



Council Information Package

Members of City Council may request that an information item be placed on the next available Committee of the Whole agenda.

Date: August 7, 2026

Contact: clerks@burlington.ca

Pages

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Village of Merrickville Wolford

317 Brock Street W PO Box 340
Merrickville, ON K0G 1N0
T: 613-269-4791
W: Merrickville-wolford.ca

August 4, 2026

Re: Resolution of Support - Sustainable Provincial Fire Services Funding

Please be advised that the Council of the Corporation of the Village of Merrickville-Wolford, at its Regular Meeting on July 27, 2026, passed the following motion regarding the Resolution of Support - Sustainable Provincial Fire Services Funding:

Resolution #: R-17-07-27-26

Moved by: Councillor Maitland

Seconded by: Councillor Ireland

THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Village of Merrickville-Wolford receive for information the resolutions from the Township of Terrace Bay and the Town of Smiths Falls regarding the request for sustainable provincial grant funding for fire services;

AND FURTHER THAT Council does hereby endorse and support the request as presented and directs staff to circulate the resolution of support to the identified parties within the resolutions.

Carried.

If you have any questions regarding the above resolution, please do not hesitate to contact me by email at clerk@merrickville-wolford.ca.

Thank you.



Julia McCaugherty-Jansman
Clerk



The Corporation of the Township of Terrace Bay

P.O. Box 40, 1 Selkirk Avenue, Terrace Bay, ON, P0T 2W0
Phone: (807) 825-3315 **Fax:** (807) 825-9576

June 17, 2026

Premier Doug Ford

premier@ontario.ca

Dear Mr. Ford,

At the Township of Terrace Bay's Regular Council Meeting held Monday June 15, 2026, the following resolution of support was passed:

RE: Resolution of Support – Sustainable Provincial Grant Funding For Fire Service

Resolution: CR142–2026

Moved by: Councillor Webb

Seconded by: Councillor Dube

WHEREAS Municipal fire services in Ontario operate under legislative authority established by the province through statutes, regulations, codes and prescribed standards governing training, equipment, certification, inspection, and operation requirements.

AND WHEREAS municipalities are responsible for implementing and maintaining compliance with these provincially mandated requirements primarily through local property taxation;

AND WHEREAS current provincial fire service grant programs are available to both full-time and volunteer fire departments across Ontario and are distributed through competitive application processes that may not fully reflect the differing financial and administrative capacities of urban and rural municipalities, highlighting the need for a more balanced approach to funding that supports all fire services equitably;

AND WHEREAS volunteer firefighters represent approximately 70-75% of firefighters in Ontario protecting the majority of communities across the province and, particularly in rural areas, are frequently the first emergency responders to arrive on scene ahead of other emergency services;

AND WHEREAS other provincially regulated emergency services, including policing and paramedic services, receive stable and predictable provincial funding contributions or cost-sharing arrangements;



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AND WHEREAS the absence of a comparable and stable funding model for fire services creates a structural imbalance between provincial regulatory authority and municipal financial responsibility;

AND WHEREAS reliance on competitive funding creates budget uncertainty, limits long-term financial planning, and may not reflect the actual operational needs of fire services, contributing to instability, reduced preparedness and the reduction of services within a critical emergency response sector;

AND WHEREAS stable and predictable funding is essential to maintain emergency preparedness, firefighter safety, service sustainability, and equitable protection for residents regardless of municipal size or tax base;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Township of Terrace Bay respectfully calls upon the Province of Ontario to transition the current practice of competitive provincial fire service grant programs into a permanent, stable, and predictable non-competitive provincial funding program that supports municipalities in meeting provincially legislated fire protection requirements;

AND FURTHER THAT this funding be structured to provide equitable and predictable annual support for operational readiness and training costs associated with volunteer, composite and full-time fire departments across Ontario;

AND FURTHER THAT the annual value of this funding be reviewed and adjusted to more appropriately reflect the level of provincial funding support currently provided to other provincially regulated emergency services, including policing and paramedic services;

AND FURTHER THAT this resolution be circulated for endorsement to:

- All municipalities
- Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs
- Ontario Professional Fire Fighters Association
- Ontario Volunteer Fire Fighter Association
- Association of Municipalities of Ontario
- Rural Ontario Municipal Association

AND FURTHER THAT, upon endorsement, this resolution be submitted to:

- Lise Vaugois, MPP Thunder Bay Superior North
- The Honourable Michael Kerzner, Minister of the Solicitor General
- The Honourable Kinga Surma, Minister of Infrastructure
- The Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
- The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario



The Corporation of the Township of Terrace Bay

P.O. Box 40, 1 Selkirk Avenue, Terrace Bay, ON, P0T 2W0

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Sincerely,

J. Hall
Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk

CC:

MPP Thunder Bay Superior North, Lise Vaugeois – lvaugeois-co@ndp.on.ca

Minister of the Solicitor General – Michael.kerzner@pc.ola.org

Minister of Infrastructure – kinga.surma@pc.ola.org

Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing – rob.flack@pc.ola.org

AMO – resolutions@amo.on.ca

NOMA – admin@noma.on.ca

ROMA – roma@roma.on.ca

OAFC – info@oafc.on.ca

OPFFA – admin@ontariofirefighters.org

OVFFA – president@ffao.on.ca

All Northern Ontario Municipalities



SMITHS FALLS

RISE AT THE FALLS

June 17th, 2026

The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
premier@ontario.ca

Re: Support for Sustainable Provincial Grant Funding for Fire Services in Ontario

Please be advised that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Smiths Falls passed the following resolution at their June 15th, 2026 Council meeting:

The Council of the Town of Smiths Falls respectfully calls upon the Province of Ontario to transition the current practice of competitive provincial fire service grant programs into a permanent, stable, and predictable non-competitive provincial funding program that supports municipalities in meeting provincially legislated fire protection requirements;

AND FURTHER THAT this funding be structured to provide equitable and predictable annual support for operational readiness and training costs associated with volunteer, composite and full-time fire departments across Ontario;

AND FURTHER THAT the annual value of this funding be reviewed and adjusted to more appropriately reflect the level of provincial funding support currently provided to other provincially regulated emergency services, including policing and paramedic services;

AND FURTHER THAT this resolution be circulated to:

- Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs
- Ontario Professional Fire Fighters Association
- Ontario Volunteer Fire Fighters Association
- Association of Municipalities of Ontario
- Rural Ontario Municipal Association
- Scott Reid, M.P. Lanark-Frontenac
- John Jordan, M.P.P. Lanark-Frontenac-Kingston
- Minister of the Solicitor General



SMITHS FALLS

RISE AT THE FALLS

- *Minister of Infrastructure*
- *Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing*
- *All Ontario Municipalities*

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions and/or concerns.

Yours truly,

Kerry Costello
Town Clerk

cc: Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs
Ontario Professional Fire Fighters Association
Ontario Volunteer Fire Fighters Association
Association of Municipalities of Ontario
Rural Ontario Municipal Association
Scott Reid, M.P. Lanark-Frontenac
John Jordan, M.P.P. Lanark-Frontenac-Kingston
Minister of the Solicitor General
Minister of Infrastructure
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
All Ontario Municipalities

From: [EA Modernization \(MECP\)](#)
To: [EA Modernization \(MECP\)](#)
Subject: New regulation to focus municipal environmental assessment requirements
Date: Thursday, August 6, 2026 3:47:09 PM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good afternoon,

The Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) is continuing to modernize the environmental assessment framework by creating a [streamlined environmental assessment regulation for municipal infrastructure projects](#) that will help municipalities deliver critical infrastructure faster while protecting the environment.

Effective January 1, 2027, the new regulation will replace the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (EA) with the Municipal Project Assessment Process (MPAP) for more complex municipal infrastructure projects. The new approach maintains strong environmental oversight while streamlining requirements and providing a clearer, more predictable process. For designated projects, public review and consultation can be completed in as little as five months.

The regulation also introduces an Archaeological Assessment Process (AAP) for certain other projects to identify potential impacts to archaeological resources and maintain opportunities for input from Indigenous communities.

Over the coming months, the ministry will develop guidance and work with Ontario municipalities and the municipal development sector to support implementation of the new framework and a smooth transition ahead of the January 1, 2027, effective date.

As part of our ongoing efforts to modernize the environmental assessment program, the ministry will be reviewing the remaining Class EA processes and will consult on any proposed changes before they are made. Streamlining approvals while maintaining strong environmental protections is part of the government's plan to protect Ontario by supporting housing, accelerating infrastructure delivery and driving economic growth across the province.

More information about these changes, including which projects will be subject to the new requirements, process details and transition provisions, is available on the [Environmental Registry of Ontario](#). Until the new regulation comes into force, the Municipal Class EA process will continue to apply.

If you have questions, please contact the EA Modernization team at: EAmmodernization.mecp@ontario.ca.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "A. Cross". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter "A" being large and prominent.

Annamaria Cross

Director, Environmental Assessment and Permissions Modernization Branch
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks

**Ministry of
Citizenship and
Multiculturalism**

Office of the Minister

56 Wellesley St. W.
14th Floor
Toronto, Ontario M5S 2S3
Tel: 416-212-0039

**Ministère des
Affaires civiques et
du Multiculturalisme**

Bureau du ministre

56 rue Wellesley Ouest
14^e étage
Toronto (Ontario) M5S 2S3
Tél. : 416-212-0039



La traduction anglaise suit.

English version begins on page 3.

6 août 2026

Mesdames et Messieurs les présidentes et présidents de conseil :

Je vous écris pour vous présenter une mise à jour concernant l'échéance du 1^{er} janvier 2027 visant la désignation des biens patrimoniaux non désignés (« inscrits ») figurant aux registres municipaux du patrimoine. Je remercie toutes les personnes qui ont communiqué avec nous pour faire valoir leurs points de vue à ce sujet.

Notre gouvernement demeure résolu à veiller à ce que les biens patrimoniaux qui revêtent une importance pour les collectivités de l'ensemble de l'Ontario soient protégés et préservés, tout en appuyant la croissance à venir de la province et les efforts continus du gouvernement pour construire plus de logements.

Les modifications apportées à la *Loi sur le patrimoine de l'Ontario* (LPO) dans le cadre de la *Loi de 2022 visant à accélérer la construction de plus de logements* exigeaient que les municipalités désignent ou retirent les biens inscrits à leur registre du patrimoine au plus tard le 1^{er} janvier 2025.

En réponse aux demandes des municipalités, la *Loi de 2024 sur la protection des propriétaires de logements* a reporté cette échéance au 1^{er} janvier 2027, afin de permettre aux municipalités de publier un avis d'intention de désigner (AID) avant que les biens inscrits de longue date ne doivent être retirés des registres.

Ce report a accordé aux municipalités deux années supplémentaires pour évaluer les biens inscrits aux registres du patrimoine, tout en appuyant un cadre clair et uniforme visant à réduire les pressions administratives.

L'échéance reportée du 1^{er} janvier 2027 demeure en vigueur, et je n'ai aucune intention de la reporter de nouveau.

J'encourage les municipalités à continuer de faire de la désignation des biens patrimoniaux une priorité et de progresser dans leurs décisions afin de préserver le patrimoine culturel au

.../2

sein de leurs collectivités.

Je vous invite également à tirer parti des outils et des ressources disponibles pour appuyer votre travail essentiel, notamment la Série Protégeons le patrimoine ontarien qui offre des conseils pratiques et des ressources concernant la conservation du patrimoine en Ontario, ainsi qu'un guide exhaustif sur la [désignation des biens patrimoniaux](#).

L'équipe du ministère demeure à votre disposition pour répondre à vos questions concernant la désignation de biens en vertu de la LPO, et vous pouvez communiquer avec elle à l'adresse heritage@ontario.ca.

Notre gouvernement reconnaît les efforts soutenus des municipalités et de l'ensemble du secteur du patrimoine dans le cadre de la réalisation de ce travail, et il continuera de suivre la mise en œuvre de ces modifications.

Veuillez agréer mes salutations distinguées.



L'hon. Graham McGregor
Ministre des Affaires civiques et du Multiculturalisme

English text follows.

August 6, 2026

Dear Heads of Council:

I am writing to provide an update on the January 1, 2027, deadline for designating non-designated ('listed') heritage properties on municipal heritage registers. Thank you to all who wrote in to share their considerations on this matter.

Our government remains committed to ensuring that heritage properties that are important to communities across Ontario are protected and conserved, while also supporting Ontario's future growth and our government's continued efforts to build more housing.

Amendments to the *Ontario Heritage Act* (OHA) introduced as part of the *More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022*, required municipalities to designate or remove listed properties on their heritage registers by January 1, 2025.

In response to requests from municipalities, the *Homeowner Protection Act, 2024*, extended the deadline to January 1, 2027, for municipalities to issue a Notice of Intention to Designate (NOID) before legacy listed properties must be removed from registers.

The extension provided municipalities an additional two years to evaluate properties on heritage registers, while supporting a clear and consistent framework intended to alleviate administrative pressures.

The extended timeline of January 1, 2027, remains in place and I have no intention of extending the deadline.

I encourage municipalities to continue prioritizing and moving forward with designation decisions to conserve cultural heritage in their communities.

I also encourage you to leverage the tools and resources available to support you and this important work, including the Ontario Heritage Tool Kit, which provides practical guidance and resources on heritage conservation in Ontario, as well as a comprehensive guide to [Designating Heritage Properties](#).

The ministry team is also available to answer any questions you may have related to designation of properties under the OHA and can be reached at heritage@ontario.ca.

Our government acknowledges the ongoing efforts of municipalities and the broader heritage sector in undertaking this work and will continue to monitor the implementation of these changes.

Sincerely,



Hon. Graham McGregor
Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism