



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: September 18, 2026

Contact: clerks@burlington.ca

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SUBJECT: Integrity Commissioner's Periodic Report June 1, 2023, to April 30, 2025

TO: Council Information Package

FROM: Legal and Legislative Services
Legislative Services

Report Number: LLS-38-26

Wards Affected: N/A

Date to Committee: N/A

Date to Council: N/A

CIP Date: 9/18/2026

Memo Details

This report transmits the Periodic Report June 1, 2023, to April 30, 2025, from Principles Integrity, Integrity Commissioner for the City of Burlington, attached as Appendix A.

Following a period of staff transition, the report is being brought forward at this time for Council's information.

The Integrity Commissioner is appointed to act in an independent manner on the application of the Code of Good Governance and other rules and procedures governing the ethical behaviour of Members of Council.

The city's website includes a dedicated page for the [Integrity Commissioner](#).

Author:

Mike de Rond
City Clerk
mike.derond@burlington.ca

Attachments:

- A. Integrity Commissioner's Periodic Report, Principles Integrity – dated June 5, 2025

Memo Approval:

All memos are reviewed and approved by the Commissioner, Chief Financial Officer, Commissioner of Legal and Legislative Services/City Solicitor, Director Corporate Communications & Engagement, and the Chief Administrative Officer.

Integrity Commissioner's Periodic Report
City of Burlington

The purpose of an Integrity Commissioner's periodic report is to provide the public with the opportunity to understand the ethical well-being of the Municipality's elected and appointed officials through the lens of our activities. Principles *Integrity* is pleased to submit this report, covering the period from June 1, 2023, the date of our last report, through April 30, 2025.

About Us:

Principles *Integrity* is a partnership focused on accountability and governance matters for municipalities. Principles *Integrity* currently serves as Integrity Commissioner (and as Lobbyist Registrar/Closed Meeting Investigator/Municipal Ombudsman for some clients) in over 60 Ontario municipalities and other public bodies.

The Role of Integrity Commissioner, Generally:

An Integrity Commissioner's statutory role is to carry out, in an independent manner, the following functions:

- Advice on ethical policy development
- Education on matters relating to ethical behaviour
- Providing on request, advice and opinions to Council, members of Council and members of Local Boards
- Providing a mechanism to receive inquiries (often referred to as 'complaints') which allege a breach of ethical responsibilities
- Resolving complaints informally, where appropriate, and
- Investigating, reporting and making recommendations to Council on those complaints that cannot be resolved informally, while being guided by Council's codes, policies and protocols.

This might contrast with the popular yet incorrect view that the role of the Integrity Commissioner is primarily to hold elected officials to account; to investigate alleged transgressions and to recommend 'punishment'. The better view is that Integrity Commissioners serve as an independent resource, coach, and guide, focused on enhancing the municipality's ethical culture.

The operating philosophy of Principles *Integrity* recites this perspective. We believe there is one overarching objective for a municipality in appointing an Integrity Commissioner, and that is to raise the public's perception that its elected and appointed officials conduct themselves with integrity:

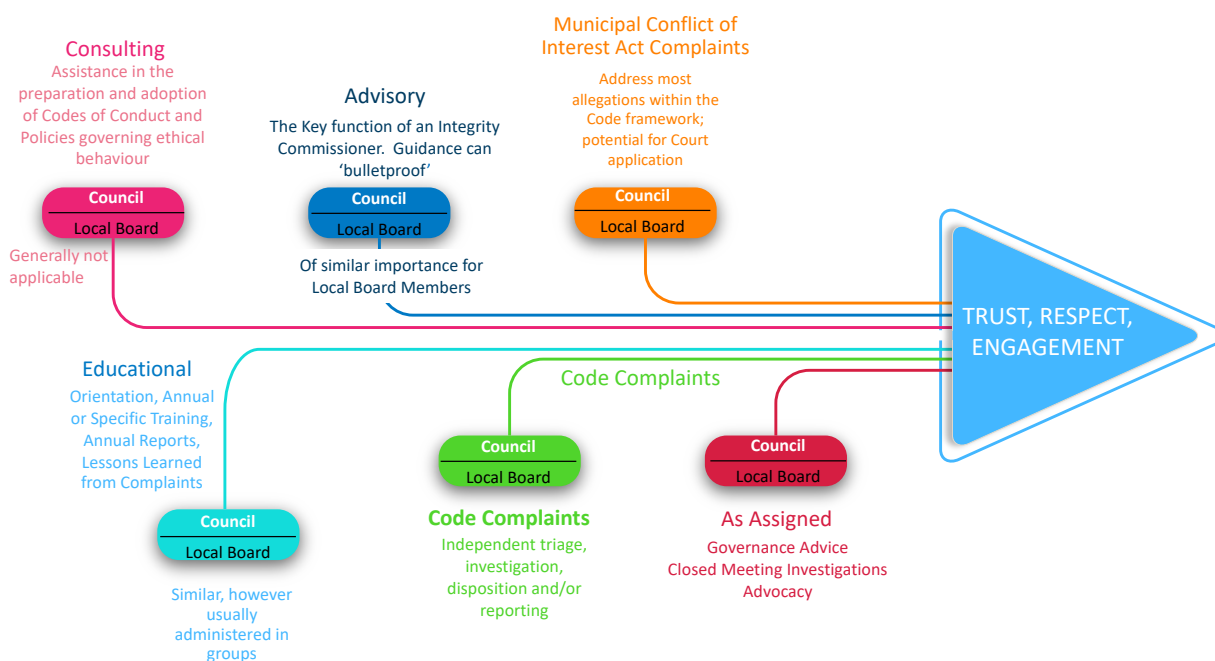
The perception that a community's elected representatives are operating with integrity

Principles *Integrity*

is the glue which sustains local democracy. We live in a time when citizens are skeptical of their elected representatives at all levels. The overarching objective in appointing an Integrity Commissioner is to ensure the existence of robust and effective policies, procedures, and mechanisms that enhance the citizen's perception that their Council (and local boards) meet established ethical standards and where they do not, there exists a review mechanism that serves the public interest.

The practical effect of achieving this objective is an increase in trust, respect and engagement in local and upper tier affairs.

In carrying out our broad functions, the role falls into two principal areas. 'Municipal Act' functions, focused on codes of conduct and other policies relating to ethical behaviour, and 'MCIA' or *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act* functions. From an activity perspective, an Integrity Commissioner's role can be depicted this way:



The emphasis of Principles *Integrity* is to help municipalities enhance their ethical foundations and reputations through the drafting of effective codes of conduct and other policies governing ethical behaviour, to provide meaningful education related to such policies, and to provide pragmatic binding advice to Members seeking clarification on ethical issues. As noted in the graphic, we believe that the support we give to Members of Council increases the public's perception of them, which in turn leads to greater trust, respect and engagement.

Because the development of policy and the provision of education and advice is not in every case a full solution, the broad role of the Integrity Commissioner includes the function of seeking and facilitating resolutions when allegations of ethical transgressions are made, and,

where it is appropriate and in the public interest to do so, conducting and reporting on formal investigations. This in our view is best seen as a residual and not primary role.

Confidentiality:

Much of the work of an Integrity Commissioner is done under a cloak of confidentiality. While in most cases secrecy is required by statute, the promise of confidentiality also encourages full disclosure by the people who engage with us. We maintain the discretion to release confidential information when it is necessary to do so for the purposes of a public report, but those disclosures would be limited and rare.

City of Burlington Activity:

During the period covered by this report, we have been engaged in a moderate level of activity as Integrity Commissioner for the City of Burlington which subdivides roughly into three categories:

1. Policy Development and Education

During the period covered by this report we were not required to draft or provide updates to any City policies. On November 30, 2023, we provided ethical training for Burlington's Committee of Adjustment. We also provided training for the Pipeline Permit Committee on January 30, 2024.

2. Advice

The advice function of the Integrity Commissioner is available to all Members of Council and where applicable their staff and Members of local boards on matters relating to the code of conduct, the *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act* and any other matter touching upon the ethical conduct of Members. Advice provided by the Integrity Commissioner is confidential and independent, and where all the relevant facts are disclosed, is binding upon the Integrity Commissioner.

Our advice is typically provided in a short Advice Memorandum which confirms all relevant facts and provides with clarity our analysis and a recommended course of action.

During the period covered by this report, we responded to twenty-seven (27) such requests for advice.

3. Complaint Investigation and Resolution

Our approach to reviewing complaints starts with a determination as to whether an inquiry to us is within our jurisdiction, is beyond a trifling matter, is not either frivolous or vexatious, and importantly, whether in its totality it is in the public interest to pursue. We always look to the possibility of informal resolution in favour of formal investigation and reporting. Once a formal investigation is commenced, the opportunity to seek informal resolution is not abandoned.

Where we are able to resolve a matter without concluding a formal investigation, our

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practice is to provide a written explanation in the form of a Disposition Letter to the complainant to close the matter. Often the respondent Member is involved in preliminary fact-finding and will also be provided with a summary of the disposition.

Where formal investigations commence, they are conducted under the tenets of procedural fairness and Members are confidentially provided with the name of the Complainant when that information is necessary to enable them to respond to the allegations raised.

During the period covered by this report, we received nineteen (19) complaints. All complaints were able to be resolved without necessitating a report to Council.

Observations from across Ontario

With due regard to our obligation to maintain confidentiality, this report enables us to identify learning opportunities gleaned from our experience in municipalities across Ontario.

Disclosure of confidential information from closed meeting sessions

There have been some examples where elected or appointed officials fail to recognize the serious implications of disclosing confidential information, particularly information learned of through attendance in closed session.

A Member's obligation to maintain confidentiality is clear. They may not unilaterally decide to share confidential information, even if they believe the information should be publicly disclosed. This extends to releasing information even to their own legal counsel to obtain a 'second opinion'.

We treat this breach of ethical responsibility as breach of a cardinal rule, and if an allegation in this regard is proved to be true, it tends to attract a recommended sanction at the upper end of the prescribed range. Left unchecked, a confidentiality breach undermines not only Council's interests on the matter subject to the breach, but destroys the trust required of elected officials, and the staff that support them, to ensure that all relevant, and sensitive, information required to support the deliberation on a matter is freely supplied.

Non-disparagement

One area of prominence continues to be the failure of some Members of Council to adhere to rules against disparagement. Members of Council are entitled to, and indeed expected to, disagree on all manner of issues. However, one of the cornerstones to democracy must be the recognition that different opinions and perspectives are to be respected, and disagreement should not devolve into disrespect, disparagement and name-calling.

Disrespectful interactions and/treatment of others can fall along a continuum which may manifest as occasional incivility and micro-aggressions, but when unchecked can culminate in bullying and harassment. Members of Council should be mindful to treat each other, staff and the public with appropriate respect and professionalism at all times.

Some Members of Council hold a view that they are entitled to freely express their

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opinion, even if that includes disparagement of others, and so long as they share it via personal email, and not on the municipal server, they are not constrained by any rules around decorum. This is incorrect. Members are bound by the Code provisions of respectful and non-disparaging communication, whether sharing views on their own email, social media, or elsewhere.

Participation in social media discussions lends its own opportunity for attracting Code of Conduct complaints alleging disparagement. Members should be mindful that comments can be used or amplified in ways that bring municipal integrity into disrepute. It is important that Members be careful, accurate, and non-disparaging even as they attempt to offer what they see as a fair critique of municipal policy and actions. Municipal policy is advanced through the deliberations of Council and so wherever possible the focus should be on facilitating a discussion ‘in the Chamber’, and not in internet channels, so the general public, staff, and Council colleagues, can participate in the mechanisms through which a variety of important interests can be balanced and distilled into Council decisions made through democratic process.

Regardless of the medium, regardless of the intended audience, and regardless of motive, we have observed several instances where Members of Council in municipalities around the province have been found to have breached ethical standards by saying or recording things they have come to regret.

Recognizing and avoiding conflicts of interest

Recognizing and appropriately avoiding conflicts of interest when they might arise is the topic of most advice requests we receive. As confirmed by the Collingwood Judicial Inquiry (November 2020) there can be a complex array of circumstances that can give rise to conflicts of interest, including those that though not covered by the *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act*, are nevertheless covered by the common law

In any event, obtaining clear and reliable advice from the Integrity Commissioner can help avoid costly and time-consuming investigations if there is any uncertainty about the application of the Rule.

Staying in your lane

One area of concern that continues to arise relates to members of Council overstepping their role, attempting to ‘take the reins’ to fix a constituent’s problem, or directing staff how to do their job. Members of Council serve an important role in putting constituents in touch with appropriate staff, and leading them to established processes, but it is important to strike the correct balance between guiding constituents and becoming their advocate.

It continues to be the case that elected officials attempt to inject themselves in quasi-judicial matters such as by-law enforcement, or with respect to insurance claims. While it is important for Council to retain an oversight role and have the ability to monitor how its by-laws and programs affect the community, file-level interference by individual elected officials must be avoided.

On April 9, 2025, the Government of Ontario announced plans to expand Strong Mayor Powers to a further 169 municipalities. These changes are effective May 1, 2025. In municipalities subject to ‘stronger mayor powers’¹ the question arises as to whether a mayor with those powers can give direction to staff beyond the specific circumstances mentioned in the Act (essentially to carry out ‘Mayoral Decisions’ authorized by the Act, or to direct that staff conduct research and provide advice).

For non-‘stronger mayors’ and for stronger mayors exceeding their jurisdiction, inappropriate interference arises because of a misinterpretation of the *Municipal Act* provision which identifies the role of the Head of Council as ‘Chief Executive Officer’. This provision has led to confusion and, occasionally, overreach by Heads of Council in erroneously perceiving a role in leading the municipality’s administration. Elected officials – even Heads of Council – have no role in the day-to-day administration of municipal government unless specifically authorized by statute.

Failing to recognize this, stepping outside of their proper role as elected officials to ‘take the reins’ of administration, undermines staff and can be perceived as interfering with management. This overstepping of the proper role by Members, even Mayors, must be recognized as inappropriate under the Code of Conduct and the Council-Staff Relations Policy, both mandated under the *Municipal Act*.

As always, obtaining clear and reliable advice can help avoid a costly and time-consuming investigation.

Provincial Review of Code of Conduct/Integrity Commissioner System

In December 2024, proposed amendments to the *Municipal Act* were introduced by the province in the form of Bill 241, titled ‘*An Act to amend the City of Toronto Act, 2006 and the Municipal Act, 2001 in relation to codes of conduct*’. With the calling of the recent provincial election the Bill is no longer capable of adoption, although it signals the approach the government may take, having been returned to office.

Code of Conduct development for various municipalities has been paused because the Bill contemplated a universal code of conduct for all municipalities in Ontario. No detail was provided with respect to the form or content of such a code, nor to the future role of the Integrity Commissioner of Ontario in developing training or in otherwise influencing the approach municipal integrity commissioners are to take in serving their client municipalities.²

What the Bill did specify is a mechanism to remove elected officials from office should a municipal integrity commissioner find after a complaint investigation:

¹ The recent amendments to the *Municipal Act* which provide designated mayors to make unilateral decisions with respect to municipal organization and prescribed provincial interests is neither indicative of non-designated mayors being ‘weak’, nor representative of the extensive powers American ‘strong mayors’ have, particularly in light of the role partisan politics plays in electing administrators there.

² It should be noted that the Integrity Commissioner of Ontario does not currently have any role in the administration of municipal code of conduct/integrity commissioner matters.

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1. The member has contravened the code of conduct.
2. The contravention is of a serious nature.
3. The member's conduct that is the subject of the inquiry has resulted in harm to the health, safety or well-being of any person.
4. The penalties set out in subsection 223.4 (5) [reprimand or suspension of pay] are insufficient to address the contravention or to ensure that the contravention is not repeated.

If such is the case, the municipal integrity commissioner will refer the matter to the Integrity Commissioner of Ontario who will conduct their own inquiry. Upon the completion of that inquiry the Integrity Commissioner of Ontario, if they agree the above criteria have been met, will report to the respective municipal council with a recommendation that the elected official be removed from office. Council must vote unanimously (the respondent elected official cannot vote and is not counted) in order to cause the member's seat to become vacant.

In our view the mechanism set out in the bill is lengthy, uncertain and expensive, and does not adequately deal with what might be done to achieve course correction while the process is underway, nor at the conclusion of a non-unanimous Council vote should the Integrity Commissioner of Ontario recommend that removal from office is appropriate.

Regrettably the Bill represents a virtually single-minded approach to remedying the deficiencies of the current system by focusing on mechanisms leading to removal from office. It is hoped that there will be more fulsome consultations, including with practicing municipal integrity commissioners, prior to any further legislative action.

Conclusion:

We look forward to continuing to work with Members of Council to ensure a strong ethical framework. We embrace the opportunity to elevate Members' familiarity with their obligations under the Code and to respond to emerging issues. As always, we welcome Members' questions and look forward to continuing to serve as your Integrity Commissioner.

It has been a privilege to assist you in your work by providing advice about the Code of Conduct and in resolving complaints. We recognize that public service is not easy and the ethical issues that arise can be challenging. The public rightly demands the highest standard from those who serve them, and we congratulate Council for its aspirational objective to strive to meet that standard.

Finally, we wish to thank administrative staff for their professionalism and assistance where required. Although an Integrity Commissioner is not part of the administrative hierarchy, the work of our office depends on the facilitation of access to information and policy in order to carry out the mandate. This was done willingly and efficiently by the staff of the municipality.

September 10, 2026

The Honourable Michael S. Kerzner
Office of the Solicitor General
25 Grosvenor Street, 18th Floor
Toronto, ON M7A 1Y6

Re: Request for Review of the OPP Municipal Policing Cost Model

Dear Minister Kerzner:

The Township of McNab/Braeside is writing to express its strong opposition to the current Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) municipal policing cost model and the significant cost increases being imposed on small rural municipalities. While the Province has limited the increase in OPP policing costs for 2027 to a maximum of 11 per cent, an increase of up to 11 per cent is not reasonable or sustainable for a small rural municipality. This level of increase places significant pressure on municipal budgets and local taxpayers, particularly at a time when communities are already facing substantial economic pressures.

The issue is not the importance of effective policing or the services provided by the OPP. The Township recognizes and values the OPP's role in keeping our community safe. Our concern is that the current funding model does not fairly reflect the financial realities and policing circumstances of small rural municipalities.

Municipalities with populations of 10,000 or less can have substantially different circumstances than larger urban communities, including smaller tax bases, larger geographic areas and different policing demands. These factors should be meaningfully reflected in how policing costs are allocated.

The Township therefore respectfully requests that the Province undertake a comprehensive review of the OPP municipal policing cost model and consider factors including population, geographic area, policing demand, calls for service and municipal financial capacity when determining municipal policing costs.

Small rural municipalities should not be expected to absorb increases of this magnitude under a funding model that does not adequately recognize the differences between rural and urban communities.

The Township urges the Province to re-evaluate the OPP municipal policing cost model and develop a more equitable, predictable and sustainable approach to policing costs for small rural municipalities.

The Township invites recipient municipalities to consider passing a resolution of support at an upcoming council meeting. Please forward any supporting motions to the Office of the Solicitor General to amplify this vital advocacy for rural communities.

Sincerely,



Mandy Cannon
CAO, Interim Clerk
Township of McNab/Braeside

cc:

MPP Billy Denault, Renfrew–Nipissing–Pembroke
All Ontario Municipalities

**Ministry of
Municipal Affairs
and Housing**

Office of the Minister

777 Bay Street, 17th Floor
Toronto ON M7A 2J3
Tel. 416 585-7000

**Ministère des
Affaires municipales
et du Logement**

Bureau du ministre

777, rue Bay, 17^e étage
Toronto ON M7A 2J3
Tél. 416 585-7000



234-2026-3477

September 15, 2026

Dear Head of Council,

As we continue working together to protect Ontario workers and communities from President Trump's tariffs, I am writing to make clear our government's expectation that municipalities fully comply with Ontario's Buy Ontario policies and maximize the use of Ontario and Canadian goods and services in municipal procurement. In addition, we will be seeking to extend the Building Ontario Business Initiative (BOBI) to municipalities for good and services procurement.

American tariffs and anti-trade actions against Canadian imports are causing uncertainty for thousands of Ontario businesses and millions of Ontario workers. In response, Ontario has implemented strong procurement requirements that prioritize Ontario and Canadian goods and services in provincial and municipal procurement. These requirements ensure that every possible dollar of Ontario's more than \$30 billion in annual procurement, as well as our \$236 billion, 10-year infrastructure plan, supports Ontario and Canadian workers.

Ontario taxpayers expect municipalities to do the same. Ontario municipalities spend more than \$22 billion each year procuring goods and services. The Municipal Buy Ontario Procurement Directive requires municipalities, local boards and municipal services corporations to prioritize Ontario and Canadian products. In light of this latest round of tariffs and anti-trade actions against Canada, adherence to these requirements is not optional. It is an absolute must. Municipalities must use every available opportunity to prioritize Ontario and Canadian goods and services.

I appreciate that many municipalities are already taking steps to maximize their use of Ontario and Canadian content. Today, I am making clear your obligation, and that of your municipal leadership team, to closely review your supply chains, procurement practices and upcoming purchases to identify every opportunity to increase domestic procurement. This should include determining whether goods and services currently sourced from outside Canada can be replaced with Ontario or Canadian alternatives, including through the expanded application of BOBI.

Failure to comply with Buy Ontario requirements will force us to reconsider provincial funding made available to municipalities, in addition to other consequences under the Buy Ontario Act (Public Sector Procurement), 2025.

In the face of these unprecedented economic attacks against our province and country, we all have a responsibility to do everything within our control to protect our workers and communities. Following Buy Ontario procurement policies can make the difference for an Ontario company that might otherwise be forced to close its doors or lay off workers because of U.S. tariffs.

I welcome your continued partnership as we work together as a united Team Canada to stand up for our province and country and protect Ontario workers and families.

Your Chief Administrative Officer will also receive correspondence outlining our government's expectations that municipal administrations identify further opportunities to increase domestic procurement.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert J. Flack". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Hon. Robert J. Flack
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

c: The Hon. Stephen Crawford, Minister of Public and Business Service Delivery and Procurement

August 13, 2026

Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

Re: Town of Ingersoll Resolution - Review of OLT and Enhancing Deference to Municipal Planning Decisions

Dear Premier Ford,

Please be advised that at their regular meeting on August 10, 2026, Council of the Corporation of the Town of Ingersoll adopted the following resolution:

Resolution # 2026-230

Moved by Councillor Eus; seconded by Councillor Bowman

THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Ingersoll receive the correspondence from the Town of the Blue Mountains regarding Review of OLT and Enhancing Deference to Municipal Planning Decisions;

AND THAT Council support the resolution regarding Review of OLT and Enhancing Deference to Municipal Planning Decisions;

AND THAT the resolution be forwarded to other municipalities in Ontario, Oxford MPP Ernie Hardeman, all relevant ministries, and the provincial government.

CARRIED

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Kind regards,

Julie Clayton

Julie Clayton
Deputy Clerk

cc: Hon. Rob Flack, Ontario Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Ernie Hardeman, Member of Provincial Parliament for Oxford
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
All municipalities in Ontario



The Town of The Blue Mountains Council Meeting

Title: Kathryn Douglas, Supervisor, Legislative Services, Town of Whitby
Date: Monday, July 13, 2026
Time: 6:16 PM

Moved by: Councillor Hope
Seconded by: Councillor Porter

THAT Council of the Town of The Blue Mountains receives for information the June 25, 2026, correspondence from Kathryn Douglas, Supervisor, Legislative Services, Town of Whitby, and supports the June 22, 2026 Town of Whitby Council resolution regarding a Review of Ontario Land Tribunal and Enhancing Deference to Municipal Planning Decisions;

AND THAT Council directs staff to circulate this resolution of support to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Local Members of Provincial Parliament, the Association of Municipalities (AMO) and all Ontario Municipalities for consideration and support

YES: 6

NO: 0

ABSENT: 1

The motion is Carried

YES: 6

Deputy Mayor Bordignon	Councillor Ardiel	Councillor Hope	Councillor Maxwell
Councillor McKinlay	Councillor Porter		

NO: 0

ABSENT: 1

Mayor Matrosovs

June 25, 2026

Via Email

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

Re: Review of the Ontario Land Tribunal and Enhancing Deference to Municipal Planning Decisions

Please be advised that at its meeting held on June 22, 2026, the Council of the Town of Whitby adopted the following as Resolution # 166-26:

Whereas local councils are elected by residents to make planning decisions that reflect the needs and priorities of their communities;

Whereas municipalities rely on extensive public consultation, professional planning advice, engineering studies, and technical reports when making land-use decisions;

Whereas the Ontario Land Tribunal (OLT) has the authority to overturn municipal planning decisions, often requiring municipalities to spend significant taxpayer dollars defending decisions that have already undergone a thorough local review process;

Whereas lengthy and costly appeals can delay housing projects, consume municipal resources, and reduce the ability of municipalities to focus on delivering services to residents; and,

Whereas local governments should have greater certainty and authority when decisions are consistent with approved Official Plans, provincial policies, and sound planning principles.

Now Therefore be it Resolved:

1. That the Government of Ontario be requested to review the role and mandate of the Ontario Land Tribunal to ensure greater respect for municipal planning decisions that are supported by evidence, public consultation, and approved planning policies;

2. That the Province consider amendments to the Planning Act and Ontario Land Tribunal Act to provide stronger deference to municipal decisions that align with provincial planning frameworks and Official Plans;
3. That the Province improve transparency and accountability within the Ontario Land Tribunal by requiring clear and detailed reasoning when municipal decisions are overturned;
4. That the Province explore measures to reduce the financial burden on municipalities defending planning decisions before the OLT, helping to protect taxpayer dollars and improve the efficiency of the planning process; and,
5. That Staff be directed to circulate this resolution to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Local Members of Provincial Parliament, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), and all Ontario municipalities for consideration and support.

Should you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact the Office of the Town Clerk at 905-430-4300.



Kathryn Douglas
Supervisor, Legislative Services
clerk@whitby.ca

Copy: C. Harris, Director of Legislative Services/Town Clerk - clerk@whitby.ca

The Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing -
minister.mah@ontario.ca
Peter Bethlenfalvy, MPP, Pickering-Uxbridge - peter.bethlenfalvy@pc.ola.org
Lorne Coe, MPP, Whitby - lorne.coe@pc.ola.org
Jennifer K. French, MPP, Oshawa - jfrench-co@ndp.on.ca
Todd J. McCarthy, MPP, Durham - todd.mccarthy@pc.ola.org
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Laurie Scott, MPP, Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock - laurie.scott@pc.ola.org
Robin Jones, President, Association of Municipalities of Ontario -
amopresident@amo.on.ca
All Ontario Municipalities



PORT COLBORNE

Legislative Services

Municipal Offices: 66 Charlotte Street
Port Colborne, Ontario L3K 3C8 • www.portcolborne.ca

T 905.228.8031 F 905.834.5746

E charlotte.madden@portcolborne.ca

September 15, 2026

Email: premier@ontario.ca

The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building, Queens Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

Dear Honourable Doug Ford:

Re: City of Port Colborne Supports the Town of Ingersoll regarding Review of OLT and Enhancing Deference to Municipal Planning Decisions

Please be advised that, at its meeting of September 8, 2026, the Council of The Corporation of the City of Port Colborne supported the resolution received from the Town of Ingersoll regarding a Review of OLT and Enhancing Deference to Municipal Planning Decisions.

The correspondence is attached for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Charlotte Madden
City Clerk

ec: Hon. Rob Flack, Ontario Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Jeff Burch, MPP for Niagara West
Association of Municipalities in Ontario (AMO)
All Ontario Municipalities



DISTRICT OF PARRY SOUND

56 ONTARIO STREET
PO BOX 533
BURK'S FALLS, ON
P0A 1C0

(705) 382-3332

(705) 382-2954

Fax: (705) 382-2068

Email: admin@armourtownship.ca

Website: www.armourtownship.ca

Date: August 11, 2026

Motion # 2026-236

WHEREAS public libraries provide essential services including literacy, education, technology access, employment resources, and community programming;

AND WHEREAS the Burk's Falls, Armour & Ryerson Union Public Library serves the residents of the Township of Armour and surrounding communities;

AND WHEREAS the provincial funding received by the Burk's Falls, Armour & Ryerson Union Public Library has remained at \$13,914 annually since 1990, despite significant increases in the cost of providing library services;

AND WHEREAS the Township of Armour's contribution to library services has increased from \$14,097.99 in 2001 to \$98,722 in 2026, placing an increasing financial burden on municipal taxpayers;

AND WHEREAS the Ontario Library Association and Federation of Ontario Public Libraries have called for increased and sustainable provincial funding for public libraries;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Township of Armour petitions the Government of Ontario, through the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Gaming, to substantially increase and provide sustainable, predictable operating funding for Ontario's public libraries;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Tourism, Culture and Gaming, the local Member of Provincial Parliament, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the Ontario Library Association (OLA), and the Federation of Ontario Public Libraries (FOPL) for their support and advocacy;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this resolution be circulated to municipalities across Ontario for their consideration and support.

Moved by:

Blakelock, Rod	☐
Brandt, Jerry	☐
Haggart-Davis, Dorothy	☒
Ward, Rod	☐
Whitwell, Wendy	☐

Seconded by:

Blakelock, Rod	☐
Brandt, Jerry	☒
Haggart-Davis, Dorothy	☐
Ward, Rod	☐
Whitwell, Wendy	☐

Carried / Defeated

Declaration of Pecuniary Interest by:



DISTRICT OF PARRY SOUND

56 ONTARIO STREET
PO BOX 533
BURK'S FALLS, ON
P0A 1C0

(705) 382-3332

(705) 382-2954

Fax: (705) 382-2068

Email: admin@armourtownship.ca

Website: www.armourtownship.ca

Date: **August 11, 2026**

Recorded vote requested by:

Recorded Vote:

Blakelock, Rod

Brandt, Jerry

Haggart-Davis, Dorothy

Ward, Rod

Whitwell, Wendy

For

☐☐☐☐☐

Opposed

☐☐☐☐☐

Township of Southgate
Administration Office
185667 Grey County Road 9, RR 1
Dundalk, ON N0C 1B0



Phone: 519-923-2110
Toll Free: 1-888-560-6607
Fax: 519-923-9262
Web: www.southgate.ca

September 17, 2026

**Re: Support for Doubling of the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund
Beyond 2026**

Please be advised that at its regular meeting held on September 16, 2026, Council of the Corporation of the Township of Southgate approved the following:

No. 2026-344

Moved By Councillor Shipston

Seconded By Deputy Mayor Dobreen

Be it resolved that Staff Report CAO2026-022 be received for information; and
WHEREAS recent municipal infrastructure funding programs by the Government of Canada and Province of Ontario have tended to prioritize growth-related or housing-enabling infrastructure projects over infrastructure renewal needs; and
WHEREAS the Government of Ontario has regulated municipal infrastructure asset management through O. Reg 588/17 (Asset Management Planning for Municipal Infrastructure) under the Infrastructure for Jobs and Prosperity Act, 2015; and
WHEREAS municipal asset management plans and the Financial Accountability Office of Ontario have identified that municipalities have significant state-of-good-repair backlogs and renewal needs for infrastructure; and
WHEREAS the Government of Ontario doubled the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (OCIF) from \$200M/year to \$400M/year for 2021-2026 but has not publicly committed to maintaining this level of funding beyond 2026; and
WHEREAS the OCIF has become a vital and indispensable resource for municipalities, assisting them with improving their asset management programs and meeting community-preserving infrastructure renewal needs; and
WHEREAS increased geopolitical uncertainty is threatening the economic prosperity of Canada, Ontario, and every municipality; and
WHEREAS municipal infrastructure is a key enabler and preserver of economic prosperity; and
WHEREAS the Municipal Finance Officers' Association of Ontario (MFOA) has heard from its members and their municipalities concerns regarding the potential erosion of existing municipal infrastructure and thus service levels in light of the ongoing focus on housing-enabling infrastructure by grant funding programs;
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Township of Southgate supports MFOA's letter to the Ministry of Infrastructure requesting that the doubling of the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund be made permanent in advance of the allocations for the 2027 calendar year, helping municipalities to continue building housing enabling infrastructure while preserving the economic value provided by existing infrastructure.

Carried

If you have any questions, please contact our office at (519) 923-2110, ext 233.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H Malynyk'.

Holly Malynyk, Deputy Clerk
Township of Southgate

Encl: MFOA Letter to the Ministry of Infrastructure requesting the doubling of the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (OCIF) be made permanent

CC:

Hon. Todd McCarthy, Acting Minister of Infrastructure
Hon. Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Hon. Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance
All 444 Municipalities in Ontario

Hon. Todd McCarthy
Acting Minister of Infrastructure
5th Floor
777 Bay St.
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3

June 25, 2026

Dear Minister McCarthy,

RE: Making permanent the doubling of the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (OCIF) that is scheduled to end after the 2026 allocation

I am writing on behalf of the Municipal Finance Officers' Association of Ontario, and the municipalities it serves, to request that the Government of Ontario make permanent the five-year doubling of the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund (OCIF) from \$200 million/year to \$400 million/year in advance of the 2027 OCIF allocation calculations.

The Municipal Finance Officers' Association of Ontario (MFOA) is the professional association of municipal finance officers with more than 2,300 individual members. We represent individuals who are responsible for handling the financial affairs of municipalities and who are key advisors to councils. MFOA is a strong advocate for best practices that encourage long-term fiscal sustainability, including long-term financial planning and asset management planning.

In recent years, governments at all levels have reoriented their priorities to address the ongoing housing crisis, with heightened attention on growth-related infrastructure and increasing housing production. Application-based or incentive-based funding programs for municipalities have placed greater emphasis on growth-related or housing-enabling capital projects (e.g., Development Charge Reduction Program, Building Communities Strong Fund – Community Stream, Municipal Housing Infrastructure Program, Building Faster Fund). OCIF remains one of the few federal or provincial funding programs where the focus remains primarily on the preservation and renewal of existing infrastructure to maintain or improve municipal service levels.

With support from the Government of Ontario and MFOA, municipalities have made significant improvements to their municipal asset management plans and programs. The Government of Ontario introduced O. Reg 588/17 (Asset Management Planning for Municipal Infrastructure) in late 2017, which provided a standard framework for infrastructure planning. To support the transition to O. Reg. 588/17, MFOA has partnered with the Government of Ontario on many asset management initiatives, including guides, workshops, direct consulting support and other resources. As a result of these and significant municipal efforts, most municipalities in Ontario have an asset management inventory that identifies their infrastructure assets, including conditions, replacement costs and renewal schedules of those assets.

By leveraging municipal asset management plans in 2020, the Financial Accountability Office of Ontario estimated the state-of-good-repair backlog to be \$52.1 billion for core municipal infrastructure. That is an estimated cost of restoring such infrastructure to a 'good' condition. The report notably focused primarily on core assets and thus likely understated the full extent of the backlog. Addressing this should not be a priority that falls by the wayside due to an increased focus on growth-related capital projects by other funding programs. OCIF's flexible design provides municipalities with the opportunity to fund asset management staff, which can improve data and analysis quality, and it provides a critical means by which municipalities address the infrastructure funding challenges identified in their asset management plans.

In 2021, the Government of Ontario doubled OCIF for a five-year period. Minister Surma, in announcing that initiative, commented that the Government of Ontario was "providing stability and predictability to small, rural and northern communities as they repair, upgrade and modernize their critical infrastructure so that they are safer, healthier and more reliable for all." And Minister Bethlenfalvy said that "by nearly doubling our investment in the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund, our government is supporting public safety, job creation and economic growth." In the current climate of geopolitical uncertainty, tariffs and the resulting economic shocks and instability, the need to provide municipalities predictability and to preserve and enhance the economic activity and benefits provided by well-supported and well-maintained municipal infrastructure is as imperative as it was in 2021.

We have also heard from our members on this matter. Municipalities outside of high-growth regions have expressed concern about the diminishing level of grant funding opportunities for municipalities trying to preserve the economic value of their existing infrastructure. Additionally, while growing municipalities have made significant efforts to emplace new, housing-enabling infrastructure, which has been rewarded through the Building Faster Fund, many of their state-of-good-repair capital plans remain underfunded. To maximize the economic potential of federal and provincial investment in infrastructure, all orders of government must work together to preserve service levels and the public value of existing infrastructure, and permanently doubling OCIF to \$400 million/year will especially help small and rural municipalities preserve that economic foundation throughout Ontario.

By adopting a Team Ontario approach during recent and ongoing economic challenges, we have seen how significant progress can be made when municipalities and the provincial government work together to achieve a common goal. Should you wish to follow up on this letter, please contact MFOA Executive Director, Donna Herridge (donna@mfoa.on.ca).

Sincerely,



Dr. Adam Found, Ph.D., PLE
President and Chair

cc. Hon. Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
cc. Hon. Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance

**Township of Southgate
Administration Office**

185667 Grey County Road 9, RR 1
Dundalk, ON N0C 1B0



Phone: 519-923-2110
Toll Free: 1-888-560-6607
Fax: 519-923-9262
Web: www.southgate.ca

September 17, 2026

**Re: Support - Town of Parry Sound – Request for Province to Establish
Regulatory Framework for E-Scooters**

Please be advised that at its regular meeting held on September 16, 2026, Council of the Corporation of the Township of Southgate approved the following:

No. 2026-346

Moved By Deputy Mayor Dobreen

Seconded By Councillor Shipston

Be it resolved that Southgate Council receive for information the correspondence from the Town of Parry Sound regarding the establishment of a regularly framework to govern e-scooters; and

That a copy of this resolution be circulated to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA), the Premier of Ontario, Doug Ford, the Minister of Transportation, Prabmeet Singh Sarkaria, Bruce-Grey Owen Sound MPP Paul Vickers, and Ontario municipalities.

Carried

If you have any questions, please contact our office at (519) 923-2110, ext 233.

Sincerely,

Holly Malynyk, Deputy Clerk
Township of Southgate

Encl: Town of Parry Sound – Request Province Establish Regulatory Framework for E-scooters

CC:

AMO

ROMA

Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario

Hon. Steven MacKinnon, The Minister of Transportation

Prabmeet Singh Sarkaria, MPP, Parry Sound-Muskoka

Paul Vickers, MPP, Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound

All 444 Municipalities in Ontario



THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF PARRY SOUND
RESOLUTION IN COUNCIL

NO. 2026 –

DIVISION LIST

YES NO

DATE: September 1, 2026

Councillor **G. ASHFORD**
Councillor **J. BELESKEY**
Councillor **P. BORNEMAN**
Councillor **B. KEITH**
Councillor **D. McCANN**
Councillor **C. McDONALD**
Mayor **J. McGARVEY**

MOVED BY:

SECONDED BY:

CARRIED: ☒ DEFEATED: ☐ Postponed to: _____

WHEREAS electric kick-style scooters (e-scooters) have become an increasingly popular and affordable form of transportation in Parry Sound and across Ontario; and

WHEREAS e-scooters can provide an accessible, low-emission transportation option and help address transportation needs in communities such as Parry Sound that do not have conventional public transit; and

WHEREAS Ontario's current e-scooter pilot program places responsibility on individual municipalities to determine how e-scooters may operate locally, creating administrative and enforcement challenges, particularly for smaller municipalities with limited resources; and

WHEREAS the continued use of a pilot framework has resulted in uncertainty and inconsistent approaches to e-scooter regulation across the Province.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Town of Parry Sound requests that the Province of Ontario establish a province-wide regulatory framework for e-scooters that recognizes their unique operating characteristics, maintains appropriate safety standards, and provides municipalities with authority to address local needs; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Parry Sound requests the support of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and the Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) in advocating for a framework that reduces unnecessary administrative and enforcement burdens on local municipalities; and

FINALLY BE IT RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be circulated to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA), the Premier of Ontario, Doug Ford, the Minister of Transportation, Prabmeet Singh Sarkaria, Parry Sound-Muskoka MPP, Graydon Smith, and all municipalities across Ontario.

September 10, 2026

The Honourable Michael S. Kerzner
Office of the Solicitor General
25 Grosvenor Street, 18th Floor
Toronto, ON M7A 1Y6

Re: Request for Review of the OPP Municipal Policing Cost Model

Dear Minister Kerzner:

The Township of McNab/Braeside is writing to express its strong opposition to the current Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) municipal policing cost model and the significant cost increases being imposed on small rural municipalities. While the Province has limited the increase in OPP policing costs for 2027 to a maximum of 11 per cent, an increase of up to 11 per cent is not reasonable or sustainable for a small rural municipality. This level of increase places significant pressure on municipal budgets and local taxpayers, particularly at a time when communities are already facing substantial economic pressures.

The issue is not the importance of effective policing or the services provided by the OPP. The Township recognizes and values the OPP's role in keeping our community safe. Our concern is that the current funding model does not fairly reflect the financial realities and policing circumstances of small rural municipalities.

Municipalities with populations of 10,000 or less can have substantially different circumstances than larger urban communities, including smaller tax bases, larger geographic areas and different policing demands. These factors should be meaningfully reflected in how policing costs are allocated.

The Township therefore respectfully requests that the Province undertake a comprehensive review of the OPP municipal policing cost model and consider factors including population, geographic area, policing demand, calls for service and municipal financial capacity when determining municipal policing costs.

Small rural municipalities should not be expected to absorb increases of this magnitude under a funding model that does not adequately recognize the differences between rural and urban communities.

The Township urges the Province to re-evaluate the OPP municipal policing cost model and develop a more equitable, predictable and sustainable approach to policing costs for small rural municipalities.

The Township invites recipient municipalities to consider passing a resolution of support at an upcoming council meeting. Please forward any supporting motions to the Office of the Solicitor General to amplify this vital advocacy for rural communities.

Sincerely,



Mandy Cannon
CAO, Interim Clerk
Township of McNab/Braeside

cc:

MPP Billy Denault, Renfrew–Nipissing–Pembroke
All Ontario Municipalities