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December 14, 2023

SENT VIA EMAIL: premier@ontario.ca

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

RE: Town of Lincoln Council Resolution – Provincial commitment to provide municipalities necessary infrastructure funding to support housing as a result of the impacts of Bill 23 and other legislation

Please be advised that the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Lincoln at its Council Meeting held on December 13, 2023, passed the following motion regarding Provincial commitment to provide municipalities necessary infrastructure funding to support housing as a result of the impacts of Bill 23 and other legislation:

Resolution No.: RC-2023-159

Moved by Councillor Greg Reimer; Seconded by Councillor Adam Russell

WHEREAS Town of Lincoln Council is committed to doing their part to reduce barriers and find solutions to meet the development demand imposed by the Province under Bill 23, More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022; and

WHEREAS Bill 23, More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022, aims to build 1.5 million new homes by 2031 and to accomplish this goal, the Bill seeks to eliminate or reduce a range of processes, fees, and regulations that have the potential to slow or inhibit development; and

WHEREAS municipalities play a vital role in fostering community development, providing essential services, and maintaining local infrastructure; and

WHEREAS in 2019, the National Housing Strategy recognized housing as a human right and under Bill 23, implemented two strategies focused on affordability and attainability respectively; and

WHEREAS the Town of Lincoln recognizes the importance of financial tools to raise funds and support programs and services; and

WHEREAS on October 23, 2023, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, released a statement introducing legislation that would reverse the official plan decisions and wind back provincial changes to official plans and official plan amendments, except in circumstances where construction has begun or where doing so would contravene existing provincial legislation and regulation, including changes to urban boundaries; and

WHEREAS the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing will be asking impacted municipalities to submit changes and updates to those plans to ministry staff within 45 days of today, including information on projects that are already underway and in recognition of the costs incurred by municipalities arising out of this decision, the province will work with impacted municipalities to assist with related planning and staffing costs; and

WHEREAS the Province released their 2023 Fall Economic Statement to the Ontario's Big City Mayors (OBCM), whereby it was noted that that the statement did not provide an update on the government's efforts to address the financial impacts of Bill 23; and

WHEREAS Bill 23 includes changes to the Development Charges Act which is estimated to have an impact on municipalities, in terms of foregone collection of development charge fees, totalling \$1 billion annually across the province, even though the Province has committed to ensuring that municipalities are kept whole for any impact on their ability to fund housing enabled infrastructure because of the Bill; and

WHEREAS smaller municipalities will need to work with the Province to potentially create and approve new revenue tools to fund the various municipal operations and capital investments needed to meet the targets as set out in Bill 23; and

WHEREAS without revenue tools and provincial programs and supports, the ability to build the infrastructure required to support the creation of new homes, roads, sewer, water systems, supports and delivery of services such as fire and police, are exacerbated; and

WHEREAS under the current climate of inflation and rising construction cost, municipalities will have to undertake less infrastructure, especially without significant provincial program intakes and funding streams; and

WHEREAS municipalities already have limited cost recovery avenues within asset management plans and existing legislation, resulting in a growing provincial and Canada wide infrastructure funding gap.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Town of Lincoln Council:

1. Request support for all municipalities that are challenged to fulfill their growth targets by the financial burden imposed by the Province of Ontario with Bill 23; and
2. Urge the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing to work with all municipalities and establish long-term sustainable critical funding programs to fill the infrastructure gaps, including opening up more intakes for infrastructure funding; and
3. Emphasize the importance of the provincial governments commitment to looking forward as municipalities deal with the outcomes of Bill 23, and that should municipalities require funding to be made whole, that the government address these funding shortfalls; and
4. Forward a copy of this motion to each of the 12 Local Area Municipalities in Niagara; and
5. That a copy of this motion be circulated to Premier of Ontario, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Provincial opposition parties, Niagara's four MPs; Niagara's four MPPs; the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO); the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM); Mayors and Regional Chairs of Ontario (MARCO); and Ontario's Big City Mayors (OBCM) and local area municipalities.

CARRIED

If you require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Regards,

Julie Kirkelos
Town Clerk
jkirkelos@lincoln.ca

JK/dp

C.c. Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Provincial Opposition Parties
Niagara Area MPs and MPPs
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)

Mayors and Regional Chairs of Ontario (MARCO)
Ontario's Big City Mayors (OBCM)
Local Area Municipalities