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**Township of Southgate  
Council**

## NOTICE OF MOTION

**SUBMITTED:** March 7, 2025                      **FOR MEETING:** March 19, 2025  
**TO:** Council  
**FROM:** Deputy Mayor Barbara Dobreen  
**RE:** **Fostering a healthy democracy through support for local journalism**

### Recommendation:

**WHEREAS**, a healthy, professional news media is essential for the proper functioning of civil society and a healthy democracy at the local, regional, federal and international level; and

**WHEREAS**, according to a local research project, more than 520 news outlets in nearly 350 communities across Canada have closed or merged from 2008 to October 2024 (compared to the launch of 260 that continue to operate); and

**WHEREAS**, 29 municipalities — home to nearly 11 million people in nine provinces across Canada — have passed motions since 2020 voicing support for journalism in aid of democracy.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Council of the Township of Southgate recognizes that a healthy, professional news media is essential to the proper functioning of democracy in the region; and

**THAT** Council urges nearby municipal councils and across Canada to recognize that a robust news media is essential to the proper functioning of democracy in their jurisdictions; and

**THAT** this resolution be forwarded to all municipalities, local M.P.s and M.P.P.s, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario.

### Comments:

**"Without democracy, there will be no independent press. And without an independent press, there can be no democracy."** *Martin Baron, former executive editor, Washington Post Collision of Power*

**A well-informed community is essential for a healthy democracy.** Independent media work to ensure the public stays informed, hold officials accountable, and help protect fair elections. Strong, community-focused reporting cuts through misinformation and gives people the knowledge they need to make informed decisions. Without it, crucial stories about government policies, school boards, and infrastructure (among other issues that impact our lives daily) could go unheard. *The Owen Sound Current, March 5, 2025*

Respectfully submitted,

