



Town of Newmarket Council Information Package

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Date: May 5, 2023

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An Assessment of Ontario Public Opinion Regarding Bill 23 (the *More Homes Built Faster Act*) and Related Measures Affecting the Greenbelt and Affordable Housing

Toronto, April 2023

Highlights: On-line survey research was conducted in the period December 2022 to March 2023, to assess Ontario public opinion regarding the recent measures by the Government of Ontario related to Bill 23 and its potential impact on housing and the Greenbelt.

The on-line survey research was carried out independently by an expert survey research group and not funded by government or other sources. Dozens of NGOs and community organizations from across Ontario participated in the stakeholder portion of the survey.

The results show widespread opposition in Ontario to the Government's Bill 23 and measures affecting the Greenbelt and affordable housing. Based on over 6,400 responses, the survey showed, in summary:

- **In a random sample survey, four out of five Ontarians surveyed (81%) called for the repeal of Bill 23 and for an ethics review on the Government's handling of these measures.** People are calling for Government action to reconsider these measures.
- **As to housing, the government rationale for Bill 23 and the related measures, 79% of those surveyed believe the government's measures will have no impact on the affordable housing which is desperately needed in Ontario today.**
- **At 80%, opposition is much higher than a Mainstreet survey published in December 2022, and another published by Abacus Surveys in March 2023 which both reported that people were opposed to the Bill 23 measures 2 to 1.** In both of those surveys, Ontarians were vehemently opposed to the Bill 23-related measures adopted.
- **In additional targeted surveys: Opposition was shown to be widespread across many specific groups examined (such as farmers, planners, housing providers, ratepayers (homeowners), and others), not only among environmental groups.** Further, 80-90% of Ontarians pointed to numerous serious, negative impacts expected from these measures in areas as diverse as municipal finance, housing, farming, and environment.

In short, a strong majority of Ontarians urge the Government to reverse the Bill 23 measures.

More details are provided within.

Acknowledgements

The on-line survey reported on within, aimed at improving our understanding of public opinion as regards Bill 23 and the Greenbelt, was aided by the efforts of many NGOs and others to reach out to persons concerned about the Greenbelt. The Survey results show the seriousness of this issue to the people of Ontario.

Thanks are due to many types of organizations who invited participants to the stakeholder component of the survey, including: NGOs, such as: social planning organizations, environmental groups, citizens groups, student organizations and many others including: homeowners/residents associations; labour organizations; farming organizations; housing organizations & tenant associations; business associations; faith organizations; university faculties in planning, natural resources and tourism; cottage associations; and hiking & trails associations.

A. Introduction

This report provides information from on-line surveys of some 6,400 Ontarians, casting light on public opinion, in relation to debates on Bill 23, and its controversial removal of lands from the Ontario Greenbelt in 2022. This information could aid legislators and others, including those working to have these measures repealed.

To add new information to the debate on Bill 23 and the Greenbelt, this research on Ontario Public opinion was undertaken by *Research on the Greenbelt*.¹ The research included a large survey of views of key stakeholder groups such as planners, environmental groups, farmers, non-profit housing groups and residents' associations.

The researchers asked for Ontarians' views on three key issues: 1) whether an ethics investigation was required, 2) whether Bill 23 and related measures would be likely to increase the supply of affordable housing, and 3) whether Bill 23 should be repealed. To our knowledge, these questions had not been directly examined in previous studies of Ontario public opinion.

Results showed that most Ontarians want an ethics review of the Bill 23 process. Very few Ontarians expect affordable housing to result from Bill 23, and the vast majority of Ontarians favour repeal of Bill 23. Comparison to other surveys by Abacus Surveys and Mainstreet Surveys suggest that our survey results show Ontarians are increasingly opposed to Bill 23 and related measures and are calling for changes in these measures.

B. Background

In Fall, 2022, the Government of Ontario introduced Bill 23, Bill 39 and related measures removing 7,400 acres of land from the Ontario Greenbelt including the Duffins Rouge Agricultural Preserve and changing processes for housing development. This was a shock to many in Ontario, as previously the government had promised that the Greenbelt lands would be protected "forever" from development.

During a very-short consultation period, hundreds of presentations were submitted to the Provincial Government opposing these measures. Despite this opposition, Bill 23 and related measures passed into law on November 28, 2022, vastly changing Ontario's environmental situation and modifying housing development processes.

Bill 23 made these lands available for development, ostensibly to help address Ontario's shortage of housing. Because media reports indicated that the lands to be developed, potentially with very substantial profits, are in great part owned by individuals or companies linked to the Progressive Conservative Party numerous complaints were raised about the ethics of these moves, and Ontario's Integrity Commissioner, the Auditor General, and Ontario Provincial Police were asked to investigate.

¹ In Winter, 2023, *Research on the Greenbelt and Ontario*, a project of SPR Associates of Toronto, conducted surveys to provide new information on public opinion to inform discussions of the Bill 23-greenbelt issues. Over 6,400 Ontarians completed these surveys. The on-line surveys were undertaken by SPR as a public interest effort. The research drew on a decades long track record in surveys SPR has conducted for the governments of Canada, Ontario, and NGOs. Key accomplishments of SPR include its \$1million research contributing to the Ontario Occupational Health and Safety Act of 1990 and resulting certification training for over 400,000 Ontario workers and managers; and contributions through \$2million in research for Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, to aid the establishment of Canada's system of family violence shelters.

During protests following the passage of these measures, critics of the changes predicted many harmful impacts to be expected. The Bill 23-related changes were widely criticized as destructive to the environment generally, harmful to farming, harmful to flood control, and harmful to municipalities from a financial perspective.

The changes were also criticized as being of uncertain value to housing and reflecting poor planning. Initial impacts would be to develop new housing in poorly serviced lands in Pickering and Markham, with the likely result, based on recent track records of developers, being the development of large and costly homes (likely with many 4–6-bedroom homes resulting, based on the performance of key developers in the past few years). No positive impacts were seen for areas where housing was deemed most needed -- in Ontario's cities.

Since the winter, Ontario has been in turmoil with widespread and ongoing opposition to these government actions. Demonstrations have been widespread, with hundreds of NGOs and community organizations mobilizing against Bill 23 and the related measures. Umbrella groups such as *Liveable Ontario* have grown rapidly, attracting hundreds of organizations and thousands of supporters. As well, recent research by Dr. Kevin Eby, former Waterloo Director of Community Planning has shown there is enough land now available in the Golden Horseshoe for building 2 million new homes, without touching the Greenbelt.

The current situation: Bill 23 is now law, but some obstacles may impede its full implementation. First, ongoing ethics investigations may present obstacles to the government. Second, a Federal Environmental Assessment related to the *Rouge National Urban Park* may impede parts of these measures. But overall, the “battle” against Bill 23 and related measures remains ongoing.

Considering a Role for Public Opinion. Although widespread opposition has been seen, little effort has been made to examine public opinion in developing these discussions. Some surveys have measured general Ontario opinion regarding these changes (see for example: *Toronto Star*, March 7, 2023, which reported on a study by Abacus Surveys indicating widespread opposition to Bill 23 (Ontarians were shown to be opposed two-to-one to the Bill 23 changes). These results were similar to those of an earlier report by Mainstreet Research. As well, no surveys have directly examined the need for an ethics review, or repeal of Bill 23.

Starting to Fill this Gap: This report starts to fill this gap. The research has two parts: a survey of a small random sample of the Ontario population, and a larger survey of specific stakeholders in these measures, such as environmentalists, farmers, housing providers, planners, and others. In the research, a focus is given to Ontarians' views on three main topics: 1) whether an ethics investigation was required, 2) whether Bill 23 and related measures would be likely to increase the supply of affordable housing, and 3) whether Bill 23 should be repealed.

To our knowledge, these questions have not before been directly examined in studies of Ontario public opinion. Altogether some 6,400+ Ontarians were surveyed in this effort to fill this gap.

It is hoped that this information will help those who wish to modify or reverse the Bill 23 measures.

C. Results of the Random Sample Population Survey

The research had two main components: a) a survey of a small random sample of the Ontario population (400 persons), and b) a larger survey of 6,000+ stakeholders in these issues -- including environment groups, planning bodies, housing organizations, farming bodies, residents' associations, and other areas. The research focused on Ontarians' views on three key issues: 1) whether an ethics investigation was required, 2) whether Bill 23 and related measures would be likely to increase the supply of affordable housing, and 3) whether Bill 23 should be repealed. Developers, financial bodies, and others who might benefit from the Bill 23 actions were not invited to the survey.

The population survey revealed that not all Ontarians are aware of the Bill 23-Greenbelt issue. Less than half of those invited to the survey were informed enough that they felt they could provide assessments of Bill 23. Those with assessments, however, provided very clear views.

On the Three Key Issues:

- 80% indicated that an ethics review was needed.
- Only 21% thought the Bill 23 measures would aid affordable housing.
- 81% indicated that Bill 23 and related measures should be repealed.

Negative Impacts of Bill 23 and related measures: Of those providing assessments, a range of concerns were noted, with the percentages having specific concerns noted below:

- 95% expressed concerns with impacts on the environment.
- 92% expect loss of green space, recreational areas.
- 88% see negative impacts on farming and protection of agricultural lands.
- 80% cite negative impacts on climate change.
- 59% cite negative impacts on planning.
- 58% expect negative impacts on housing, including the provision of affordable housing.
- 54% foresee negative impacts on funding for municipalities.

Overall, the survey indicated that severe problems existed in the Ontario Bill 23 measures, that an ethics review was greatly needed, and that the legislation should be repealed. These results, which were similar for all regions of Ontario, should caution the government and aid opponents of the Bill 23 measures.

Conclusions: A wide range of concerns were expressed regarding negative impacts of Bill 23 and related measures, with greatest concerns for impacts on the environment, loss of green space and recreational area, impacts on farming, and impacts on climate change. *These results show a clear consensus in public opinion – that Bill 23 and its related measures are unacceptable to Ontarians. These results are further explored below for key stakeholder groups.*

² *Sampling:* The population random sample (400 persons) was drawn from SPR databases. Stakeholder survey participants were recruited through invitations distributed to: *public agencies* such as municipalities and conservation authorities; *NGOs*, including environmental groups; *Farmers groups*, such as the National Union of Farmers, county branches of the Ontario Federation of agriculture; *University faculties* (e.g., in forestry, environment and planning), *Neighborhood associations*, including over 200 residents associations from cities across Ontario; *Housing bodies*, including non-profit housing agencies, and umbrella groups such as the Ontario YWCA Housing Network; *Business groups* such as local business improvement associations; *Faith Groups*, such as the Anglican diocese of Toronto; and *others* such unions and social action groups. Many of the survey participants were persons whose main interests in the greenbelt were as users of green spaces (hikers, naturalists, birders). See below regarding sampling of stakeholder groups.

D. Results for Key Stakeholder Groups

Overview: The survey results for key stakeholder groups generally mirrored those for the overall Ontario population, but in most cases with a stronger negative reaction to the legislation. Key groups examined were mainly persons invited to the survey by NGOs, and included environmental groups, non-profit housing groups, municipal officials, planners, farmers, users of green spaces, (hikers, campers etc.), residents' associations, and provincial civil servants. All these groups showed strongly negative assessments of Bill 23 and its related measures.#

Basic Results: of those providing detailed assessments key stakeholder groups shared common concerns with Bill 23 and need for an ethics review, little confidence in the Bill 23 measures aiding affordable housing, and strong support for repeal of Bill 23. See details below.

Stakeholder views on an ethics review: *As to the need for an ethic review*, respondents in all stakeholder groups were strident in their views that this was needed. These views were most strongly held by residents' associations, non-profit housing groups, users of green spaces and environmental groups, all of which favoured an ethics review by 90% or more. Also favouring a review, but less strongly, were planners, municipal officials, and farmers, all favouring a review by 80% or more. (See Table 1). *Specific comments:* Hundreds of respondents provided comments, often with very strong language condemning the Ford government and raising questions about corruption. (See comments, next pages).

Table 1
Percentage of Key Stakeholder Groups
Favouring an Ethics Review

% favouring an ethics review	Stakeholder Group
94%	environmental groups
96%	non-profit housing groups
83%	municipal officials
84%	planners
80%	farmers
95%	users of green spaces
96%	residents' associations
91%	provincial civil servants

Comments: Typical of the hundreds of comments provided regarding the needs for an ethics review are those shown on the next page, most focused on the widely held view that the Bill 23 measures were introduced as a reward for developer supporters of the Ford government. Respondents' comments reflect both the desire for more information (since no results are available so far on the ethics review) and a widely held sense of betrayal. Comments also show the ethics issue to be closely interwoven with issues of negative impacts (on environment, farming etc.) in the minds of stakeholders. (Some extremely negative comments are redacted with ***** symbols).

3. These groups varied in size and included: 100+ respondents from key groups such as farmers, members of non-profit housing bodies, municipal officials, and provincial civil servants; over 200 planners; 600+ members of environmental organizations; 700+ business persons; 1,400+ members of neighborhood residents associations; and 1,500+ users of greenspaces (hikers and other recreationists).

**In Their Own Words
About the Need for an Ethics Review**

“Bill 23 should be completely revoked. It is c*****,* led by Doug Ford & his development buddies. If this was a private venture it would never pass. Doug Ford ... Doug Ford should resign immediately. He is not representing the people of Ontario but rather his ... buddies He is increasing land sprawl. He is taking away the ability for farmers to feed the people of Ontario and putting farmers’ jobs at risk. He is also adding to Climate Change that effects all wildlife, trees & fauna, rivers, & lakes. Bill 23 is a disaster. There is nothing good about it at all.”

Member of a Toronto residents’ Association.

“Bill 23 smells to high heaven of c*****. A handful of very wealthy people contributors to the PC party in Ontario stand to make many millions after buying up land in the Green Belt that Doug Ford swore would never be developed, and then suddenly declared open for development, on the false premise that it would alleviate the affordable housing crisis in Ontario, when it obviously won't. More suburban sprawl won't solve the housing crisis”.

Member of a Northern Ontario Environmental Group.

“Bill 23 was tabled October 25th, 2022. Developers close to Doug Ford bought lands, for cheap, just before ..., in what were then protected areas. It is significant that the only people to benefit from this bill are those developers. Homeowners will see vast increases in taxes, to the point some may lose their home. The homes built by D***** and R*** et al., will be sprawling and into the 1.5-to-2-million-dollar range with nothing to help those struggling to find affordable housing. It is a degenerate bill and shows moral c*****.”

Member of a Residents Association in Eastern Ontario

“This bill was written for developers as a charter to increase developer wealth at the cost of taxpayers; the poor and near poor; the environment, specifically flood protection, floral and fauna; efforts to reduce climate change. Mr. Ford should be brought to answer”

A farmer in Central Ontario

“I feel like Bill 23 and removing portions of the Greenbelt is a disastrous plan that will only benefit developers and those who can afford million-dollar homes. I'm extremely worried about the loss of farmland and green spaces for our citizens. This plan in no way will help provide more affordable housing or address climate change. Something is rotten about how the bill came about and with how lands were purchased. Doug Ford said the people have spoken and we will not touch the Greenbelt, then does a 180 and makes these changes... I have lost all trust in him, and he does not seem to remember that he works for us. We must fill in our blank urban spaces before we impact the environment.”

An environmentalist in South West Ontario

It is a profound obscenity. The Greenbelt should be increased, not diminished. This government is way off base with its priorities which are transparently to line the pockets of developers and to build more unneeded highways So offensive!

Member of a Faith organization in Central Ontario

Stakeholder Views on Expected Impacts on Affordable Housing: Respondents in all stakeholder groups indicated they felt that Bill 23 and related measures would not aid affordable housing in Ontario. These views were strongest among members of residents' associations and users of green spaces, who might be seen as "typical voters".

They were closely followed by environmental groups, non-profit housing groups, provincial civil servants, municipal officials, farmers, and planners. No stakeholder groups indicated a view that the Bill-23 changes were likely to aid the goal of affordable housing. (See Table 2, below). These views were underlined by typical and strongly held comments as shown on the next page).

**Table 2:
Percentage of Key Stakeholder Groups Indicating
Affordable Housing Could Result from Bill 23.**

% in saying affordable housing could result	Stakeholder Group
3%	non-profit housing groups
6%	users of green spaces
6%	residents' associations
8%	environmental groups
10%	provincial civil servants
16%	municipal officials
17%	planners
16%	farmers

Comments: Typical comments provided regarding poor impacts of the Bill 23 related measures on housing were provided by respondents. Respondent comments suggested great scepticism that Bill 23 and related measures would aid Ontario's housing crisis. Hundreds of survey respondents commented in the ways shown on the next page, with many emphasizing the likely use of greenbelt lands for expensive homes, and the overall lack of affordable housing. (See next page).

In Their Own Words
Impacts of the Bill 23 measures on Ontario's Housing Crisis & Affordable Housing

“Bill 23 will not increase affordable housing in Ontario in the municipalities and locations that require it. Building on the Greenbelt will result in environmental issues (homeowners will need to commute), increased taxes for the infrastructure to support the build including hospitals, schools, roads, sewers, etc. The best strategy for affordable housing is to build “up”, not “out” in existing communities. We need ... checks and balances in place to ensure developers actually build affordable housing not large and expensive homes for the elite.”

A Municipal Planner, Eastern Ontario

“This is perhaps the worst piece of legislation to address housing I have ever seen. It is not about affordable housing where it is needed but meeting the housing desires of the wealthiest. It violates basic principles of planning, environmental protection, and what we know about affordable housing. There is clearly a conflict of interest between developers and this government.”

A Member of a GTA Environmental Group

The Government has no intention of addressing Affordable Housing. The Gov't would repeal the legislation that introduced the removal of rent control. The theory was this would lead to fair competition of houses being build and affordable rent. Neither is true. Housing costs are virtually out of reach now for average Canadians and the rental market is less than 1% vacancies in most cities and unaffordable to many in the community. The decision of rent or food should not be an issue.”

A Member of a Residents' Association in Southwest Ontario

Bill 23, along with Bills 3 and 39, will not result in affordable housing and are a transfer of wealth to developers and the construction industry. The bills will starve municipalities of funding and transfer the cost of growth to taxpayers, harm the environment, result in urban sprawl, and erode local democracy. All three bills should be repealed.

Manager of a Non-profit Housing Agency in Eastern Ontario

As it stands now, it seems that houses to be built in the Greenbelt would most probably be estate homes. Repeal the bill and replace it with affordable housing for people at risk, the evicted, the homeless. The Greenbelt must be protected against developing anything that would endanger already endangered species. Whatever is decided, it must meet Canada's GHG targets or better.

A GTA Business Person

I am incredibly disappointed that Bill 23 has been passed, especially for the profit of developers. Everything I've read – suggests that this has nothing to do with building affordable housing, nor do the plans for building even include affordable housing. We need to address the housing situation in Toronto, where no one can afford to buy a house or rent. This is disgusting.

A Member of a GTA Environmental Group.

Building subdivisions on farm and or wet land will not solve any housing problems, more multi million-dollar homes are not needed, what is needed is more affordable housing; this does not mean single family stand alone houses

A Businessperson, Eastern Ontario

“This move is completely unnecessary. We have so many empty residential spaces being used as investments. This isn't a lack of land; this is a matter of c***** policy issue. Politicians and the money made from development are the issue. They're not helping at all with affordable housing initiatives.”

Member of a Non-profit Housing Group in Central Ontario

Stakeholder Views on the Desirability of Repealing of Bill 23 and Related Measures: As to repeal of Bill 23 and its related measures, all the stakeholder groups examined indicated that there is a need to repeal this legislation. This was particularly true for residents' associations, environmental groups, users of green spaces, non-profit housing groups and provincial civil servants (all 90% or more in favour of repeal). Less stringent, but still strongly in favour of repeal were municipal officials, farmers, and planners (79-83% in favour of repeal).

**Table 3:
Percentage of Key Stakeholder Groups Favouring Repeal of Bill 23**

% favouring repeal of Bill 23	Stakeholder Group
96%	residents' associations
94%	users of green spaces
93%	environmental groups
92%	non-profit housing groups
91%	provincial civil servants
83%	municipal officials
82%	farmers
79%	planners

Overall, these results showed a strong consensus among Ontarians regarding the repeal of Bill 23 and its related measures.

Comments: Typical of the hundreds of comments provided regarding the need for repeal of the Bill 23 measures are those shown on the next page, most clearly indicating the desirability of repeal, focused on the widely held views that the Bill 23 measures were introduced as a reward for developers, who are supporters of the Ford government, along with the related concerns mentioned above regarding negative impacts on the environment, farming, and municipalities.

**In Their Own Words
the Need for Repeal of the Bill 23 Measures**

“This Bill was Bulldozed through the Ontario Legislature with little thought other than lining certain developers’ pockets. It was also passed on a Friday afternoon after Municipal Elections. None of the elected officials were officially sworn in to office at that time. No one could offer opposition at the time it was passed. There was a lack of democracy in this action. It should be repealed, and legislation created which deals with Homelessness and Geared to income housing for those in need.”

A Greenspace User in Northern Ontario

The climate crisis is the most pressing and urgent issue of our time. All government decisions need to be made using a climate lens. Repealing land and green space from the green belt weakens the resilience of our environment and further fractures already fragile ecosystems. Development on these lands will only exacerbate climate change with more emissions, resource extraction, waste, and so forth. It is critical that the government repeal Bill 23. Repeal this legislation.

An Eastern Ontario Planner

Bill 23 should be completely revoked. It is c***** led by Doug Ford & his development buddies. If this was a private venture it would never pass. Doug Ford should be held accountable along with his developer friends. Doug Ford should resign immediately. He is not representing in a positive manner the people of Ontario He is increasing land sprawl in the Greenbelt rather than decreasing it. He also is taking away the ability for farmers to feed the people in Ontario and putting farmers jobs in jeopardy. He is also adding to Climate Change that effects all aspects of the Greenbelt such as wildlife, trees & fauna, rivers, lakes, etc. Bill 23 is a disaster. There is nothing good about it at all.

Member of a Toronto Residents ‘association.

Repeal Bill 23. Impeach Ford for c***** and d***** Ontarians. Legislation needs to protect the greenbelt in perpetuity. An agreement of many is the only way that the greenbelt can be affected, not just by a one-party decision. Governance of Ontario mustn’t include a right to sell off Ontario’s assets. No single party should ever have that authority to destroy our natural greenspaces.

An Indigenous Planner in Southwest Ontario

Repeal the Act for MULTIPLE inherent harms including: environmental/climate damage to Greenbelt; sprawl causing public health harms through climate change & air pollution; unsustainable economically by cutting municipal revenue streams & lack of supporting infrastructure planning/funding for new builds; false representation as a “housing” Act as will produce a lesser number of more expensive/unaffordable housing than properly conceived plans already drawn by professional urban planners/municipalities which are being suppressed; destroys prime dwindling farmland; destroys the valuable Conservation Authorities removing public protections against flooding/poor land management; exposes Ontarians to uncontrolled tax high taxes. NO land should be removed from the Greenbelt. In fact, the Greenbelt should be expanded.

A Member of an Environmental Group in Central Ontario

Bill 23, the Greenbelt takeouts, and very troubling changes to Regional Planning are decreasing the supply of housing and new housing starts – not increasing it – while destroying the natural heritage and water sources our province needs for the future. The provincial government needs to repeal these Bills and restore Regional Planning.

A member of an Environmental Group in Eastern Ontario

The Ford Government Needs to Repeal Bill 23 and Restore the Greenbelt or Resign.

A member of a non-profit Housing Group in the GTA

C. Conclusions and Implications for the Greenbelt Debate

Conclusions: Overall, there can be little doubt that Ontarians widely reject the Bill 23 measures. This is clearly indicated by the broad demands for an ethics review, widespread skepticism as to the impacts on affordable housing, and a consensus that the Bill 23 measures should be repealed. These findings are particularly striking as seen in the widespread calls for repeal not just by specific interest groups (such as farmers and environmentalists), but rather groups as broad as Ontario's residents' associations (mostly homeowners), and Doug Ford's own employees – his own civil servants.

The results suggest that support for the Bill 23 measures is generally very limited, probably only to the Ford Government and selected developers who benefit from these controversial land deals.

Implications: There is a need to consider how these results can best inform the Bill 23 discussions. One way is to share these results more widely with Ontarians. As well, there is a need to continue to monitor movement in public opinion on these issues, especially if, as the above results suggest, Ontarians are becoming more opposed to the Bill 23 measures.

As compared to other recent surveys, our results suggest a shift in public opinion – towards increasing rejection of the Ford government measures. This should be monitored by additional surveys, to provide better information for the government to use in considering repeal of the measures, and to aid those advocating repeal. As well these results may caution further efforts to reduce the Greenbelt or urban planning in Ontario.

Bail Reform Resolution

WHEREAS the cost of Policing and Emergency Services in Northern Communities is harming a community's ability to support local Social and Health issues

WHEREAS a small percentage of those affected by an Addiction in the communities of Northern Ontario are committing crimes

WHEREAS many of those committing crimes are not housed in the correctional system, therefore, remain in our communities, often those that do require treatment for their Addiction issue receive none.

WHEREAS some committing crimes become violent, but are released back into the community, due to the negative impacts Federal Bill C75

WHEREAS the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) believes that more must be done by the Federal Government on Bail Reform

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) requests the Federal Government make these Legislative changes

1. Create a Designation of a chronic persistent offender.
2. Allow community impact statements at bail and at bail hearings.
3. Creating reverse onus in bail for all firearms offences.
4. All bail-related gun charges go to the superior court for bail release.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to the Prime Minister, Federal Justice Minister, Premier of Ontario, The Attorney General, the Solicitor General, Minister of Infrastructure, Minister of Municipal Affairs, Northeastern MPs and MPPs, Leaders of the Opposition, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, and the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities.



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April 6, 2023

Bill 5—Stopping Harassment and Abuse by Local Leaders Act, 2022

At the meeting held on April 5, 2023, Council of the Township of Mulmur passed the following resolution in support of Bill 5 – Stopping Harassment and Abuse by Local Leaders Act, 2022

Moved by Cunningham and Seconded by Clark

WHEREAS Bill 5—Stopping Harassment and Abuse by Local Leaders Act, 2022 was introduced in the Ontario Legislature by MPP Stephen Blais through a Private Member's Bill on August 10, 2022;

AND WHEREAS the Township of Mulmur and Council are committed to demonstrating good governance and greater accountability to its Code of Conduct and workplace policies;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Mulmur endorses Bill 5—Stopping Harassment and Abuse by Local Leaders Act, 2022 which would require the Code of Conduct for municipal Councillors and members of local boards to include a requirement to comply with workplace violence and harassment policies and permit municipalities to direct the Integrity Commissioner to apply to the court to vacate a member's seat if the Commissioner's Inquiry determines that the member has contravened this requirement;

AND THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Mulmur expresses its support for Bill 5 by directing the Clerk to send this motion to the Premier of Ontario; the Ontario Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing; the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO); the local Members of Parliament (MP's); the local Members of Provincial Parliament (MPP's); and all Ontario Municipalities.

CARRIED.

Sincerely,

Roseann Knechtel

Roseann Knechtel, Deputy Clerk/Planning Coordinator

APR 20 2023
 Info # 6



April 17, 2023

Honourable Doug Ford
Premier's Office Room 281
Legislative Building, Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

At its regular meeting on April 13, 2023, Dufferin County Council passed the following resolution:

THAT Dufferin County Council supports Bill 5 – Stopping Harassment and Abuse by Local Leaders Act;

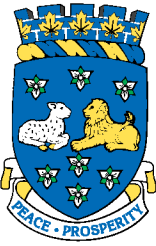
AND THAT this resolution be circulated to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario; the Honourable Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing; the Honourable Stephen Blais, and local MPPs.

Thank you,

Michelle Hargrave

Michelle Hargrave
Administrative Support Specialist





April 24, 2023

Area Members of Provincial Parliament
Sent via email

Dear Area Members of Provincial Parliament:

Re: Councillor J. Erb Notice of Motion

Please be advised that the Council of the Regional Municipality of Waterloo at their regular meeting held on April 19, 2023, approved the following motion:

WHEREAS the Municipal Elections Act requires all individuals wishing to be a candidate in a municipal or school board election to file Nomination Paper - Form 1 with the municipal clerk;

AND WHEREAS the Municipal Elections Act requires all candidates who sought election to a municipal council or school board to file Financial Statement – Auditor’s Report Candidate – Form 4 with the municipal clerk;

AND WHEREAS Form 1 requires candidates to provide their qualifying address;

AND WHEREAS Form 4 requires candidates to list the name and home address of any donor contributing over \$100.00

AND WHEREAS the Municipal Elections Act specifies that these documents are not protected by the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, and requires the municipal clerk to make Form 4 available on a website;

AND WHEREAS there has been concern expressed about those who hold public office and those who support them that they have been the subject of unnecessary attention and excessive scrutiny;

AND WHEREAS the requirement to publish the personal home address of donors to specific candidates may discourage individuals from

engaging in the democratic process to elect municipal and school board politicians.

THEREFORE, BE RESOVLED THAT the Regional Municipality of Waterloo calls on the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing for the Province of Ontario to protect the privacy of candidates and donors by removing the requirement for their street name, number and postal code to be listed on publicly available forms.

AND FURTHER THAT for verification purposes, the addresses of all candidates and all donors over \$100 be submitted to the municipal clerk on separate forms that are protected by the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act and will not be published.

AND FINALLY, that this resolution be forwarded to the Area Members of Provincial Parliament, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Association of Municipal Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario, the Ontario Public School Boards' Association, the Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association, and all Ontario municipalities.

Please accept this letter for information purposes only. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Rebekah Harris, Research/Administrative Assistant to Council, at RHarris@regionofwaterloo.ca or 519-575-4581.

Regards,

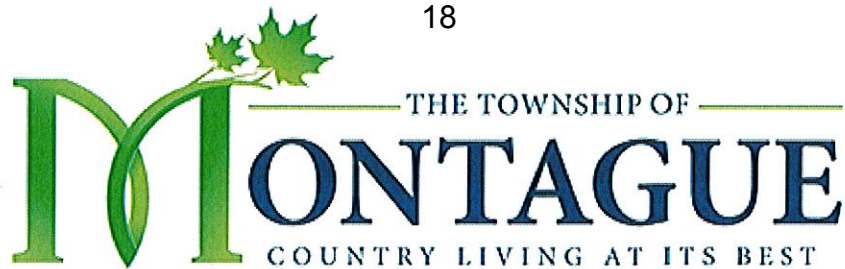


William Short

Regional Clerk/Director, Council and Administrative Services

WS/hk

cc: Association of Municipalities of Ontario
 Association of Municipal Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario
 Ontario Public School Boards' Association
 Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association
 Ontario municipalities



Regular Meeting of Council

MOVED BY: Councillor Crabtree

RESOLUTION:92-2023

SECONDED BY: Councillor Kenny

DATE: April 4, 2023

Whereas municipally elected leaders do not have an appropriate accountability structure when it comes to perpetrating violence and harassment in the workplace;

And Whereas a fundamental, underlying principle of broadening diversity, equity and inclusion in politics rests on the assumption that the workplace is safe;

And Whereas Bill 5, the Stopping Harassment and Abuse by Local Leaders Act would require Councillors to comply with the workplace violence and harassment policies of the municipality they represent, permit municipalities to direct the Integrity Commissioner to apply to the court to vacate a member's seat for failing to comply with the municipality's workplace violence and harassment policies as well as restrict officials whose seat has been vacated from seeking immediate subsequent re-election;

And Whereas over 20 municipalities have formally endorsed and communicated public support for Bill 5;

And Whereas Bill 5 would both hold accountable and protect all municipal officials;

Now Therefore Be It Resolved that the Township of Montague Council express its support for Bill 5, Stopping Harassment and Abuse by Local Leaders Act;

Further that this resolution be circulated to the Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, John Jordan, MPP for Lanark, Frontenac, Kingston, Scott Reid, MP for Lanark, Frontenac, Kingston, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, and all Municipalities.

 CARRIED

 DEFEATED

 REEVE
 



Corporate Services Department
Clerk's Office
CITY of STRATFORD
City Hall, P.O. Box 818
Stratford ON N5A 6W1

519-271-0250 Ext. 5237
Fax: 519-273-5041
www.stratford.ca

November 28, 2022

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

justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca

Dear Prime Minister:

Re: Resolution – Funding and Support for VIA Rail Services

At their November 14, 2022, Regular Council meeting, Stratford City Council adopted a resolution petitioning the federal government to adequately fund and fully support VIA Rail Canada in increasing the frequency, reliability and speed of VIA Rail service.

A copy of the resolution is attached for your consideration. We kindly request your support and endorsement.

Sincerely,

Tatiana Dafoe
Clerk

Encl.
/ja

cc: Premier Doug Ford
MPP Matthew Rae
MP John Nater
Association of Municipalities of Ontario
Federation of Canadian Municipalities
All Ontario municipalities



THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF STRATFORD
Resolution: Funding and Support for VIA Rail Service

WHEREAS The Corporation of the City of Stratford supports the National Transportation Policy and Section 5 of the *Canada Transportation Act*, S.C. 1996, c. 10 (as amended), which states in part:

"a competitive, economic and efficient national transportation system that meets the highest practicable safety and security standards and contributes to a sustainable environment, makes best use of all modes of transportation at the lowest cost is essential to serve the needs of its users, advance the well-being of Canadians, enable competitiveness and economic growth in both urban and rural areas throughout Canada. Those objectives are achieved when:

(a) competition and market forces among modes of transportation, are prime agents in providing viable and effective transportation services;

(b) regulation and strategic public intervention are used to achieve economic, safety, security, environmental or social outcomes

(c) rates and conditions do not constitute an undue obstacle to the movement of traffic within Canada or to the export of goods from Canada;

(d) the transportation system is accessible without undue obstacle to the mobility of persons, including persons with disabilities; and

(e) governments and the private sector work together for an integrated transportation system."

WHEREAS the Government of Canada has stated: "*we are serious about climate change*" and "*smart investments in transit help connection communities We will continue to work with communities and invest in the infrastructure they need today and into the future*";

WHEREAS Abacus data has indicated that Canadians are focused on building transit to reduce congestion and connect communities;

WHEREAS the Canadian Transport Commission main finding at public hearings in 1977 was that there should be no further reductions to passenger rail services;

WHEREAS the frequency of VIA trains running in Canada has been reduced significantly since 1977, causing a subsequent significant drop in ridership;

WHEREAS there is a need for balanced transportation with more using transit and less using automobiles;

WHEREAS the changing demographic relating to house prices, housing affordability will require further expansions of transit;

WHEREAS there is a need to visit tourist sites located along rail lines;

WHEREAS the annual cost of congestion to the Greater Toronto Hamilton Area economy alone is between \$7.5 and \$11 billion;

WHEREAS there are 10 million more vehicles on the road today than there were in 2000; and

WHEREAS the City of Stratford requests the support of this resolution from all communities served by VIA;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of The City of Stratford recommends to the Government of Canada to adequately fund and fully support VIA Rail Canada in increasing the frequency, reliability and speed of VIA rail service in 2022 and successive years.

Adopted by City Council of The Corporation of the City of Stratford on November 14, 2022

The Corporation of the City of Stratford, P.O. Box 818, Stratford ON N5A 6W1
Attention: City Clerk, 519-271-0250 extension 5329, clerks@stratford.ca



Hon. David Piccini, MPP
 Minister of the Environment
 Conservation and Parks
 Ministry of the Environment,
 Conservation and Parks 5th Floor
 777 Bay St.
 Toronto, ON, M5B 2H7
 VIA EMAIL:
david.piccini@pc.ola.org

Township of Puslinch
 7404 Wellington Road 34
 Puslinch, ON N0B 2J0
www.puslinch.ca

April 26, 2023

RE: 11.1 Mayor's Updates - 11.1.1 Mayor Seeley gave an update on the upcoming spring clean-up day being the second weekend of May.

Please be advised that Township of Puslinch Council, at its meeting held on April 12, 2023 considered the aforementioned topic and subsequent to discussion, the following was resolved:

Resolution No. 2023-127: Moved by Councillor Bailey and
 Seconded by Councillor Sepulis

That Council receive the Mayors and Council member updates for information; and

That Council direct staff to send notice to the MECP requesting that the litter on the roadside of the 401 be cleaned up in accordance with the Ministry initiative "Act on Litter Ontario"; and

That this resolution be circulated to all municipalities in Ontario.

CARRIED

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

Sincerely,

Courtenay Hoytfox
 Municipal Clerk

CC: All Ontario Municipalities



MUNICIPALITY OF SHUNIAH

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Resolution No.: 152-23

Date: Apr 25, 2023

Moved By: [Signature]

Seconded By: [Signature] [Signature]

WHEREAS, Enbridge recently made an announcement of their intention to begin charging third-party contractors and other utilities \$200 CAD (plus applicable taxes) for utility locates where a field locate is required;

AND WHEREAS, third-party contractors include Ontario municipalities;

AND WHEREAS, these locate requests are only required as Ontario municipalities have allowed utilities to use municipal right of ways at no charge to the utilities;

AND WHEREAS, this announcement of new downloaded costs will negatively impact the budgets of Ontario municipalities which are already burdened;

AND WHEREAS, if Enbridge is successful in implementing this new charge, a precedence is set for other utility companies to also begin charging for locates;

THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED, that the Municipality of Shuniah strongly opposes these utility locate costs being downloaded to Ontario municipalities by Enbridge Gas or other utilities;

to 3rd party contractors inclusive [Signature]

AND THAT, the Province of Ontario's Ministry of Public and Business Service Delivery make it clear that these costs must be borne by the utilities themselves;

AND THAT, this decision be forwarded to Minister of Public and Business Service Delivery Kaleed Rasheed, Minister of Infrastructure Kinga Surma, Minister of Energy Todd Smith, Premier Doug Ford, Lise Vaugeois MPP, Kevin Holland MPP, the Association of Ontario Road Supervisors and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario.

Carried

Defeated

Amended

Deferred

[Signature]

Signature

Municipality of Shuniah, 420 Leslie Avenue, Thunder Bay, Ontario, P7A 1X8



The Municipality of Dysart et al

Regular Council Resolution

Tuesday, April 25, 2023

Motion #23-195

Moved by: *Barry Bocce*

Seconded by: *Nancy Wood Roberts*

Be it resolved that Dysart et al Council supports the resolution from the Town of Essex urging the reinstatement of previous legislation that permitted municipalities to apply for and retain surplus proceeds from tax sales in their jurisdictions; and

Further directs that this resolution be circulated to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs, the Ministry of Finance, MPP Laurie Scott, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and all Ontario Municipalities.

Carried

Defeated

Deferred

Murray Fearrey
Murray Fearrey, Mayor

Tamara Wilbee
Tamara Wilbee, CAO/Deputy Clerk

From: McPhail, Roxanne <Roxanne.McPhail@york.ca> **On Behalf Of** Regional Clerk
Sent: May 1, 2023 1:40 PM
Subject: Regional Council Decision - 2022 Development Charge Reserve Fund Statement

On April 27, 2023 Regional Council made the following decision:

1. The Regional Clerk circulate this report to the local municipalities and the Building Industry and Land Development Association.

The original staff report is available for your information at the following: [link to report](#)

Please contact Edward Hankins, Director, Treasury Office and Deputy Treasurer at 1-877-464-9675 ext. 71644 if you have any questions with respect to this matter.

Regards,

Christopher Raynor (he/him) | Regional Clerk, Regional Clerk's Office, Corporate Services Department

The Regional Municipality of York | 17250 Yonge Street | Newmarket, ON L3Y 6Z1
O: 1-877-464-9675 ext. 71300 | christopher.raynor@york.ca | york.ca

Our Mission: **Working together to serve our thriving communities – today and tomorrow**

From: McPhail, Roxanne <Roxanne.McPhail@york.ca> **On Behalf Of** Regional Clerk
Sent: May 1, 2023 1:42 PM
Subject: Regional Council Decision - 2023 Property Tax Ratios

On April 27, 2023 Regional Council made the following decision:

1. The property tax ratios for the 2023 taxation year be established as follows:

Broad Property Class	Proposed 2023 Tax Ratios
Multi-Residential	1.0000
Commercial (incl. office)	1.3321
Industrial	1.6432
Pipelines	0.9190
Farmland	0.2500
Managed Forests	0.2500
Landfill	1.1000

2. Staff be directed to review amendments to property tax discounts for Vacant and Excess Commercial and Industrial land following the next property reassessment
3. The Regional Solicitor be authorized to prepare a bylaw to implement the above tax ratios
4. The Regional Clerk circulate this report to the local municipalities

The original staff report is available for your information at the following: [link to report](#)

Please contact Edward Hankins, Director, Treasury Office and Deputy Treasurer at 1-877-464-9675 ext. 71644 if you have any questions with respect to this matter.

Regards,

Christopher Raynor (he/him) | Regional Clerk, Regional Clerk's Office, Corporate Services
 Department

 The Regional Municipality of York | 17250 Yonge Street | Newmarket, ON L3Y 6Z1
 O: 1-877-464-9675 ext. 71300 | christopher.raynor@york.ca | york.ca

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From: McPhail, Roxanne <Roxanne.McPhail@york.ca> **On Behalf Of** Regional Clerk
Sent: May 1, 2023 1:41 PM
Subject: Regional Council Decision - 2023 Property Tax Rates

On April 27, 2023 Regional Council made the following decision:

1. Regional property tax rates for 2023 be established as follows for the following property classes:

Broad Property Class	Tax Rates %
Residential/Farm	0.348892%
Multi-Residential	0.348892%
Commercial	0.464759%
Industrial	0.573299%
Pipelines	0.320632%
Farmland	0.087223%
Managed Forests	0.087223%

2. Local municipalities pay the final two instalments of their 2022 Regional property tax levy on or before September 29, 2023 and December 15, 2023
3. Notional tax rate calculation adjustment be adopted
4. The Regional Solicitor be authorized to prepare a bylaw to implement the above tax rates
5. The Regional Clerk circulate this report to local municipalities

The original staff report is available for your information at the following: [link to report](#)

Please contact Edward Hankins, Director, Treasury Office and Deputy Treasurer at 1-877-464-9675 ext. 71644 if you have any questions with respect to this matter.

Regards,

Christopher Raynor (he/him) | Regional Clerk, Regional Clerk's Office, Corporate Services Department

The Regional Municipality of York | 17250 Yonge Street | Newmarket, ON L3Y 6Z1
O: 1-877-464-9675 ext. 71300 | christopher.raynor@york.ca | york.ca

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From: [Switzer, Barbara](#) on behalf of [Regional Clerk](#)
Subject: Regional Council Decision - Growth and Development Review 2022
Date: May 1, 2023 11:43:02 AM

CAUTION: This email originated outside of the Town of Newmarket. **DO NOT** click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and trusted content.

On April 27, 2023 Regional Council made the following decision:

1. The Regional Clerk forward this report to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing and local municipalities.

The original staff report is available for your information at the following: [link to report](#)

Please contact Teresa Cline, Manager, Policy and Environment at 1-877-464-9675 ext. 71591 if you have any questions with respect to this matter.

Regards,

Christopher Raynor (he/him) | Regional Clerk, Regional Clerk's Office, Corporate Services Department

The Regional Municipality of York | 17250 Yonge Street | Newmarket, ON L3Y 6Z1
O: 1-877-464-9675 ext. 71300 | christopher.raynor@york.ca | york.ca

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From: [Switzer, Barbara](#) on behalf of [Regional Clerk](#)
To: [Aurora Clerks General Inbox](#); caguila-wong@markham.ca; [Clerks](#); [EG Clerks General Inbox](#); [Jaclyn Grossi](#); [King Clerks General Inbox](#); [Rachel Dillabough](#); [Richmond Hill Clerks General Inbox](#); [Vaughan Clerks General Inbox](#); [WS Clerks General Inbox](#)
Subject: Regional Council Decision - Transportation Capital Infrastructure Status Update
Date: May 1, 2023 11:22:49 AM

CAUTION: This email originated outside of the Town of Newmarket. **DO NOT** click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and trusted content.

On April 27, 2023 Regional Council made the following decision:

1. The Regional Clerk circulate this report to Clerks of local municipalities.

The original staff report is available for your information at the following: [link to report](#)

Please contact Salim Alibhai, Director, Capital Planning and Delivery, Public Works at 1-877-464-9675 ext. 75229 if you have any questions with respect to this matter.

Regards,

Christopher Raynor (he/him) | Regional Clerk, Regional Clerk's Office, Corporate Services Department

The Regional Municipality of York | 17250 Yonge Street | Newmarket, ON L3Y 6Z1
O: 1-877-464-9675 ext. 71300 | christopher.raynor@york.ca | york.ca

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From: [Switzer, Barbara](#) on behalf of [Regional Clerk](#)
Subject: Regional Council Decision - Water and Wastewater Capital Infrastructure Status Update
Date: May 1, 2023 11:39:20 AM

CAUTION: This email originated outside of the Town of Newmarket. **DO NOT** click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and trusted content.

On April 27, 2023 Regional Council made the following decision:

1. The Regional Clerk circulate this report for information to the Ontario Ministers of Environment, Conservation and Parks, and Municipal Affairs and Housing and Infrastructure, Clerks of the local municipalities, Building Industry and Land Development Association, and the Ontario Homebuilders' Association.

The original staff report is available for your information at the following: [link to report](#)

Please contact Mike Rabeau, Director, Capital Planning and Delivery, Public Works at 1-877-464-9675 ext. 75157 if you have any questions with respect to this matter.

Regards,

Christopher Raynor (he/him) | Regional Clerk, Regional Clerk's Office, Corporate Services Department

The Regional Municipality of York | 17250 Yonge Street | Newmarket, ON L3Y 6Z1
O: 1-877-464-9675 ext. 71300 | christopher.raynor@york.ca | york.ca

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From: [Switzer, Barbara](#) on behalf of [Regional Clerk](#)
Subject: Regional Council Decision - 2020-2023 Economic Development Action Plan Update
Date: May 1, 2023 11:47:13 AM

CAUTION: This email originated outside of the Town of Newmarket. **DO NOT** click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and trusted content.

On April 27, 2023 Regional Council made the following decision:

1. The Regional Clerk forward this report to the Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade, Workforce Planning Board, Local Chambers of Commerce, Boards of Trade, Invest Ontario, Toronto Global, ventureLAB and the local municipalities for information.

The original staff report is available for your information at the following: [link to report](#)

Please contact Jonathan Wheatle at 1-877-464-9675 ext. 71503 if you have any questions with respect to this matter.

Regards,

Christopher Raynor (he/him) | Regional Clerk, Regional Clerk's Office, Corporate Services Department

The Regional Municipality of York | 17250 Yonge Street | Newmarket, ON L3Y 6Z1
O: 1-877-464-9675 ext. 71300 | christopher.raynor@york.ca | york.ca

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From: [Switzer, Barbara](#) on behalf of [Regional Clerk](#)
Subject: Regional Council Decision - York Region 2021 Census Data
Date: May 1, 2023 1:34:06 PM

CAUTION: This email originated outside of the Town of Newmarket. **DO NOT** click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and trusted content.

On April 27, 2023 Regional Council made the following decision:

1. The Regional Clerk forward this report to local Chambers of Commerce, Boards of Trade and the local municipalities for information.

The original staff report is available for your information at the following: [link to report](#)

Please contact Paul Bottomley, Manager, Policy, Research and Forecasting at 1-877-464-9675 ext.71530 if you have any questions with respect to this matter.

Regards,

Christopher Raynor (he/him) | Regional Clerk, Regional Clerk's Office, Corporate Services Department

The Regional Municipality of York | 17250 Yonge Street | Newmarket, ON L3Y 6Z1
O: 1-877-464-9675 ext. 71300 | christopher.raynor@york.ca | york.ca

Our Mission: **Working together to serve our thriving communities – today and tomorrow**

From: Lindsay Raftis <lraftis@orangeville.ca>

Sent: May 1, 2023 11:14 AM

Subject: Town of Orangeville - Response to Bill 5 - Stopping Harassment and Abuse by Local Leaders Act

Good morning,

Please be advised that Bill 5 – Stopping Harassment and Abuse by Local Leaders Act, 2022 was considered by Council at its meeting held on April 17, 2023 and the Council adopted the following resolution:

Whereas Bill 5—Stopping Harassment and Abuse by Local Leaders Act, 2022 was introduced in the Ontario Legislature by MPP Stephen Blais through a Private Member’s Bill on August 10, 2022;

Whereas the Town of Orangeville and Council are committed to demonstrating good governance and greater accountability to its Code of Conduct and workplace policies;

Now therefore be it resolved:

- 1. That Orangeville Council endorses Bill 5—Stopping Harassment and Abuse by Local Leaders Act, 2022 which would require the Code of Conduct for municipal Councillors and members of local boards to include a requirement to comply with workplace violence and harassment policies and permit municipalities to direct the Integrity Commissioner to apply to the court to vacate a member’s seat if the Commissioner’s Inquiry determines that the member has contravened this requirement.**
- 2. That Orangeville Council expresses its support for Bill 5 by directing the Town of Orangeville Clerk to send this motion to the Premier of Ontario; the Ontario Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing; the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO); the local Members of Parliament (MP’s); the local Members of Provincial Parliament (MPP’s); the Ontario Big Cities Mayors Caucus (OBCM); the Large Urban Mayors’ Caucus of Ontario; the Small Urban GTHA Mayors as well as Dufferin County Municipalities.**

Thank you,

Lindsay Raftis | Assistant Clerk | Corporate Services

Town of Orangeville | 87 Broadway | Orangeville, ON L9W 1K1

519-941-0440 Ext. 2242 | Toll Free 1-866-941-0440 Ext. 2215

lraftis@orangeville.ca | www.orangeville.ca

From: [Switzer, Barbara](#) on behalf of [Regional Clerk](#)
Subject: Regional Council Decision - 2022 Drinking Water Systems Report
Date: May 3, 2023 9:05:34 AM

CAUTION: This email originated outside of the Town of Newmarket. **DO NOT** click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and trusted content.

On April 27, 2023 Regional Council made the following decision:

1. The Regional Clerk circulate this report to the Clerks of the local municipalities, City of Toronto, Region of Peel and the Ontario Chief Drinking Water Inspector (Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks).

The original staff report is available for your information at the following [link](#).

Please contact David Szeptycki, Director of Strategy and Innovation at 1-877-464-9675 ext. 75723, or Beth Weir, Director of Operations, Maintenance and Monitoring at 1-877-464-9675 ext. 75340 if you have any questions with respect to this matter.

Regards,

Christopher Raynor ([he/him](#)) | Regional Clerk, Regional Clerk's Office, Corporate Services Department

The Regional Municipality of York | 17250 Yonge Street | Newmarket, ON L3Y 6Z1
O: 1-877-464-9675 ext. 71300 | christopher.raynor@york.ca | york.ca

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From: [Switzer, Barbara](#) on behalf of [Regional Clerk](#)
Subject: Regional Council Decision - ventureLAB 2022 Results
Date: May 3, 2023 9:03:20 AM

CAUTION: This email originated outside of the Town of Newmarket. **DO NOT** click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and trusted content.

On April 27, 2023 Regional Council made the following decision:

1. The Regional Clerk circulate this report to the Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade, Invest Ontario, Toronto Global, ventureLAB and the local municipalities.

The original staff report is available for your information at the following [link](#).

Please contact Jonathan Wheatle, Director, Economic Strategy at 1-877-464-9675 ext. 71503 if you have any questions with respect to this matter.

Regards,

Christopher Raynor (he/him) | Regional Clerk, Regional Clerk's Office, Corporate Services
Department

The Regional Municipality of York | 17250 Yonge Street | Newmarket, ON L3Y 6Z1
O: 1-877-464-9675 ext. 71300 | christopher.raynor@york.ca | york.ca

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From: [Switzer, Barbara](#) on behalf of [Regional Clerk](#)
Subject: Regional Council Decision - 2022 Integrated Management System Update Report for Water, Wastewater and Waste Management
Date: May 3, 2023 9:06:45 AM

CAUTION: This email originated outside of the Town of Newmarket. **DO NOT** click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and trusted content.

On April 27 2023 Regional Council made the following decision:

1. The Regional Clerk circulate this report to the Clerks of the local municipalities and the Ontario Chief Drinking Water Inspector (Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks) for information.

The original staff report is available for your information at the following [link](#).

Please contact David Szeptycki, Director, Strategy and Innovation at 1-877-464-9675 ext. 75723 if you have any questions with respect to this matter.

Regards,

Christopher Raynor (he/him) | Regional Clerk, Regional Clerk's Office, Corporate Services Department

The Regional Municipality of York | 17250 Yonge Street | Newmarket, ON L3Y 6Z1
O: 1-877-464-9675 ext. 71300 | christopher.raynor@york.ca | york.ca

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From: McPhail, Roxanne <Roxanne.McPhail@york.ca> **On Behalf Of** Regional Clerk
Sent: May 1, 2023 1:53 PM
Subject: Regional Council Decision - Framework for the York Region 2023 to 2026 Newcomer Inclusion Plan

On April 27, 2023 Regional Council made the following decision:

1. Council approve the recommended framework for the York Region 2023 to 2026 Newcomer Inclusion Plan provided in Appendix 1.
2. The Regional Clerk circulate this report to the Clerks of local municipalities, the Newcomer Inclusion Table of York Region, the Human Services Planning Board of York Region, and the Municipal Diversity and Inclusion Group.

The original staff report is available for your information at the following: [link to report](#)

Please contact Joseph Silva, Director, Strategies and Partnerships Branch at 1-877-464-9675 ext. 74182 if you have any questions with respect to this matter.

Regards,

Christopher Raynor (he/him) | Regional Clerk, Regional Clerk's Office, Corporate Services Department

The Regional Municipality of York | 17250 Yonge Street | Newmarket, ON L3Y 6Z1
O: 1-877-464-9675 ext. 71300 | christopher.raynor@york.ca | york.ca

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38 THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF COBOURG

The Corporation of the Town of Cobourg
Legislative Services Department
Victoria Hall
55 King Street West
Cobourg, ON K9A 2M2

Brent Larmer
Municipal Clerk/
Director of Legislative Services
Telephone: (905) 372-4301 Ext. 4401
Email: blarmer@cobourg.ca
Fax: (905) 372-7558

SENT VIA EMAIL

May 1, 2023

Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Premier Doug Ford
MP Philip Lawrence
MPP David Piccini
All Ontario municipalities

Re: Bill 5 - Stopping Harassment and Abuse by Local Leaders Act 2022

Please see attached Resolution adopted at the Cobourg Municipal Council meeting held on May 1, 2023.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned at blarmer@cobourg.ca or by telephone at (905)-372-4301 Ext. 4401.

Sincerely,

Brent Larmer
Municipal Clerk/Director of Legislative Services
Returning Officer
Legislative Services Department





Moved By	<u>Councillor Adam Bureau</u>	Resolution No.:
Last Name Printed	BUREAU	145-23
Seconded By	<u>Councillor Miriam Mutton</u>	Council Date:
Last Name Printed	MUTTON	May 1, 2023

THAT Council receive the correspondence from the Municipality of Mulmar and Duffer for information purposes; and

FURTHER THAT Council endorse and support Bill 5 - Stopping Harassment and Abuse by Local Leaders Act 2022 was introduced in the Ontario Legislature by MPP Steven Blaze through a private member's bill on August 10 2022; and

FURTHER THAT the Town of Coburg and Council are committed to demonstrating good governance and greater accountability for its Code of Conduct and workplace policies; and

NOW THEREFORE BE RESOLVED THAT the Council and the Corporation of the Town of Cobourg endorses Bill 5 Stopping Harassment and Abuse by Local Leaders Act 2022 which would require the code of conduct for municipal councillors and members of local boards to include or requirement to comply with workplace violence and harassment policies and permit municipalities to direct the integrity commissioner to apply to the court to vacate a member seat if the commissioners inquiry determines that the member has contravened this requirement; and

FURTHER THAT Council expresses its support for Bill 5 by directing the Clerk to send a copy of this motion to the Premier of Ontario the Ontario, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing the local members of parliament MPs the local members of provincial department and MPPS and all Ontario municipalities.



758070 2nd Line E
 Mulmur, Ontario
 L9V 0G8

Local (705) 466-3341
 Toll Free from 519 only (866) 472-0417
 Fax (705) 466-2922

April 6, 2023

Bill 5—Stopping Harassment and Abuse by Local Leaders Act, 2022

At the meeting held on April 5, 2023, Council of the Township of Mulmur passed the following resolution in support of Bill 5 – Stopping Harassment and Abuse by Local Leaders Act, 2022

Moved by Cunningham and Seconded by Clark

WHEREAS Bill 5—Stopping Harassment and Abuse by Local Leaders Act, 2022 was introduced in the Ontario Legislature by MPP Stephen Blais through a Private Member's Bill on August 10, 2022;

AND WHEREAS the Township of Mulmur and Council are committed to demonstrating good governance and greater accountability to its Code of Conduct and workplace policies;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Mulmur endorses Bill 5—Stopping Harassment and Abuse by Local Leaders Act, 2022 which would require the Code of Conduct for municipal Councillors and members of local boards to include a requirement to comply with workplace violence and harassment policies and permit municipalities to direct the Integrity Commissioner to apply to the court to vacate a member's seat if the Commissioner's Inquiry determines that the member has contravened this requirement;

AND THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Mulmur expresses its support for Bill 5 by directing the Clerk to send this motion to the Premier of Ontario; the Ontario Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing; the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO); the local Members of Parliament (MP's); the local Members of Provincial Parliament (MPP's); and all Ontario Municipalities.

CARRIED.

Sincerely,

Roseann Knechtel

Roseann Knechtel, Deputy Clerk/Planning Coordinator

APR 20 2023
 Info # 6



April 17, 2023

Honourable Doug Ford
Premier's Office Room 281
Legislative Building, Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

At its regular meeting on April 13, 2023, Dufferin County Council passed the following resolution:

THAT Dufferin County Council supports Bill 5 – Stopping Harassment and Abuse by Local Leaders Act;

AND THAT this resolution be circulated to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario; the Honourable Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing; the Honourable Stephen Blais, and local MPPs.

Thank you,

Michelle Hargrave

Michelle Hargrave
Administrative Support Specialist



*MUNICIPALITY OF PORT HOPE
RESOLUTION*

Date: 02 May 2023

21/2023

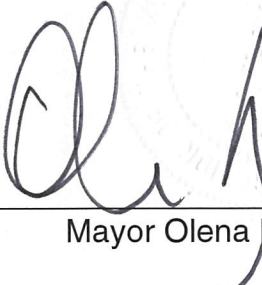
MOVED BY: Councillor Andrews

SECONDED BY: Councillor Pearson

WHEREAS Council for the Municipality of Port Hope received correspondence from the Municipality of Chatham-Kent expressing its support for Bill 5 - Stopping Harassment and Abuse by Local Leaders Act;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council for the Municipality of Port Hope support the Resolution from the Municipality of Chatham-Kent and express its support for Bill 5 - Stopping Harassment and Abuse by Local Leaders Act which would require the code of conduct for municipal Councillors and members of local boards to include a requirement to comply with workplace violence and harassment policies and permit municipalities and local boards to direct the Integrity Commissioner to apply to the court to vacate a member's seat if the Commissioner's inquiry determines that the member has contravened this requirement;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this resolution be circulated to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario; the Honourable Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing; the Honourable Stephen Blais, local MPPs and Ontario Municipalities.



Mayor Olena Hankivsky

**CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CARLOW/MAYO**

3987 Boulter Road, Boulter, ON KOL 1G0
Tel: (613) 332-1760 Toll Free: 1-866-332-1760
Fax: (613) 332-2175
www.carlowmayo.ca
Monday to Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Jenny Snider
CAO/Clerk
Township of Carlow/Mayo
clerk@carlowmayo.ca

DELIVERED VIA EMAIL

May 3rd, 2023

Re: Reducing Municipal Insurance Costs

Please be advised that at the Regular Council Meeting on April 11th, 2023, the Township of Carlow/Mayo Council passed the following motion, supporting the resolution from the Council of the Municipality of Chatham-Kent regarding Reducing Municipal Insurance Costs.

Moved By: Pam Stewart

Seconded By: Elson Ruddy

That the Council of the Township of Carlow/Mayo agrees to support the Municipality of Chatham-Kents resolution for Reducing Municipal Insurance Cost.

-Carried-

If you have any questions regarding the above motion, please do not hesitate to contact me by phone or email at clerk@carlowmayo.ca.

Sincerely,
Jenny Snider
CAO/Clerk
Township of Carlow/Mayo
cc: Association of Municipalities of Ontario
All Ontario Municipalities



Municipality of Chatham-Kent
Corporate Services
Municipal Governance
315 King Street West, P.O. Box 640
Chatham ON N7M 5K8

March 6, 2023

To All Ontario Municipalities

Resolution re Reducing Municipal Insurance Costs

Please be advised the Council of the Municipality of Chatham-Kent, at its regular meeting held on March 6, 2023 passed the following resolution:

"Whereas Chatham-Kent has faced multiple double digit increases to insurance premiums over the past years;

And Whereas the costs on insurance are having a significant impact on municipal budgets in Chatham-Kent and around the Province;

Now Therefore, Council direct administration to engage with other municipalities, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, and any other relevant municipal associations, to determine what tools may be available to reduce insurance costs, including cooperative purchasing of insurance, creation of a municipal reciprocal insurance provider, or legislative changes to address insurance costs to municipalities.

And administration report back to Council regarding the result of this engagement and any recommended Council resolutions to support improvements to municipal insurance in Ontario.

Further that administration be directed to forward this motion to all other municipalities in Ontario seeking support and collaboration on this issue."

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Judy Smith at ckclerk@chatham-kent.ca

Sincerely,

Judy Smith, CMO
Director Municipal Governance/Clerk

C AMO



**BONFIELD TOWNSHIP
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY CLERK**

365 HIGHWAY 531

BONFIELD ON P0H 1E0

Telephone: 705-776-2641 Fax: 705-776-1154

Website: <http://www.bonfieldtownship.com>

Email: deputyclerk@bonfieldtownship.com

RESOLUTION OF COUNCIL

April 25th, 2023

No. 8

Moved by Councillor Featherstone

Seconded by Councillor MacInnis

That Council supports the resolution of the County of Northumberland call to action on Housing and Homelessness; AND FURTHER THAT this resolution be forwarded to the Honourable Doug Ford (Premier of Ontario), the Honourable Steve Clark (Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing), the Honourable Michael Parsa (Minister of Children, Community and Social Services), the Honourable David Piccini (Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks and MPP for Northumberland-Peterborough South), Vic Fedeli MPP, District of Nipissing, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), and to all Ontario Municipalities.

Carried Narry Paquette

DIVISION VOTE

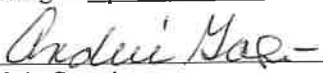
FOR
 Donna Clark _____
 Jason Corbett _____
 Steve Featherstone _____
 Dan MacInnis _____
 Narry Paquette _____

AGAINST

Declaration of Pecuniary Interest/Conflict of Interest

Declared interest, abstained from discussion, and did not vote on the question.

CERTIFIED to be a true copy of Resolution No. 8 of the Township of Bonfield's Regular Council Meeting of April 25th, 2023, and which Resolution is in full force and effect.


 Andrée Gagné
 Deputy Clerk-Treasurer



**BONFIELD TOWNSHIP
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY CLERK**

365 HIGHWAY 531
BONFIELD ON P0H 1E0

Telephone: 705-776-2641 Fax: 705-776-1154

Website: <http://www.bonfieldtownship.com>

Email: deputyclerk@bonfieldtownship.com

RESOLUTION OF COUNCIL
April 25th, 2023

No. 9

Moved by Councillor Featherstone

Seconded by Councillor MacInnis

That Council supports the resolution of the City of Stratford on the use of long-term care funding to support community care services; AND FURTHER THAT this resolution be forwarded to the Honourable Doug Ford (Premier of Ontario), Vic Fedeli MPP, District of Nipissing, Association of Municipalities of Ontario and all Ontario municipalities.

Carried Narry Paquette

DIVISION VOTE

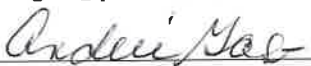
FOR	
Donna Clark	_____
Jason Corbett	_____
Steve Featherstone	_____
Dan MacInnis	_____
Narry Paquette	_____

AGAINST	

Declaration of Pecuniary Interest/Conflict of Interest

Declared interest, abstained from discussion, and did not vote on the question.

CERTIFIED to be a true copy of Resolution No. 9 of the Township of Bonfield's Regular Council Meeting of April 25th, 2023, and which Resolution is in full force and effect.


Andrée Gagné
Deputy Clerk-Treasurer



**BONFIELD TOWNSHIP
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY CLERK**

365 HIGHWAY 531

BONFIELD ON P0H 1E0

Telephone: 705-776-2641 Fax: 705-776-1154

Website: <http://www.bonfieldtownship.com>

Email: deputyclerk@bonfieldtownship.com

RESOLUTION OF COUNCIL

April 25th, 2023

No. 10

Moved by Councillor Featherstone

Seconded by Councillor MacInnis

That Council supports the resolution of the Town of Essex on the reinstatement of legislation permitting a municipality to retain surplus proceeds from tax sales; AND FURTHER THAT this resolution be forwarded to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs, the Ministry of Finance, Vic Fedeli MPP District of Nipissing, Association of the Municipalities of Ontario and all other municipalities in Ontario.

Carried Narry Paquette

DIVISION VOTE

FOR	
Donna Clark	_____
Jason Corbett	_____
Steve Featherstone	_____
Dan MacInnis	_____
Narry Paquette	_____

AGAINST	

Declaration of Pecuniary Interest/Conflict of Interest

Declared interest, abstained from discussion, and did not vote on the question.

CERTIFIED to be a true copy of Resolution No. 10 of the Township of Bonfield's Regular Council Meeting of April 25th, 2023, and which Resolution is in full force and effect.

Andrée Gagné
Andrée Gagné
Deputy Clerk-Treasurer



**BONFIELD TOWNSHIP
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY CLERK**

365 HIGHWAY 531
BONFIELD ON P0H 1E0

Telephone: 705-776-2641 Fax: 705-776-1154

Website: <http://www.bonfieldtownship.com>

Email: deputyclerk@bonfieldtownship.com

RESOLUTION OF COUNCIL
April 25th, 2023

No. 12

Moved by Councillor Corbett

Seconded by Councillor Clark

That Council supports the resolution from the Township of South Glengarry asking the Province to lift the moratorium on pupil accommodation reviews (and school closures) prior to the end of the 2022-2023 school year; AND FURTHER THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to the Premier, the Minister of Education, MPP Nolan Quinn, AMO, ROMA, EOWC and all Ontario municipalities and Vic Fedeli MPP, District of Nipissing,

Carried Narry Paquette

DIVISION VOTE

FOR	
Donna Clark	_____
Jason Corbett	_____
Steve Featherstone	_____
Dan MacInnis	_____
Narry Paquette	_____

AGAINST	

Declaration of Pecuniary Interest/Conflict of Interest

Declared interest, abstained from discussion, and did not vote on the question.

CERTIFIED to be a true copy of Resolution No. 12 of the Township of Bonfield's Regular Council Meeting of April 25th, 2023, and which Resolution is in full force and effect.

Andrée Gagné
Deputy Clerk-Treasurer



Corporate Services Department
Clerk's Office
CITY of STRATFORD
City Hall, P.O. Box 818
Stratford ON N5A 6W1

519-271-0250 Ext. 5237
Fax: 519-273-5041
www.stratford.ca

November 28, 2022

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

justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca

Dear Prime Minister:

Re: Resolution – Funding and Support for VIA Rail Services

At their November 14, 2022, Regular Council meeting, Stratford City Council adopted a resolution petitioning the federal government to adequately fund and fully support VIA Rail Canada in increasing the frequency, reliability and speed of VIA Rail service.

A copy of the resolution is attached for your consideration. We kindly request your support and endorsement.

Sincerely,

Tatiana Dafoe
Clerk

Encl.
/ja

cc: Premier Doug Ford
MPP Matthew Rae
MP John Nater
Association of Municipalities of Ontario
Federation of Canadian Municipalities
All Ontario municipalities



THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF STRATFORD
Resolution: Funding and Support for VIA Rail Service

WHEREAS The Corporation of the City of Stratford supports the National Transportation Policy and Section 5 of the *Canada Transportation Act*, S.C. 1996, c. 10 (as amended), which states in part:

"a competitive, economic and efficient national transportation system that meets the highest practicable safety and security standards and contributes to a sustainable environment, makes best use of all modes of transportation at the lowest cost is essential to serve the needs of its users, advance the well-being of Canadians, enable competitiveness and economic growth in both urban and rural areas throughout Canada. Those objectives are achieved when:

(a) competition and market forces among modes of transportation, are prime agents in providing viable and effective transportation services;

(b) regulation and strategic public intervention are used to achieve economic, safety, security, environmental or social outcomes

(c) rates and conditions do not constitute an undue obstacle to the movement of traffic within Canada or to the export of goods from Canada;

(d) the transportation system is accessible without undue obstacle to the mobility of persons, including persons with disabilities; and

(e) governments and the private sector work together for an integrated transportation system."

WHEREAS the Government of Canada has stated: "*we are serious about climate change*" and "*smart investments in transit help connection communities We will continue to work with communities and invest in the infrastructure they need today and into the future*";

WHEREAS Abacus data has indicated that Canadians are focused on building transit to reduce congestion and connect communities;

WHEREAS the Canadian Transport Commission main finding at public hearings in 1977 was that there should be no further reductions to passenger rail services;

WHEREAS the frequency of VIA trains running in Canada has been reduced significantly since 1977, causing a subsequent significant drop in ridership;

WHEREAS there is a need for balanced transportation with more using transit and less using automobiles;

WHEREAS the changing demographic relating to house prices, housing affordability will require further expansions of transit;

WHEREAS there is a need to visit tourist sites located along rail lines;

WHEREAS the annual cost of congestion to the Greater Toronto Hamilton Area economy alone is between \$7.5 and \$11 billion;

WHEREAS there are 10 million more vehicles on the road today than there were in 2000; and

WHEREAS the City of Stratford requests the support of this resolution from all communities served by VIA;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of The City of Stratford recommends to the Government of Canada to adequately fund and fully support VIA Rail Canada in increasing the frequency, reliability and speed of VIA rail service in 2022 and successive years.

 Adopted by City Council of The Corporation of the City of Stratford on November 14, 2022

The Corporation of the City of Stratford, P.O. Box 818, Stratford ON N5A 6W1
 Attention: City Clerk, 519-271-0250 extension 5329, clerks@stratford.ca

From: [Rundle, Steffanie](#)
To: clerks@eastwillimbury.ca; [Clerks](#)
Subject: Notice of Road Construction, Town of Newmarket and Town of East Gwillimbury
Date: May 4, 2023 9:46:08 AM
Attachments: [Yonge St., Davis Dr. to Green Lane Spring 2023 Postcard.pdf](#)

CAUTION: This email originated outside of the Town of Newmarket. **DO NOT** click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and trusted content.

Good morning:

Attached is a copy of the spring postcard for the **Yonge Street from Davis Drive to Green Lane improvement project, in the Towns of Newmarket and East Gwillimbury**. The postcard is provided to you in advance of notification to the public.

The postcard advises local area residents, stakeholders and business owners that phase one of construction is starting this month and includes advance construction work; phase two is road widening and reconstruction and is expected to start in fall 2024.

The road will remain open to through traffic and access to homes and businesses will be maintained. From spring 2023 to fall 2024, traffic impacts will include:

- Lane reductions during off-peak travel times
- Temporary sidewalk and bus stop relocations
- Temporary lane shifts to move traffic around work areas

As with all road construction projects, work may be rescheduled due to weather. York Region will provide advance notice whenever possible.

It may be appropriate for your office to forward this notice to elected officials and staff as required.

The postcard will be mailed to homes and businesses surrounding the project area the week of May 8, 2023. The information is also being posted on york.ca/YongeStreet, social media and emailed to the subscriber list.

If you have any questions about this project, please contact:

- Salim Alibhai, Director of Capital Planning and Delivery, at 1-877-464-9675 ext. 75229 or salim.alibhai@york.ca
- Jamal Ahmed, Project Manager, at 1-877-464-9675 ext. 75955 or jamal.ahmed@york.ca

For general inquiries, please contact Public Works at 1-877-464-9675 ext. 75000 or via email at transportation@york.ca

Sincerely,

Our working hours may be different. Please don't feel obliged to respond outside of your scheduled working hours. Let's work together to help foster healthy work-life boundaries.

Steffanie Rundle (she/her) | Communications and Community Engagement Specialist
Strategic Initiatives and Programs, Public Works

The Regional Municipality of York | 17250 Yonge Street | Newmarket, ON L3Y 6Z1
C:905-716-7550 | Steffanie.Rundle@york.ca | york.ca | [Chat with me on Teams](#)

Our Mission: **Working together to serve our thriving communities – today and tomorrow**

Yonge Street Improvements from Davis Drive to Green Lane

in the Town of Newmarket and the Town of East Gwillimbury

Spring 2023

York Region is making improvements to Yonge Street from Davis Drive to Green Lane to accommodate growth and provide more options for travellers.

Some utility work is already complete. Phase one of construction is starting in May 2023 and includes installing retaining walls, noise barriers and temporary traffic signals, and relocating hydrolines, watermains and utilities. Phase two will be road widening and reconstruction work and is expected to start in fall 2024.

Once the project is complete in late 2026, travellers will benefit from:

- **More lanes** – a wider road, increased from four to six lanes
- **Active transportation** – new, wider sidewalks and bicycle lanes in the boulevards
- **Enhanced connectivity and safety** – upgraded traffic signals, brighter streetlights
- **Streetscaping** – greenery within the boulevards and medians
- **Road rehabilitation** – improved asphalt pavement for a comfortable drive and reliable roadway

From spring 2023 to fall 2024, traffic impacts will include:

- Lane reductions during off-peak travel times
- Temporary sidewalk and bus stop relocations
- Temporary lane shifts to move traffic around work areas

Business entrances will always be open. Signs will guide travellers through the corridor, including digital boards that show expected travel times.

We understand construction causes inconvenience and thank you for your patience. Please allow extra travel time and use traffic and navigation tools to plan ahead.

Accessible formats and additional communication supports are available upon request.



Open your phone's camera and point it at the code to learn more about the Yonge Street project.



Stay informed by:

Visiting york.ca/YongeStreet for project information and updates, answers to frequently asked questions, and to subscribe to our e newsletter

Following [@YorkRegionGovt](https://twitter.com/YorkRegionGovt) on Twitter and Facebook

YORK REGION TRANSPORTATION, PUBLIC WORKS

Phone: 1-877-464-9675 ext. 75000

TTY: 1-866-512-6228

Email: transportation@york.ca

After hours emergency: 1-877-464-9675 ext.75200

Project Update

Yonge Street from Davis Drive to Green Lane

Town of Newmarket and Town of East Gwillimbury

This email provides an update on the improvement project **Yonge Street from Davis Drive to Green Lane in the Town of Newmarket and Town of East Gwillimbury**.

Project update:

- Some utility work is already complete
- Phase one of construction is starting this month and includes installing retaining walls, noise barriers and temporary traffic signals, and relocating hydro lines, watermains and utilities
- Phase two will be road widening and reconstruction work and is expected to start in fall 2024

Duration:

- Expected project completion is late 2026

Impacts to travellers:

- Lane reductions during off-peak travel times
- Temporary sidewalk and bus stop relocations
- Temporary lane shifts to move traffic around work areas

Benefits to travellers:

- More lanes – a wider road, increased from four to six lanes
- Active transportation – new, wider sidewalks and bicycle lanes in the boulevards
- Enhanced connectivity and safety – upgraded traffic signals, brighter streetlights
- Streetscaping – greenery within the boulevards and medians
- Road rehabilitation – improved asphalt pavement for a comfortable drive and reliable roadway

For more information and project updates, visit www.york.ca/YongeStreet

If you have questions about this project, please contact:

- Jamal Ahmed, Project Manager, at 1-877-464-9675 ext. 75955 or jamal.ahmed@york.ca
- Andrew Chinn, Construction Administrator, at 1-877-464-9675 ext. 75962 or andrew.chinn@york.ca

For after-hours emergencies, please contact York Region's Roads and Traffic Operations Centre at 1-877-464-9675 ext. 75200.

For general inquiries, please contact Transportation Operations at 1-877-464-9675 ext. 75000 or via email at transportation@york.ca

Sincerely,

Our working hours may be different. Please don't feel obliged to respond outside of your scheduled working hours. Let's work together to help foster healthy work-life boundaries.

Steffanie Rundle (she/her) | Communications and Community Engagement Specialist

Strategic Initiatives and Programs, Public Works

The Regional Municipality of York | 17250 Yonge Street | Newmarket, ON L3Y 6Z1
C:905-716-7550 | Steffanie.Rundle@york.ca | york.ca | [Chat with me on Teams](#)

Our Mission: **Working together to serve our thriving communities – today and tomorrow**



From: [Downard-Parmer, Cathy](#)
To: [Public Works; Communication; Corporate Communications; Clerks; Customer Service; CYFS - Info; clerks@eastgwillimbury.ca; Engineering@eastgwillimbury.ca; East Gwillimbury Engineering Dept.; EGSeniorCommand@eastgwillimbury.ca; communications@eastgwillimbury.ca; Customerservice@eastgwillimbury.ca; EmergencyServicesAdmin@eastgwillimbury.ca; Laura Hanna Smith, Sharon M; Lun, Olivia](#)
Cc: [Smith, Sharon M; Lun, Olivia](#)
Subject: Notice of Water Pressure Testing – Field Test, Newmarket East Elevated Tank Upgrades
Date: May 4, 2023 4:10:56 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[Newmarket East Harry Walker Elevated Tank - Field Test Notice-May20231.pdf](#)

CAUTION: This email originated outside of the Town of Newmarket. **DO NOT** click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and trusted content.

Hello,

York Region is upgrading the Newmarket East Elevated Tank at 221 Harry Walker Parkway South in the Town of Newmarket. This work will extend the life of the elevated tank and ensure the continued supply of safe, quality drinking water in the community. As part of the work, we need to conduct water pressure testing at the northeast corner of Woodbine Avenue and Davis Drive, near the Bales Drive area, in the Town of East Gwillimbury.

When: Friday, May 5, 2023, between 9 a.m. and 12 p.m.

The business near the testing area may see a slight impact to the water pressure during the testing period. The field test work has been planned to be as brief as possible; however, if testing is longer than the times noted, York Region staff will notify the businesses and interested parties. There will be no interruption to water service during the testing period.

Please share this notice with the appropriate interested parties, Town of Newmarket and Town of East Gwillimbury staff and Council members.

As with all water and wastewater construction projects, work may be rescheduled due to weather and other conditions.

For more information about the project, contact:

Sharon Smith

Capital Project Manager

Public Works

York Region

905-955-4892

Sharonm.Smith@york.ca

Should you have any questions, please let me know.

Cathy Downard Parmer | (She/Her)

Communications and Community Engagement Specialist,

Strategic Initiatives and Programs, Public Works

 The Regional Municipality of York | 17250 Yonge Street | Newmarket, ON L3Y 6Z1

C: 416-688-2507 | cathy.downard-parmer@york.ca | york.ca

Our Mission: **Working together to serve our thriving communities – today and tomorrow**

My working hours may be different. Please do not feel obligated to reply outside of your scheduled working hours. Let's work together to help foster healthy work-life boundaries.



Please consider our environment before printing this email

WATER PRESSURE TESTING – FIELD TEST

Newmarket East Elevated Tank Upgrade

Town of Newmarket

The Regional Municipality of York is upgrading the Newmarket East Elevated Tank at 221 Harry Walker Parkway South in the Town of Newmarket. This work will extend the life of the elevated tank and ensure the continued supply of safe, quality drinking water in the community.

As part of the work, we need to conduct water pressure testing at the northeast corner of Woodbine Avenue and Davis Drive, near the Bales Drive area, in the Town of East Gwillimbury.

When: Friday, May 5, 2023, between 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

What do you need to know:

- There may be a slight impact to the water pressure during the testing period
- The field test work has been planned to be as brief as possible; however if testing is longer than the times noted, York Region staff will notify you
- There will be no interruption to water service during the testing period

As with all construction projects, some work may be re-scheduled due to weather or other conditions.

**If you have any questions,
please contact:**

Project Inquiries:

Sharon Smith
Capital Project Manager
Public Works
York Region
905-955-4892
Sharonm.Smith@york.ca

General Inquiries:

Access York
York Region
1-877-464-9675
accessyork@york.ca



York Region



Simon Granat
Legislative Coordinator
Town of Newmarket
395 Mulock Drive
P.O. Box 328 Station Main
Newmarket, ON L3Y 4X7
Email: sgranat@newmarket.ca
Tel: 905-953-5300 ext. 2207
Fax: 905-953-5100

May 5, 2023

Sent to: Advocacy@theperiodpurse.com

Dear Lianne Sinclair:

RE: Proclamation and Lighting Request – Menstrual Health Day – May 28, 2023

I am writing to advise that your proclamation request has been approved in accordance with the Council-approved [Proclamation, Lighting Request and Community Flag Raising Policy](#), and the Town of Newmarket will proclaim May 28, 2023 as Menstrual Health Day. Approved proclamations, lighting requests, and community flag raisings will be listed on the Town's website. Approved lighting and community flag raisings will also be communicated to the public through the Town's social media.

In addition, the Fred A. Lundy Bridge located on Water Street will be illuminated in red on May 26, 2023 to recognize Menstrual Health Day. Please note that the lighting will occur from sunset until 11:00 PM.

If you have any questions regarding the above, please feel free to contact the undersigned.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Simon Granat", written over a horizontal line.

Simon Granat
Legislative Coordinator



May 5, 2023

Sent to: Advocacy@theperiodpurse.com

Dear Lianne Sinclair:

RE: Proclamation and Lighting Request – Menstrual Health Day – May 28, 2023

On behalf of the Town of Newmarket Council I am pleased to recognize May 28, 2023 as Menstrual Health Day.

In addition, the Fred A. Lundy Bridge located on Water Street will be illuminated in red on May 26, 2023 from sunset until 11:00 PM.

Thank you for submitting your request and for your contributions to the community.

Yours sincerely,

John Taylor
Mayor



Simon Granat
Legislative Coordinator
Town of Newmarket
395 Mulock Drive
P.O. Box 328 Station Main
Newmarket, ON L3Y 4X7
Email: sgranat@newmarket.ca
Tel: 905-953-5300 ext. 2207
Fax: 905-953-5100

May 5, 2023

Sent to: tamara@biayr.org

Dear Tamara Little:

RE: Proclamation Request – Brain Injury Awareness Month – June, 2023

I am writing to advise that your proclamation request has been approved in accordance with the Council-approved [Proclamation, Lighting Request and Community Flag Raising Policy](#), and the Town of Newmarket will proclaim June, 2023 as Brain Injury Awareness Month. Approved proclamations, lighting requests, and community flag raisings will be listed on the Town's website. Approved lighting and community flag raisings will also be communicated to the public through the Town's social media.

If you have any questions regarding the above, please feel free to contact the undersigned.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Simon Granat", written over a horizontal line.

Simon Granat

Legislative Coordinator



May 5, 2023

Sent to: tamara@biayr.org

Dear Tamara Little:

RE: Proclamation Request – Brain Injury Awareness Month – June, 2023

On behalf of the Town of Newmarket Council I am pleased to recognize June 2023, as Brain Injury Awareness Month.

Thank you for submitting your request and for your contributions to the community.

Yours sincerely,

John Taylor
Mayor



Simon Granat
Legislative Coordinator
Town of Newmarket
395 Mulock Drive
P.O. Box 328 Station Main
Newmarket, ON L3Y 4X7
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Fax: 905-953-5100

May 5, 2023

Sent to: andrea@smartcommutecentralyork.ca

Dear Andrea Stephenson:

RE: Proclamation Request – Bike Day – June 1, 2023

I am writing to advise that your proclamation request has been approved in accordance with the Council-approved [Proclamation, Lighting Request and Community Flag Raising Policy](#), and the Town of Newmarket will proclaim June 1, 2023 as Bike Day. Approved proclamations, lighting requests, and community flag raisings will be listed on the Town's website. Approved lighting and community flag raisings will also be communicated to the public through the Town's social media.

If you have any questions regarding the above, please feel free to contact the undersigned.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Simon Granat", written over a horizontal line.

Simon Granat
Legislative Coordinator



May 5, 2023

Sent to: andrea@smartcommutecentralyork.ca

Dear Andrea Stephenson:

RE: Proclamation Request – Bike Day – June 1, 2023

On behalf of the Town of Newmarket Council I am pleased to recognize June 1, 2023 as Bike Day.

Thank you for submitting your request and for your contributions to the community.

Yours sincerely,

John Taylor
Mayor



DEBATES OF THE SENATE

2nd SESSION • 41st PARLIAMENT • VOLUME 149 • NUMBER 143

THE SENATE

Motion to Take Notice of the Month of June
as the Birth Month of Helen Keller
and to Recognize it as “Deaf-Blind
Awareness Month” Adopted

Speeches by:

The Honourable Yonah Martin
The Honourable Jim Munson
The Honourable Joan Fraser

Tuesday, May 26, 2015
Thursday, May 28, 2015

THE SENATE

Tuesday, May 26, 2015

THE SENATE

MOTION TO TAKE NOTICE OF THE MONTH OF JUNE AS THE BIRTH MONTH OF HELEN KELLER AND TO RECOGNIZE IT AS “DEAF-BLIND AWARENESS MONTH”—DEBATE ADJOURNED

Hon. Yonah Martin (Deputy Leader of the Government), pursuant to notice of May 6, 2015, moved:

That the Senate take notice of the month of June as the birth month of Helen Keller, who is renowned around the world for her perseverance and achievements and who, as a person who was deaf-blind, is an inspiration to us all and, in particular, to members of the deaf-blind community; and

That the Senate recognize the month of June as “Deaf-Blind Awareness Month”, to promote public awareness of deaf-blind issues and to recognize the contributions of Canadians who are deaf-blind.

She said: Honourable senators, I rise today to ask for your support to recognize the month of June as Deaf-Blind Awareness Month in Canada. I had the honour to introduce this motion back in 2013, but the session ended prior to its adoption. Therefore, today, Senator Jim Munson and I are pleased to bring forward this motion once again.

In May, we recognize National Vision Health Month as a result of the leadership of our former colleague Senator Asha Seth. This motion to recognize June as Deaf-Blind Awareness Month will build even greater awareness about those who live with deaf-blindness and will celebrate the life of their greatest inspiration, Helen Keller.

June 27 is Helen Keller Day, which was enacted by President Jimmy Carter in 1980, on the day of her birthday. As many of you know, Helen Keller’s journey is an inspiration to many, as she triumphed over adversity and went from a world of silence and darkness to vision and advocacy.

Honourable senators, I rise once again in the hope that we recognize deaf-blind awareness and the challenges deaf-blind citizens experience in Canada from coast to coast. I will quote former Ontario MPP David Young, whose private member’s bill created Deaf-Blind Awareness Month in Ontario, to describe why a month like this is so essential:

. . . I believe this legislation is a step in the right direction to further improve the lives of deaf-blind Ontarians. With June declared Deaf-Blind Awareness Month, it will appear on every politician’s calendar and many will make that extra effort to promote this cause in their communities. Why? Because it is the right thing to do.

Honourable senators, we now have the opportunity to recognize the month of June as we take important steps in raising awareness among Canadians. In doing so, we recognize the strength, courage and perseverance that deaf-blind people show every day in living their lives and facing their daily challenges. A month dedicated to honouring them will mean so much to them, their families and those who work closely with them.

The number of people who live with deaf-blind challenges in Canada is significant. Statistics Canada reports that there are approximately 69,700 Canadians over the age of 12 living with the dual disability of deafness and blindness or a combination of both vision and hearing losses that limit their everyday activities. Only 3,000 of these have been acknowledged by the organizations providing intervenor services.

I would once again like to describe three important terms to better understand the deaf-blind community. The first is a person with deaf-blindness, which is unique and separate from deafness or blindness on their own. A person living with this disability is an individual with a considerable degree of loss in sight and hearing, the combination of which results in significant difficulties in assessing information and in pursuing educational, vocational, recreational and social goals. An individual with the combined losses of hearing and vision requires specialized services, including adapted communication methods.

The second term is “intervenor.” Intervenors are specially trained to act as the eyes and ears of an individual who is deaf-blind. The intervenor’s job can include providing access to information — auditory, visual or tactile — by means of a variety of communication methods, acting as a sighted guide. Some methods of communication include tactile signing systems, Braille, large print and communication boards. In fact, I met an intervenor at the May event on the Hill and was amazed at how the hand becomes a typewriter, so to speak. The role they play is essential to a deaf-blind person being able to access the world — to be able to see and experience life through these intervenors.

The third item is “intervenor service,” the provision of a professional service, paid or voluntary, that facilitates interactions of persons who are deaf-blind with other people, places and environment. Our former colleague Senator Vim Kochhar cofounded the Canadian Helen Keller Centre and Rotary Cheshire Homes, which are two examples of excellent facilities. In fact, Rotary Cheshire Homes is said to be the only facility in the world where those who are deaf-blind can live independently.

I wish to recognize Senator Jim Munson who is also a champion of this cause and the co-sponsor of this motion once again.

Honourable senators, there are many deaf-blind persons around the world who have overcome adversity and achieved leaps and bounds like Helen Keller. The determination of people living with deaf-blindness and all those who dedicate their time to working with them leave me inspired. It is my hope that we can unanimously pass this motion to endorse June as Deaf-Blind Awareness Month. I urge all honourable senators to support this motion.

Thank you.

Hon. Jim Munson: Honourable senators, it is my pleasure today to express support for Senator Martin’s motion to recognize June as Deaf-Blind Awareness Month. The purpose of this motion, as Senator Martin put it, is to raise public awareness of the issues impacting people with deaf-blindness and to recognize the contribution of these people to our society.

Helen Keller was born in June, so it is appropriate to select the month to direct our attention and energies to learning about this

particular disability and inciting Canadians to do the same. For many of us, the inspiring story of Helen Keller is a reason we know anything at all not only about the challenges of being deaf-blind, but also about the human capacity to overcome them. This woman, after all, broke through the walls of limited vision and near silence to establish connections with people, her community, the world and future generations like us. A writer, an activist and a humanitarian, Helen Keller is today, almost 50 years after her death, an example of hope, heroism and the reason a motion like Senator Martin's should be supported.

Overcoming adversity is, by nature, difficult. Overcoming adversity alone — well, I doubt that is even possible.

We are fortunate as parliamentarians to have a public profile. We are well-positioned to nudge social issues like those related to deaf-blindness into the light. Earlier today, we saw former Senator Asha Seth with us. Look what she has done, as well, with her inspiration and passion in this regard. She is still passionate about the issue, as we look at her good work at the Canadian Helen Keller Centre.

We talk about our good friends. There was Vim and now there's Jim. Vim Kochhar has already cleared the path for us. You certainly couldn't say no to Senator Kochhar. For more than 30 years, he has been helping those with deaf-blindness through activities that bring real, meaningful improvements to their lives. In the 1980s, he was instrumental in raising the necessary funds and bringing plans to provide housing for deaf-blind people to fruition. As Senator Martin said, I'm referring to the Rotary Cheshire Homes. It is the only facility in the world that specifically enables deaf-blind people to live independently.

The Great Valentine Gala also bears Vim's distinct stamp. Since 1984, he has been doing the front-line work, putting on this annual fundraising event to benefit people with disabilities.

Currently, there are almost 70,000 deaf-blind people over the age of 12 in Canada. The prevalence of this dual disability is surprising to me. In part, that is because I know little about deaf-blindness; I need to know more. I work so much in so many other areas dealing with disabilities that this is the one that caught my imagination. It is the influence of senators like Senators Martin, Kochhar and Seth that has spurred me on to talk about this particular area of life.

I hate to look at the word "dis-." I look at the "ability." I don't like that "dis-" word, but it seems to be in our vocabulary.

I understand that disabilities limit people in their everyday activities. Here, I can apply what I know of some other disabilities to appreciate the emotional, financial and other hardships these limitations create. I can also apply my insights into the experiences of people with disabilities to appreciate that limitations like these betray what our society is failing to do in the interests of deaf-blind people.

• (1540)

As Senator Martin has said, only 3,000 deaf-blind people have been identified as clients of organizations that help them interact with other people, places and environments. That is 3,000 out of 70,000 deaf-blind people. Think about it. In terms of the fundamental rights we all have to live as fully as possible and to realize our potential, this is a travesty.

In terms of what Senator Martin is proposing in her motion to recognize June as deaf-blind awareness month, these numbers are a starting point for us all. We can begin to change the odds by

learning about deaf-blindness and the real life experiences of people with this distinct disability.

Unwilling to simply tuck the few facts I know away, I'm inspired by what I glean from them. It is clear to see there is so much work ahead for us if we are to set this imbalance right.

Senator Martin, I thank you personally for your motion and your determination to get it passed. It is simple. I hope we can do it faster than my autism bill, which took three years, but was still worth it. Every minute, every day, it is worth it to do these things, because people do pay attention.

If I can get in a plug on autism, there is more money than ever before in the last decade and people are doing better things. The same thing should be happening here. Your motion is a simple and straightforward request.

I am sure all honourable senators can see clearly the moral and social purpose of this measure. I urge you to join us in supporting it.

Thank you very much.

(On motion of Senator Fraser, debate adjourned.)

Thursday, May 28, 2015

THE SENATE

MOTION TO TAKE NOTICE OF THE MONTH OF JUNE AS THE BIRTH MONTH OF HELEN KELLER AND TO RECOGNIZE IT AS "DEAF-BLIND AWARENESS MONTH" ADOPTED

On the Order:

Resuming debate on the motion of the Honourable Senator Martin, seconded by the Honourable Senator Munson:

That the Senate take notice of the month of June as the birth month of Helen Keller, who is renowned around the world for her perseverance and achievements and who, as a person who was deaf-blind, is an inspiration to us all and, in particular, to members of the deaf-blind community; and

That the Senate recognize the month of June as "Deaf-Blind Awareness Month", to promote public awareness of deaf-blind issues and to recognize the contributions of Canadians who are deaf-blind.

Hon. Joan Fraser (Deputy Leader of the Opposition): Honourable senators, I am very pleased to speak in favour of Senator Martin's motion that we recognize the month of June as speech and hearing awareness month — I'm sorry, as deaf-blind awareness month. Speech and hearing is a separate matter that I'm going to get to in a moment. It is deaf-blind awareness month.

I was deeply moved, as I'm sure we all were, to listen to Senator Martin and Senator Munson as they spoke about something most of us probably did not know, which is the great numbers of people in Canada who suffer from deaf-blindness — nearly 70,000 Canadians, of whom apparently only maybe 3,000 are enrolled in programs getting the help they need.

The month of June was chosen because it's Helen Keller's birth month. I am sure we all remember, most of us, seeing years ago

now the incredible film, *The Miracle Worker*, showing how Helen Keller, a child who was blind and deaf and lost, living basically like an animal, was saved by the work of what we now call an intervenor, Anne Sullivan. Thanks to that intervention, that long patient work, Helen Keller was able to overcome the terrible isolation in which she lived and become a beacon of hope and an inspiration for people all over the world, not just because she learned to speak and talk but because she had, once she was able to show it, such a wonderful mind that she could apply to the great issues of the day. She was truly an inspiring figure.

Not everybody is born with the mighty brain that she was able to put to such good use. Not everybody has the good fortunate to have parents who can afford to have a full-time carer, as Helen Keller did, to bring her out of her prison. That's why we need to take a collective sense of responsibility for helping people who suffer from this unimaginably lonely condition. They may not all be Helen Kellers, but every one of them can contribute to the betterment of our society, and it begins with awareness.

I think it would be really terrific if today, on our last sitting in May, we recognize June as deaf-blind awareness month. But before we leave the month of May, I would like to remind all colleagues that the month of May has been designated by Speech-Language and Audiology Canada as speech and hearing month. Speech-Language and Audiology Canada is an organization representing about 6,000 professionals in the field of speech and hearing loss across Canada. Every year, in the month of May, they have a specific campaign to raise awareness and get help for some element of speech and hearing difficulties.

This year, I think we in the Senate may have a particular interest. This year, their focus was on communication, health and aging. I don't know how many of us know that people who have hearing loss are two to five times more likely than others to develop dementia. We know that hearing loss is the third most prevalent chronic condition, behind arthritis and hypertension, and yet only one in five people who could benefit from a hearing aid actually uses one.

To have lost your hearing or never to have had your hearing is not as bad as to have lost both your hearing and your sight or never to have had your hearing and your sight, but to have lost your hearing is also a terrible factor of isolation. I sometimes think that if I had to choose between the two, I would almost rather be blind.

We see it. We sometimes feel it ourselves. As we age, we're more and more likely to feel it. When you're deaf, it's very difficult to be part of the communications network of the people around you. It starts out with not quite catching what they say, not quite understanding the joke because you didn't quite get the punch line, and then it progresses until there you are, surrounded by people who think you look normal but cut off from them by an invisible wall.

I'm sure most of us here today remember our former colleague Senator Jean-Robert Gauthier, who was my seatmate for several years. He was deaf, and he was very much alone in the Senate Chamber despite his years of extraordinary parliamentary service. He was functionally alone here until the Senate figured out a computer system that would allow him to receive the stenographer's debates on a computer screen. The whole world opened up to him.

• (1610)

Even so, I mean, I respected Senator Gauthier and I liked him, but I can't say I communicated much with him. I was sitting beside a man who was incapable of hearing a word I said. Then I had a colleague who used to send me written jokes and I started passing them on to Senator Gauthier. He could read — oh boy, could he read — and his world lit up. He would giggle and that brought home to me, as much as anything ever has, how alone he was when he was deprived of the written word, even though he could see everything.

Thanks to help from people like the members of Speech-Language & Audiology Canada, some people can achieve miraculous progress. I once met a man who had been born totally deaf and who spoke fluent English, French and Spanish. I think he was working on his fourth language when I met him.

All things are possible if you have the determination, the resources and the talent. But how many of us have all of those things and, in particular, how many have the resources they need?

So let us move forward into June, thinking about deaf-blindness. I thank Senator Martin and Senator Munson again for bringing this terrible condition to our attention. But let us also think about the month of May. Remember that the campaign this year was about communication and aging, which is something we all need to pay attention to, colleagues.

Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

Hon. Yonah Martin (Deputy Leader of the Government): I thank the Honourable Senator Fraser for her statement, as well as her support, and to all honourable senators for supporting the motion. I also wish to acknowledge once again Senator Jim Munson for being the co-sponsor of this motion.

The Hon. the Speaker: Is it your pleasure, honourable senators, to adopt the motion?

Hon. Senators: Agreed.

(Motion agreed to.)



Simon Granat
Legislative Coordinator
Town of Newmarket
395 Mulock Drive
P.O. Box 328 Station Main
Newmarket, ON L3Y 4X7
Email: sgranat@newmarket.ca
Tel: 905-953-5300 ext. 2207
Fax: 905-953-5100

May 5, 2023

Sent to: k.madho@deafblindontario.com

Dear Karen Madho:

RE: Proclamation and Lighting Request – National Deafblind Awareness Month

I am writing to advise that your proclamation request has been approved in accordance with the Council-approved [Proclamation, Lighting Request and Community Flag Raising Policy](#), and the Town of Newmarket will proclaim June, 2023 as National Deafblind Awareness Month. Approved proclamations, lighting requests, and community flag raisings will be listed on the Town's website. Approved lighting and community flag raisings will also be communicated to the public through the Town's social media.

In addition, the Fred A. Lundy Bridge located on Water Street will be illuminated in blue on June 1, 2023 to recognize National Deafblind Awareness Month. Please note that the lighting will occur from sunset until 11:00 PM.

If you have any questions regarding the above, please feel free to contact the undersigned.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Simon Granat", written over a horizontal line.

Simon Granat
Legislative Coordinator



May 5, 2023

May 5, 2023

Sent to: k.madho@deafblindontario.com

Dear Karen Madho:

RE: Proclamation and Lighting Request – National Deafblind Awareness Month

On behalf of the Town of Newmarket Council I am pleased to recognize June 2023 as National Deafblind Awareness Month.

In addition, the Fred A. Lundy Bridge located on Water Street will be illuminated in blue on June 1, 2023 from sunset until 11:00 PM.

Thank you for submitting your request and for your contributions to the community.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Taylor".

John Taylor
Mayor