

**TOWNSHIP OF ESSA
CONSENT AGENDA
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2021**

A – ITEMS RECEIVED AS INFORMATION

- p. 1 1. Resolution from the City of Hamilton dated August 20, 2021, re: Noise Concerns and Request for Expiry of Extended Construction Hours.
- p. 3 2. Joint Advisory from the County of Simcoe dated August 31, 2021, re: Regional Partners Host Collaborative Event to Discuss the Future of Food.
- p. 5 3. Resolution from the Town of Plympton-Wyoming dated August 31, 2021, re: Affordable Internet.
- p. 10 4. Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA) Board Meeting Highlights.
- p. 12 5. Resolution from Municipality of Trent Lakes dated September 9, 2021, re: OHIP Eye Care.
- p. 14 6. Email from Ontario News dated September 9, 2021, re: Ontario Takes Next Step to Expand High Speed Internet.
- p. 17 7. Correspondence from MPP Simcoe-Grey, Jim Wilson, dated September 9, 2021, re: Replacement of Banting Memorial High School.

B – ITEMS RECEIVED AND REFERRED TO SERVICE AREA FOR ACTION

None.

C – ITEMS RECEIVED AND REFERRED TO SERVICE AREA FOR REVIEW AND REPORT TO COUNCIL

None.



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF HAMILTON

August 20, 2021

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

Dear Premier Ford:

City Council, at its meeting held on August 13, 2021, approved Item 13 of Planning Committee Report 21-012 which reads as follows:

13. Noise Concerns and Request for Expiry of Extended Construction Hours

WHEREAS, municipalities have the authority under the *Municipal Act, 2001* to pass a Noise By-law to regulate and prohibit with respect to noise;

WHEREAS, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Ontario government sought to accelerate construction projects in municipalities;

WHEREAS, the Ontario government passed O.Reg 131/20, under the *Municipal Act, 2001* ("O.Reg 131/20") allowing for extended construction hours for projects associated with the healthcare sector to 24 hours a day and any other construction activity in a municipality between the hours of 6am and 10pm;

WHEREAS, O.Reg 131/20 limits a municipality's authority and enforcement through Section 451.1 of the *Municipal Act, 2001* from prohibiting and regulating noise with respect to after-hour noise from construction sites;

WHEREAS, there has been an increase in complaints as a result of after-hour noise caused by construction sites impacting the quiet enjoyment of the residents of Hamilton; and,

WHEREAS, O.Reg 131/20 is set to expire on October 7, 2021;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Mayor contact the Premier of Ontario, and local Members of Parliament to ask that the Province to promptly expediate the expiry of O.Reg 131/20, the COVID exemption for after-hours noise from construction sites.

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- (b) That the Mayor contact the Premier of Ontario, and local Members of Parliament to request that the Province not make the temporary regulations of O.Reg 131/20, or any similar restrictions, permanent through an amendment to the *Municipal Act, 2001*.
- (c) That the request be sent to other municipalities in Ontario, including the Association of Municipalities of Ontario for their endorsement.

Your consideration of Council's request is appreciated. We would ask that you reference File #C21-014 when responding to this correspondence.

Sincerely,



Fred Eisenberger
Mayor

File #C21-014

- c.c. Hon. Andrea Horwath, Leader of the Official Opposition, MPP, Hamilton Centre
- Hon. Donna Skelly, MPP, Flamborough-Glanbrook
- Hon. Paul Miller, MPP, Hamilton East-Stoney Creek
- Hon. Monique Taylor, MPP, Hamilton Mountain
- Hon. Sandy Shaw, MPP, Hamilton West-Ancaster-Dundas
- Association of Municipalities of Ontario
- All Ontario Municipalities (by email)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Regional partners host collaborative event to discuss the future of food

Midhurst/August 31, 2021 – Local growers, agri-food processors and food businesses are invited to join area partners on Wednesday, September 22, between 10 a.m. and 12 p.m. for a collaborative presentation on the future of food. The presentation is followed by an interactive networking session for participants. This event is designed to provide our local agriculture and food sector with the high-level information they need to plan post-COVID.

In 2018, local partners developed a Regional Work Plan through the Simcoe, Grey and Bruce Counties' Agriculture and Agri-Food Value Chain Business Retention and Expansion Study. This event aligns with that work plan and is focused on supporting the agriculture/agri-food sector and addressing opportunities and gaps.

On September 22, Jo-Ann McArthur of Nourish Food Marketing will be providing an overview of food trends that have developed over the last 18 months, with insights on where food trends are going post-pandemic. Sandra Kahale of OnWard Consulting will then lead participants in an interactive networking session to discuss the presentation.

EVENT: The Future of Food

Where: Virtual – details to be provided upon registration

When: Wednesday, September 22, 2021 at 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Register: This is a FREE event, but registration is required. To register, visit <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/the-future-of-food-registration-164022936017>

**Space is limited*

About the speaker

Jo-Ann McArthur has spent her career building brands with consumers and retailers at Molson, Procter and Gamble, Unilever and Cadillac Fairview. As a divisional President of Molson Coors, and a member of its North America Management Board, Jo-Ann led the charge to sell more beer more profitably.

As a Founding Partner and President of Nourish Food Marketing, Jo-Ann now builds powerful brands for food and beverage products in Canada, the US and Europe, creating marketing strategies that help move products off the shelves, into the consumer's shopping basket, onto their plates and into their hearts.

She has worked with entrepreneurs to launch award winning products and with municipal, provincial and federal agencies to create programs that support Canada's food industry. She has also been an instructor at Schulich Executive School of Business, FoodStarter (a food incubator), as well as the Sponsorship Marketing Council of Canada and the Association of Canadian Advertisers.

Quotes

"The County of Simcoe is home to an outstanding array of agricultural businesses offering a wide variety of high-quality, local products. The County is pleased to work together with our partners on agri-food initiatives, including these types of events, which provide local businesses with access to industry experts, new ideas and trends. Through our economic development and tourism offices, we're committed to supporting all our businesses in their recovery from this pandemic." – George Cornell, Warden, County of Simcoe

"Grey County is always looking for ways to help our small businesses thrive. Now more than ever, it is important to have a finger on the pulse of upcoming trends and to stay connected to others in their respective sectors. The Future of Food event is an ideal way to make this information exchange happen for our agri-food producers." – Selwyn "Buck" Hicks, Warden, County of Grey

"Bruce County is home to a wide range of small businesses and is known for our spirit of entrepreneurialism. The Future of Food event will support small businesses in the agri-food community by providing a forum for the exchange of current and relevant information to help our communities excel." – Janice Jackson, Warden, Bruce County

"We are pleased to be partnering with multiple organizations to bring the Agri-Food business community together to learn and share. Our highly skilled facilitators will be using a cutting-edge format to provide participants with an enhanced online experience. I, for one, can't wait to see where the conversations will take us." – Tim Newton, Manager, Southern Georgian Bay Small Business Enterprise Centre

"It takes more than land and a tractor to be successful in agriculture these days. The Future of Food event is where growers and other professionals, community leaders and interested citizens can learn more about emerging trends and opportunities from the last 18 months, with some insights on where food is going post-pandemic." – Martin Kuzma, CEO, Nottawasaga Futures Community Development Corporation

County of Simcoe is composed of sixteen member municipalities and provides crucial public services to County residents in addition to providing paramedic and social services to the separated cities of Barrie and Orillia. Visit our website at simcoe.ca.

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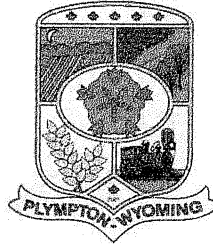
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Right Honourable Justin Trudeau
 Prime Minister of Canada
 Office of the Prime Minister
 80 Wellington Street
 Ottawa ON K1A 0A2
 (via e-mail) Justin.Trudeau@parl.gc.ca

The Honourable Francois—Philippe Champagne
 Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry
Francois-Philippe.Champagne@parl.gc.ca

August 31st 2021

Attention: Prime Minister Trudeau

Re: Council Resolution Supporting Affordable Internet

Please be advised that on August 25th 2021 the Town of Plympton-Wyoming Council passed the following motion to support the Council of the Municipality of Chatham-Kent (attached) requesting that the Federal and Provincial Governments support affordable internet for all Canadians.

Motion 12

Moved by Muriel Wright, Seconded by Gary Atkinson that Council supports correspondence item 'f' from the Municipality of Chatham-Kent regarding Affordable Internet'

Motion Carried.

If you have any questions regarding the above motion, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Erin Kwarciak
 Clerk
ekwarciak@plympton-wyoming.ca

Cc: (via e-mail)

- Hon. Minister Steve Clark
- Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
- Bob Bailey, MPP, Sarnia-Lambton
- Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)
- Marilyn Gladu, MP, Sarnia-Lambton
- All Ontario Municipalities
- Monte McNaughton, MPP, Lambton-Kent-Middlesex
- Lianne Rood, MP, Lambton-Kent-Middlesex

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Municipality of Chatham-Kent
Darrin Canniff, Mayor/CEO
315 King Street West, P.O. Box 640
Chatham ON N7M 5K8
Phone: 519.436.3219

August 11, 2021

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau
Prime Minister of Canada
Justin.Trudeau@parl.gc.ca

Federal Cabinet
[Via email to each Minister](#)

The Honourable François-Philippe Champagne
Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry
Francois-Philippe.Champagne@parl.gc.ca

Re: Council Resolution Supporting Affordable Internet

Please be advised the Council of the Municipality of Chatham-Kent at its regular meeting held on August 9, 2021 passed the attached resolution.

Internet is a necessity, not a luxury for the vast majority of Canadians – a fact that has been highlighted throughout the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. However, despite being an essential utility, too many people are struggling to afford reliable internet services, while some don't have access to broadband internet at all. Ontario residents, and Canadians from coast to coast to coast, should never have to choose between paying their internet bill and other essentials such as food, medication, or housing expenses.

On May 27th, the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) arbitrarily reversed its 2019 Rates Order concerning wholesale internet rates charged by Canada's largest carriers to smaller companies. This decision was devastating for consumers as it effectively guarantees internet prices will continue to rise despite the fact that Canadians already pay some of the highest internet prices in the world. Additionally, this decision directly impacts many smaller internet service providers (ISPs) and threatens hundreds of well-paying jobs and tens of millions in investments that would benefit communities in Ontario.

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Issued in August of 2019, the CRTC's 2019 Rates Order confirmed the large carriers systematically broke rate-setting rules to grossly inflate their costs of providing network access. The CRTC set new rates and ordered the large carriers to repay amounts they overcharged competitors during its proceeding. The 2019 Rates Order was based on a rigorous, evidence-based, 4-year long regulatory process. It was upheld on appeals by the Federal Court of Appeal, the Supreme Court of Canada, and the Federal Cabinet and was widely expected to be implemented this year. Instead, the CRTC arbitrarily and completely reversed the 2019 Rates Order, a decision that harms competition, reduces customer choice, and ignores the real and urgent need for affordable internet in Canada.

Not only do rural and remote communities continue to struggle to gain access to affordable broadband internet, the digital divide and lack of affordability remain an issue across all communities in Ontario, and Canada. For example, a recent report by the Brookfield Institute at Ryerson University found that more than a third of households in Toronto are worried about paying their home internet bills over the next few months. More than half of the city's low-income households also have download speeds below the national target of 50 megabits per second. Many rural and remote communities don't have access to broadband, or any internet services, at all. This would be problematic in the best of times, but is even more so now as the pandemic has made high-speed, affordable internet a necessity for education, work, and health care.

A 2020 price study prepared by Wall Communications Inc. for ISED found that internet prices increased across all service baskets over 2019, making Canada an international outlier among its peer countries. Without intervention from the federal government, who in 2019 promised to reduce internet prices for all Canadians, there is no doubt that this trend will continue.

The Federal Cabinet must overturn the decision now to ensure that affordable internet becomes a reality, not just an ideal. We are sharing this letter and Council resolution with representatives of, and leaders in, communities across Canada. We urge you and them to make this important issue your own, as it directly affects the people in their regions, and across Canada. As you all know, internet is now a necessary utility to all Canadians similar to gas, hydro, water and electricity. The CRTC decision has impacted over 1,200 small ISP's across Canada, thousands of jobs in your communities and negatively impacts millions of Canadians ability to receive affordable internet.

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We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this critical issue with you at your earliest convenience, and to work together in making our concerns heard in support of affordable internet for all.

Sincerely,



Darrin Canniff, Mayor/CEO
Municipality of Chatham-Kent

Attachment: Council Resolution Supporting Affordable Internet

C: (via email)
Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
Dave Epp, MP, Chatham-Kent-Leamington
Lianne Rood, MP, Lambton-Kent-Middlesex
Rick Nicholls, MPP, Chatham-Kent-Leamington
Monte McNaughton, MPP, Lambton-Kent-Middlesex
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)
All Ontario Municipalities

Attachment: Council Resolution Supporting Affordable Internet

Whereas internet connectivity is a basic necessity and essential utility for the vast majority of Canadians;

Whereas too many Canadians struggle to afford reliable, high-speed internet services, or do not have access to broadband internet at all;

Whereas the need for high-speed and affordable internet is always critical, but is even more so now as the COVID-19 pandemic has shown it is required for education, work, and health care;

Whereas independent studies have consistently shown that Canadians pay some of the highest prices for internet in the world and that internet prices have increased year over year;

Whereas the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission's (CRTC) 2019 Rates Order set wholesale internet prices that would facilitate greater competition and promote innovative broadband services and more affordable prices for consumers;

Whereas the 2019 Rates Order was based on a rigorous, evidence-based, 4-year long regulatory process, and was upheld on appeal by unanimous decision of the Federal Court of Appeal, while the Supreme Court of Canada and the Federal Cabinet declined to review it;

Whereas on May 27, 2021, the CRTC decided to reverse its 2019 Rates Order, effectively guaranteeing that internet prices will continue to rise for consumers;

Now therefore be it resolved that the Municipality of Chatham-Kent call on the Federal Cabinet, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, and ISED Minister Francois-Phillippe Champagne to overrule the CRTC's reversal and immediately implement the evidence-based 2019 Rates Order.

Be it further resolved that the Premier of Ontario, Ontario Minister of Industry, local MPPs, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, all 444 Ontario municipalities and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities be sent correspondence of Council's resolution along with the attached letter.



NVCA August 2021 Board Meeting Highlights

Next Meeting: September 24, 2021, held virtually.

For the full meeting agenda including documents and reports, visit [NVCA's website](#).

LID Stormwater Management Planning and Design Guide and Erosion and Sediment Control Guide for Urban Construction

The NVCA Board of Directors approved the use of two technical guidelines: the Low Impact Development Stormwater Management Planning and Design Guide and the Erosion and Sediment Control Guide for Urban Construction as technical references.

These guidelines compliment the current NVCA Stormwater Technical Guide which are used in the review and approval process related to stormwater management and land development.

Low Impact Development (LID)

LID, also known as green infrastructure, is a method of managing stormwater as close to the source as possible by mimicking the natural water cycle. The focus of LIDs is on capturing and storing rain where it falls, filtering it through the soil, and/or recharging groundwater. As lands continue to be developed and become more urbanized, more hard surfaces are created that increase the volume of runoff to local watercourses. This increase in runoff volume is exacerbated by the more intense and frequent weather events attributed to climate change.

LID techniques may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- green roofs
- bioretention swales
- soak-away pits
- filter strips
- permeable pavement
- grass channel
- dry swales

Erosion and Sediment Control (ESC)

Many changes to the landscape occur during the land development process including the removal of vegetation, stripping of topsoil and alterations to topography and drainage patterns. Without careful planning and oversight focused on minimizing these changes and mitigating their impacts, construction projects can have adverse impacts on adjacent and downstream watercourses and wetlands.

As many previously rural municipalities in Ontario undergo rapid urbanization and growth, the adoption of effective and innovative approaches to ESC is of paramount importance.

NVCA Asset Management Plan

The Board approved NVCA's 2021 Asset Management Plan.

The development of an asset management plan was an essential part of NVCA's ongoing liability and fiscal responsibility framework, as it guides the purchase, use, maintenance, and disposal of every asset NVCA needs in order to conduct business and reduce the NVCA's liability.

Preliminary Budget Guidance

The NVCA Board of Directors approved the preliminary budget guidelines to increase municipal levy by \$90,000.

This number was developed after considering factors like the COVID-19 pandemic, provincial transfer payment from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, insurance rates, staff retention and the board direction to replenish reserves to 25% - 30% of the operational budget.

Based on this approval, staff will prepare a draft budget for Board consideration for the

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September Board Meeting. The draft budget will be circulated to member municipalities after the September meeting for a 60-day review and consultation process. Staff will present to Municipal councils if requested during this time.

The final budget will be presented to the Board of Directors at the December meeting for approval.

Pretty River Dyke Maintenance – Project Update

The Pretty River Dyke is a flood conveyance structure through the Town of Collingwood approximately 2.1 kilometres in length. It was built in the 1970's in response to historic flooding that occurred in the surrounding urban areas.

The floodway provides flood risk reduction to surrounding areas and is primarily owned by NVCA. It is currently generally in good visual condition but is generally lined with dense shrubs and trees.

A recent draft hydraulic update work completed for the Town of Collingwood identified that major vegetation removal works are needed within the floodway to reducing potential spills on the floodway the Timmins Storm.

The project will start in the Fall of 2021 and continue to 2022. After that, maintenance work is an activity that should occur on a regular basis.

NVCA and the Town of Collingwood are currently working on a plan to engage the public and key stakeholders about the maintenance project.



760 Peterborough County Road 36, Trent Lakes, ON K0M 1A0 Tel 705-738-3800 Fax 705-738-3801

September 9, 2021

Via email only

To: Premier Doug Ford – doug.fordco@pc.ola.org
Ontario Minister of Health Christine Elliott – christine.elliott@pc.ola.org
Dave Smith, MPP Peterborough-Kawartha – dave.smith@pc.ola.org
David Piccini, MPP Northumberland-Peterborough South – david.piccini@pc.ola.org
Laurie Scott, MPP Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock – laurie.scott@pc.ola.org
Ontario Association of Optometrists – oaoinfo@optom.on.ca

Re: **OHIP Eye Care Resolution R2021-593**

Please be advised that during their Regular Council meeting held September 7, 2021, Council passed the following resolution:

Resolution No. **R2021-425**

Moved by Councillor Lambshead
Seconded by Councillor Franzen

Whereas routine eye care is critical in early detection of eye diseases like glaucoma, cataracts, and macular degeneration, and the health of eyes is critical to overall health and quality of life; and

Whereas conditions that may be detected with an annual eye exam include Diabetes mellitus, Glaucoma, Cataract, Retinal disease, Amblyopia (lazy eye), Visual field defects (loss of part of the usual field of vision), Corneal disease, Strabismus (crosses eyes), Recurrent uveitis (an inflammation of the uvea, the middle layer of the eye that consists of the iris, ciliary body and choroid), Optic pathway disease; and

Whereas payments from OHIP have only increased 9% over the last 30 years, which has not come close to matching inflation of costs (which include rent, staff, utilities, equipment, taxes and supplies); and

Whereas the lack of funding makes it difficult to invest in modern technology, and newer technology means earlier detection of eye disease; and

Whereas the Provincial government’s refusal to formally negotiate with Optometrists for more than 30 years has forced the Optometrists to absorb approximately 173 Million dollars annually in the cost to deliver eye care to Ontarians; and

Whereas the 2021 Ontario Budget did not address OHIP-insured eye care, Ontario Optometrists took action and voted to withdraw OHIP services starting

PS

September 1, 2021, unless the government agrees to legally-binding negotiations to fund these services at least to the cost of delivery; and

Whereas this job action will jeopardize good eyecare for those who need the care of an optometrist the most and will have the greatest impact on the most vulnerable groups. Children, who's lifetime ability to learn and develop depends on good vision and to the elderly, who are at the greatest risk for vision-threatening ocular diseases;

Now Therefore, be it resolved that the Municipality of Trent Lakes requests that the Provincial government recognize the value that access to quality eye care brings to all Ontarians and act now to protect it; and further

That the Provincial government address the OHIP-insured eye care immediately and enter into legally-binding negotiations with Ontario Optometrists to fund these services at least to the cost of delivery, prior to any job action taking place; and further

That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Premier Ford, Ontario Minister of Health Christine Elliot, MPP Dave Smith, MPP David Piccini, MPP Laurie Scott, to the Ontario Association of Optometrists, and to all municipalities in Ontario.

Carried.

Sincerely,



Jessie Clark, Director of Corporate Services/Clerk

cc: Ontario Municipalities

Krista Pascoe

To: Colleen Healey
Subject: RE: Ontario Takes Next Step to Expand High-Speed Internet Access

From: Ontario News <newsroom@ontario.ca>
Sent: September 9, 2021 10:02 AM
To: Colleen Healey <chealey@essatownship.on.ca>
Subject: Ontario Takes Next Step to Expand High-Speed Internet Access



NEWS RELEASE

Ontario Takes Next Step to Expand High-Speed Internet Access

Province launches new procurement process to connect hundreds of thousands of homes and businesses

September 09, 2021
Ministry of Infrastructure

The Ontario government is taking the next step to help bring high-speed internet access to every community by the end of 2025. Today, the province launched a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) as part of a new competitive bidding process to connect more than 300,000 homes and businesses in unserved and underserved areas.

Under the new and innovative procurement process, qualified internet service providers (ISP) will later bid – through a series of reverse auctions in defined geographic areas – for opportunities to provide connectivity across Ontario.

“Our government is bringing access to high-speed internet to every home and business across Ontario,” said Kinga Surma, Minister of Infrastructure. “By taking this next step, we are closer to ensuring that no one is left behind when it comes to participating in this digital world. We’re saying that no matter where you live, you will have access to reliable, high-speed internet to work, learn, start a business, access vital services like health care, and connect with family and friends.”

The new procurement process, led by Infrastructure Ontario, builds on the province’s recently announced investment of up to \$14.7 million for 13 new projects under its Improving Connectivity for Ontario (ICON) program. This investment is providing up to



17,000 homes and businesses with access to reliable high-speed internet. It also builds on a range of other previously announced provincial initiatives that will connect another 70,000 homes and businesses throughout Southwestern and Northern Ontario.

"Infrastructure Ontario is excited to be launching this innovative new competitive bidding process," said Michael Lindsay, President and CEO of Infrastructure Ontario. "These past 18 months of working, learning and receiving care from home have shown the value and importance of achieving high-speed connectivity for every region in Ontario. This program will help more than 300,000 homes and businesses across the province gain access to this connectivity."

Ontario is now one of the few jurisdictions in Canada with its own comprehensive and proactive plan to achieve 100 per cent connectivity. In the coming months, the government plans to announce the results of the reverse auctions, along with additional details on how it will help ensure every region in Ontario has access to high-speed internet by the end of 2025.

Quick Facts

- In March, the Ontario government announced nearly \$4 billion to connect every region to high-speed internet by the end of 2025. This is the largest single investment in high-speed internet, in any province, by any government in Canadian history.
- Internet service providers interested in bidding on these contracts must register with www.merx.com to download the RFQ. Infrastructure Ontario will review the RFQ submissions and those shortlisted will be invited to respond to a Request for Proposals to participate in the reverse auctions.
- The reverse auctions allow internet service providers to bid on how much provincial funding they would require to supply the community with high-speed internet access. The winning bid would meet defined coverage and deployment requirements at the most competitive (lowest) price.
- As many as 700,000 households in Ontario – making up 1.4 million Ontarians – lack access to high-speed internet or have no internet connection at all.
- *Up to Speed: Ontario's Broadband and Cellular Action Plan* is already providing internet and cellular access to homes and businesses in communities across Ontario.
- The Ontario government is also helping to speed up construction of broadband projects by successfully introducing the *Supporting Broadband and Infrastructure Expansion Act, 2021* earlier this spring.
- Last year, the province launched the Improving Connectivity for Ontario (ICON) program, a multi-year program that aims to support high-speed internet and cellular projects.
- The province has invested in initiatives to improve connectivity across Eastern and Southwestern Ontario. It has also invested in high-speed internet projects in



rural and Northern communities through other initiatives, such as the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation and the Next Generation Network Program.

- Expanding access to high-speed internet is part of *Ontario Onwards: Ontario's COVID-19 Action Plan for a People-Focused Government*, which includes more than 30 projects that are changing the way people and businesses interact with government.

Additional Resources

- [Ontario Connects: Learn how Ontario is helping to improve connectivity across the province](#)
- [Ontario Taking Action to Expand Access to Reliable Broadband](#)
- [Ontario Builds map](#)

Media Contacts

Sofia Sousa-Dias

Communications Branch

sofia.sousa-dias@ontario.ca

Hayley Cooper

Press Secretary, Office of the Honourable Kinga Surma, Minister of Infrastructure

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[EXTERNAL]



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JIM WILSON, MPP
Simcoe-Grey

September 9, 2021

The Honourable Stephen Lecce, MPP
Minister of Education
5th Flr, 438 University Ave
Toronto, ON M7A 2A5

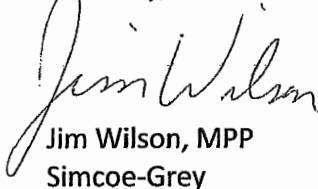
Dear Minister:

Enclosed please find a resolution recently passed by the Township of Essa in support of the replacement of Banting Memorial High School in Alliston.

Minister, this is an issue I have raised with this government on a number of occasions. I would appreciate it if you would once again review the matter and respond.

Thank you and please accept my best wishes.

Sincerely,


Jim Wilson, MPP
Simcoe-Grey

Encl.

c. Lisa Lehr, Manager of Legislative Services, Township of Essa

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From: Lisa Lehr <llehr@essatownship.on.ca>
Sent: September 2, 2021 11:31 AM
To: Dianne Gould-Brown <dgouldbrown@aditos.ca>
Cc: Krista Pascoe <kpascoe@essatownship.on.ca>
Subject: Township of Essa Letter of Support, re: Motion to Support the Replacement of Banting Memorial High School

CAUTION: External message.

Good Morning

Please find the attached to contain a letter of support from Essa Council in respect of the replacement of Banting Memorial High School.

Sincerely,

Lisa Lehr, CMO

Manager of Legislative Services

Township of Essa

Phone 705-424-9917 ext 117

****Did you know? The Township of Essa is undertaking a comprehensive review of its Official Plan. Click [HERE](#) for more information!****

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Corporation of the Township of Essa
5786 County Road 21
Utopia, Ontario
L0M 1T0



Telephone: (705) 424-9917
Fax: (705) 424-2367
Web Site: www.essatownship.on.ca

September 2, 2021

Township of Adjala-Tosorontio
Attention: Dianne Gould-Brown, Clerk
7855 Sideroad 30
Alliston, ON
L9R 1V1

Re: Motion to Support the Replacement of Banting Memorial High School

Dear Dianne:

Please be advised that at its meeting of September 1, 2021, Council of the Township of Essa received a copy of the following:

- **Motion to Support the Replacement of Banting Memorial High School**

This letter is being sent to advise that Council of the Corporation of the Township of Essa supports the Township of Adjala-Tosorontio in their request for the replacement of Banting Memorial High School, and further requests the Minister of Education to prioritize the replacement of the school to meet current and future needs with similar amenities.

Sincerely,

Lisa Lehr
Manager of Legislative Services

Cc: Minister of Education, Hon. Stephen Lecce
MPP Simcoe-Grey, Jim Wilson
SCDSB
Town of New Tecumseth
Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury
Town of Innisfil