be It Further Resolved That copies of this resolution be forwarded to all 444 Municipalities in Ontario, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) for their endorsement and advocacy.

Regards,

Tom Mrakas

Mayor Town of Aurora

416-543-1624





Hon. Paul Calandra  
Minister of Environment,  
Conversation and Parks  
VIA EMAIL:  
[Paul.Calandra@pc.ola.org](mailto:Paul.Calandra@pc.ola.org)

Hon. Doug Ford  
Premier of Ontario  
VIA EMAIL:  
[premier@ontario.ca](mailto:premier@ontario.ca)

Township of Puslinch  
7404 Wellington Road 34  
Puslinch, ON N0B 2J0  
[www.puslinch.ca](http://www.puslinch.ca)

November 7, 2024

Hon. Rob Flack  
Minister of Agriculture,  
Food, and Agribusiness  
VIA EMAIL:  
[minister.omafra@ontario.ca](mailto:minister.omafra@ontario.ca)

Hon. Matthew Rae, MPP  
VIA EMAIL:  
[Matthew.Rae@pc.ola.org](mailto:Matthew.Rae@pc.ola.org)

Hon. Ted Arnott, MPP  
VIA EMAIL:  
[ted.arnottco@pc.ola.org](mailto:ted.arnottco@pc.ola.org)

Barclay Nap  
Wellington Federation of  
Agriculture  
VIA EMAIL:  
[napbarclay@gmail.com](mailto:napbarclay@gmail.com)

RE: Motion for the Protection of Agricultural Lands and Sustainable Development in Relation to Provincial Projects and Excess Soil Management Practices

Please be advised that Township of Puslinch Council, at its meeting held on October 23, 2024 considered the aforementioned topic and subsequent to discussion, the following was resolved:

**Resolution No. 2024-378:** Moved by Councillor Hurst and  
Seconded by Councillor Sepulis

Whereas the provincial government is undertaking:

- a) significant road and underground projects over the next ten years which will generate significant excess soil to be managed and disposed; and
- b) studies of underground projects that if implemented will also generate significant excess soil: and



Whereas landfill sites across Ontario are already near capacity, necessitating amendments to legislation to allow certain quality soil to be disposed at excess soil reuse sites instead of being disposed of in landfills effective January 1, 2025; and

Whereas the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) is currently under resourced and lacks the capacity to effectively manage the additional enforcement and oversight required for the relocation of excess soil; and

Whereas the responsibility to enforce and oversee excess soil regulations is being downloaded onto municipalities, which have limited enforcement capabilities and face the risk of significant costs being passed on to local taxpayers; and

Whereas contamination of existing soil and groundwater is a significant concern, particularly in rural municipalities with valuable agricultural lands and reliance on groundwater for its residents; and

Whereas agricultural lands must be prioritized equally with housing needs, roads and underground infrastructure; failure to adequately protect these lands could exacerbate the ongoing food crisis in Ontario; and

Whereas Ontario is not alone in navigating the challenges of sustainable development, and the United Nations provides guidance through its Sustainable Development Report, which includes goals focused on economic growth, infrastructure, sustainable communities, hunger, clean water and sanitation, climate action, and life on land; and

Whereas it is critical that governments consider the comprehensive impacts on all of these areas when conducting feasibility studies and implementing projects which generate excess soil; and

Whereas neglecting to account for the broader implications of projects may lead to negative outcomes;

Therefore Be It Resolved that the Council of the Township of Puslinch calls on the provincial government to:



1. Prioritize the protection of agricultural lands in the management of excess soil from roads and underground projects and in the planning and feasibility studies related to such projects.
2. Ensure that adequate resources are allocated to the MECP to support effective enforcement and oversight of excess soil regulations.
3. Collaborate with municipalities to provide necessary support and funding for enforcement activities related to excess soil management, minimizing financial burdens on local taxpayers.
4. Conduct a comprehensive impact assessment that considers all aspects of sustainable development, in alignment with the United Nations Sustainable Development Report, before proceeding with the traffic tunnel project and any further amendments to excess soil legislation; and

That the Township of Puslinch Council direct staff to send a copy of this resolution to the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks; the Premier of Ontario; all Ontario municipalities; MPP Arnott; MPP Rae; the Wellington Federation of Agriculture; and OMAFRA requesting support for the protection of agricultural lands and sustainable development practices in Ontario.

**CARRIED**

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

Sincerely,

Justine Brotherston  
Municipal Clerk

CC: All Ontario Municipalities