

April 12, 2024

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

DELIVERED VIA EMAIL

Dear Premier Ford,

Re: Motion regarding Affordability of Water and Wastewater Rates

Please be advised that at its regular meeting of April 9, 2024, Loyalist Township Council passed the following resolution:

Resolution 2024-77

Moved by Councillor Willis
Seconded by Councillor Parks

WHEREAS a resolution passed by the County of Renfrew regarding the unaffordability of rural and small urban water and wastewater systems has been circulated to all municipalities in Ontario; and

WHEREAS due to the typical geography of rural Ontario, it is not unusual for smaller municipalities to be responsible for several treatment facilities; and

WHEREAS the costs associated with the operations, upkeep and upgrade of a number of treatment facilities and other infrastructure to meet provincial regulations in both environmental and financial planning capacities for smaller urban centers, which typically has a much lower population density per total kilometers of water and sewer as compared to larger municipalities, is a significant financial burden on system users for this essential necessity;



NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of Loyalist Township supports the County of Renfrew's request 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 costs is systemic provincially and nationally;

AND THAT if the unaffordability is determined to be systemic, provincial and federal governments appropriately fund an assistance program for smaller municipalities with financial oversight of drinking water and wastewater systems;

AND THAT a copy of this resolution be circulated to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario; the Honourable Kinga Surma, Minister of Infrastructure; the Honourable Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Honourable Andrea Khanjin, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, Ric Bresee, MPP Hastings - Lennox & Addington; the Association of Municipalities of Ontario; the Rural Ontario Municipal Association; and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.

Motion carried.

Sincerely,

Anne Kantharajah
Township Clerk
akantharajah@loyalist.ca
613-386-7351 Ext. 121

cc: the Honourable Kinga Surma, Minister of Infrastructure
the Honourable Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
the Honourable Andrea Khanjin, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
Ric Bresee, MPP Hastings - Lennox & Addington;
Association of Municipalities of Ontario
Rural Ontario Municipal Association
Federation of Canadian Municipalities
Jim Hegadorn, Mayor, Loyalist Township
Rebecca Murphy, CAO, Loyalist Township
Councillor Willis, Loyalist Township
Councillor Parks, Loyalist Township