



## Staff Report

**Report Title: Resolutions for Consideration March 2024**

**Prepared By: Kelly Lush, Deputy Clerk**

**Department: Legislative Services**

**Date: Mar. 4, 2024**

**Report Number: CLK-2024-03-11**

**File Number: C11 CLK 24**

**Attachments: 1. Provincial and National Fire Fighting Strategy 2. Occupational Health and Safety to Clarify Definition of Employer 3. End Gas Line Subsidy 4. Combine ROMA and OGRA Conferences 5. Water Affordability of Water and Wastewater Systems 6. Social and Economic Prosperity Review 7. Ausable, Bayfield, Maitland Valley Source Protection Committee – Free Well Testing in Ontario.**

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### **Recommendation:**

THAT the Township of Huron-Kinloss Committee of the Whole hereby receives for information Report CLK-2024-03-11 prepared by Kelly Lush, Deputy Clerk;

AND FURTHER THAT the Committee of the Whole support resolution # \_\_\_\_\_,  
\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

AND FURTHER direct staff to distribute as they see fit.

### **Background:**

These resolutions were received from other Ontario Municipalities for consideration.

### **Discussion:**

1. The Municipality of Calvin is urging and encouraging the Federal Government to commit additional funds for cost sharing of provincial firefighting and to consider a national strategy of firefighting. They are also requesting that a program similar to the Joint Emergency Preparedness Program (JEPP) which was dissolved in 2013 be formed.
2. The City of Sudbury is requesting that the Province amend the Occupational Health and Safety Act to clarify the definition of "employer" to exclude owners

that have contracted with a constructor for a project. As it stands currently under the Act municipalities in Ontario, as well as other owners of property who undertake construction are subject to being charged and convicted as an employer for offences in relation to project sites for which they have no control and have in accordance with the Act, contracted with an entity to assume plenary oversight and authority over the work on such site as the constructor.

3. The City of Hamilton is against the new construction of methane gas pipelines as they are inconsistent with the City's climate targets and will result in higher carbon emissions, higher energy bills, higher future decarbonization retrofit costs to get off fossil fuel heating and a continued financial drain. The City of Hamilton expressed its support of the Ontario Energy Board to end the gas pipeline subsidy and request that the Ontario Government allow the decision to stand.
4. The Town of Petrolia is requesting that Rural Ontario Municipalities Association (ROMA) and Ontario Good Roads Association (OGRA) boards re-establish a combined OGRA and ROMA Annual Conference to allow for more availability for participation of Councils and staff, more participation and lessen the financial costs.
5. The County of Renfrew is advocating to the Provincial and Federal Governments to make them aware that rural and small urban water and wastewater systems are financially unsustainable. The County is also advocating to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the Rural Ontario Municipalities Association (ROMA) and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) to examine if the unaffordability of water and wastewater system operational cost is systemic provincially and nationally.
6. The Town of Orangeville notes that nearly a third of municipal spending in Ontario is for services in areas of provincial responsibility and expenditures are outpacing provincial contributions by nearly \$4 Billion a year. The Town of Orangeville along with other supporters request that the Province of Ontario commit to undertaking with the Association of Municipalities of Ontario a comprehensive social and economic prosperity review to promote the stability and sustainability of municipal finances across Ontario.
7. The Auditor General's Value-for-Money Audit of Public Health Ontario (PHO) released in December 2023 recommended in conjunction with the Ministry of Health (MOH) to update and implement a laboratory modernization plan with the recommendation to close laboratories and phase out free private well testing in Ontario. The Ausable Bayfield Maitland Valley Source Protection Committee is requesting that the Province not proceed with the phase out of free private well testing in Ontario

**Financial Impacts:**

There are no financial implications with this report.

**Strategic Alignment / Link:**

We are an accessible community that offers opportunities for everyone by being open and transparent.

**Respectfully Submitted By:**

Kelly Lush, Deputy Clerk

**Report Approved By:**

Mary Rose Walden, Chief Administrative Officer