



Town of Arnprior
Regular Meeting of Council: November 14th, 2023
Correspondence Package Number A-23-NOV-16

Recommendation:

That the Correspondence Package Number. A-23-NOV-16 be received, and that the recommendation(s) outlined be brought forward for Council's consideration.

Action Items:

1. **Request for Support – City of Cambridge and Catherine Fife, MPP – Bill 21, Fixing Long Term Care Amendment Act (Till Death Do Us Part), 2022**

That Council of the Corporation of the Town of Arnprior receive the correspondence from the City of Cambridge and Catherine Fife, MPP for Waterloo;

Whereas the care, support, and happiness of older adults in the Town of Arnprior is a priority for Council;

Whereas older adults deserve dignity in care and should have the right to live with their partner as they age;

Whereas within the Province of Ontario couples do not have the right to be accommodated together when entering long term care facilities;

Whereas the separation of spouses upon entering long term care facilities is a common occurrence across Ontario;

Whereas Bill 21, Fixing Long-Term Care Amendment Act (Till Death Do Us Part) was first introduced in the provincial legislature in 2019 and was re-introduced in 2022;

Whereas Bill 21 would amend the Residents' Bill of Rights set out in section 3 of *Fixing Long-Term Care Act, 2021* by adding the right of residents not to be separated from their spouse upon admission and to have accommodation made available for both spouses so they may continue to live together;

Whereas the Government of Ontario has indicated a willingness to bring forward a new Bill that, in principle, supports the intent of Bill 21 to fix the *Long-Term Care Amendment Act*;

Therefore Be It Resolved That Council supports any future Bill to fix the Long-Term Care Amendment Act to address the issue of partners being separated in long-term care settings and requests the provincial legislature enact any current and/or future proposed Bills to fix the *Long-Term Care Amendment Act, 2021*;

Further That a copy of this resolution be sent to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario; the Honourable Stan Cho, Minister of Long-Term Care; and Catherine Fife, MPP for Waterloo.

2. **Request for Support – Town of Rainy River (Water Treatment Training Programs)**

That Council of the Corporation of the Town of Arnprior receive the correspondence from the Town of Rainy River;

Whereas the Town of Arnprior employs licensed operators to operate the water treatment facilities, water distribution facilities, wastewater treatment facilities and wastewater collection facilities which service the residents of the Town of Arnprior;

Whereas the Town of Arnprior has been fortunate in obtaining a full staff compliment eager to take on the responsibilities of water treatment and distribution and wastewater collection and treatment operations;

Whereas all licensed water and wastewater operators require ongoing certification and training which is becoming increasingly difficult to obtain and procure;

Therefore Be It Resolved That Council support the Town of Rainy River's advocacy to the Province of Ontario to expand water treatment training opportunities for communities across Ontario;

Further That the training should be delivered in a method that is both flexible and affordable for small, rural and northern municipalities;

Further That the Province should consider utilizing existing networks for on-line exam preparation and exam supervision;

Further That a copy of this resolution be sent to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario; the Honourable Andrea Khanjin, Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks; and all Renfrew County municipalities.

3. Request for Support – Association of Municipalities of Ontario (Social and Economic Prosperity Review)

That Council of the Corporation of the Town of Arnprior receive the correspondence from the Association of Municipalities of Ontario;

Whereas the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) has been advocating to the Government of Ontario to relieve the burden on municipal governments in areas of provincial responsibility;

Whereas in 2022, municipalities spent \$3.8 billion more than they received in areas of provincial responsibility like social housing, long-term care, land ambulance, social services, and child care as a result of current cost sharing arrangements;

Whereas the AMO Board has established a goal to co-develop a sustainable, accountable provincial-municipal relationship where both orders of government can fulfill their responsibilities, guided by the principles of:

- fiscal sustainability for both orders of government;
- fairness for taxpayers and affordability for residents;
- coordinated and timely infrastructure investment resilient to climate realities;
- increased housing supply and affordability;
- robust health and social services supporting increased economic participation;
- long-term economic development and prosperity for Ontario and its communities;
- modern, effective, and streamlined service delivery;

Therefore Be It Resolved That Council supports the Association of Municipalities of Ontario proposal for the development of a Social and Economic Prosperity Review, in collaboration with municipalities, to begin as soon as possible in an effort to address the fiscal imbalances between levels of government; and,

Further That a copy of this resolution be sent to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario; the Honourable Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing; the Honourable Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance; and all Renfrew County municipalities.

4. Public Notice for the 2024 Operating and Capital Budgets – Alternate Form of Notice

Whereas Appendix A of the Town of Arnprior's Public Notice Policy #AS-CP-08, passed by By-law No. 6639-16 as amended, outlines specific public notice requirements for the budget public consultation meeting and adoption of the annual operating and capital budgets; and

Whereas the specific public notice requirements related to the annual budget process include notice to be published once in a newspaper at least 10 days in advance of the public participation or Council meeting; and

Whereas the local public newspaper, the Arnprior Chronicle Guide, is no longer in circulation within the Town; and

Whereas section 3(b) of the Public Notice Policy #AS-CP-08 allows for Council to direct an alternate form of manner of public notice or deems that notice is not required;

Therefore Be It Resolved That Council authorize the alternate forms of public notice for the annual budget process including, but not limited to: Town website, social media, facility digital screens, online feedback form, winter addition of Arnprior Life, and posters on local message boards.

**The Corporation of the City of Cambridge
Corporate Services Department
Clerk's Division
The City of Cambridge
Tel: (519) 740-4680 ext. 4585
mantond@cambridge.ca**

October 27, 2023

Re: Support for Bill 21, Fixing Long-Term Care Amendment Act

At its Council Meeting of October 24, 2023, the Council of the Corporation of the City of Cambridge passed the following Motion:

WHEREAS the care, support, and happiness of older adults in Cambridge is a priority for City Council;

WHEREAS older adults deserve dignity in care and should have the right to live with their partner as they age;

WHEREAS within the Province of Ontario couples do not have the right to be accommodated together when entering long term care facilities;

WHEREAS the separation of spouses upon entering long term care facilities is a common occurrence across Ontario;

WHEREAS Bill 21, Fixing Long-Term Care Amendment Act (Till death do us part) was first introduced in the provincial legislature in 2019 and was reintroduced in 2022;

WHEREAS Bill 21 amends the Residents' Bill of Rights set out in section 3 of Fixing Long-Term Care Act, 2021 by adding the right of residents not to be separated from their spouse upon admission and to have accommodation made available for both spouses so they may continue to live together;

WHEREAS Bill 21 passed its second reading in the provincial legislature on November 15, 2022 and was subsequently ordered referred to the Standing Committee on Social Policy and has since yet to be called to the Standing Committee;

WHEREAS the Conservative provincial Government may bring forward a new Bill that in principle supports the intent of Bill 21 to fix the Long-Term Care Amendment Act;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City of Cambridge supports any future Bill to fix the Long-Term Care Amendment Act;

AND THAT the City of Cambridge requests the provincial legislature enact any current and future proposed Bills to fix the Long-Term Care Amendment Act.

AND FURTHER THAT the City Clerk be directed to send a copy of this motion to the Region of Waterloo, Province of Ontario, The Honourable Premier of Ontario, The Right Honourable Provincial Members of Parliament, and all Ontario Municipalities.

Should you have any questions related to the approved resolution, please contact me.

Yours Truly,



Danielle Manton
City Clerk

Cc: (via email)
Hon. Premier Ford
Hon. Provincial Members of Parliament
Region of Waterloo
Province of Ontario
All Ontario Municipalities



Catherine Fife

MPP Waterloo

Lisa McGee
Mayor of Town of Arnprior
105 Elgin St. W., Arnprior, ON, K7S 0A8

RE: Requesting your support for Bill 21, Fixing Long-Term Care Amendment Act (Till Death Do Us Part), 2022

September 25, 2023

Dear Mayor McGee,

I am writing to you today to share an update on Bill 21, Fixing Long-Term Care Amendment Act (Till Death Do Us Part), 2022, and to request your support for this important legislation.

Bill 21 amends the Residents' Bill of Rights set out in section 3 of Fixing Long-Term Care Act, 2021 by adding the right of residents not to be separated from their spouse upon admission but to have accommodation made available for both spouses so they may continue to live together.

The Act was inspired by Cambridge resident Jim McLeod, who will have been separated from his wife of 65 years Joan, on September 17, 2023. Nearly 6 years later, Jim continues to champion spousal reunification. He often says that he will talk to anyone and has two giant binders full of his advocacy work on the Bill. Last week, he told me that his heart is breaking because of his separation from Joan. He has brought other seniors who are separated from their spouses into the advocacy – you cannot sit with these folks for any amount of time and not care deeply about this legislation.

I know that you value the many contributions that older adults have made to Waterloo Region, and care deeply that they can live their final years with dignity and love. **I am hoping you will consider bringing a motion forward to your Council, in support of the Till Death Do Us Part Act.** Your support will help us to keep attention on this important legislation, so that it can finally be called to the Standing Committee on Social Policy – one step closer to Royal Assent.

I would be happy to discuss the Bill with you further, via phone call or an in-person meeting at your convenience. Thanks in advance for considering my request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Fife".

Catherine Fife, Waterloo MPP
Finance & Treasury Board Critic

Constituency Office
100 Regina St. S., Suite 220
Waterloo, ON N2J 4A8
Ph: 519-725-3477 | Fax: 519-725-3667
Email: cfife-co@ndp.on.ca

Queen's Park Office
Room 154, Main Legislative Bldg.
Queen's Park, Toronto ON M7A 1A5
Ph: 416-325-6913 | Fax: 416-325-6942
Email: cfife-qp@ndp.on.ca

BACKGROUND:

On November 15, 2022, the Till Death Do Us Part Act, passed second reading in the Ontario legislature after being [introduced for the third time in September 2022](#). The bill was then referred to the Ontario Legislature's Social Policy Committee. You can view highlights of the second reading debate here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mYRIgQgDe2k>

I have been pushing for the Standing Committee on Social Policy to schedule a time to begin the work of reviewing Bill 21 since November 2022. **Today marks 286 days since the Act passed second reading at the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.** Unfortunately, the Bill has yet to be called to committee.

Bill 21, which was formerly Bill 153 and 95, respectively, had passed second reading and was sent to the Justice Committee in December 2019, but was wiped off the order paper when Premier Ford prorogued the house in 2021. It was reintroduced early 2022 but did not have time to progress before the election.

Since I first introduced this Bill in 2019, the number of people who've reached out to my offices with heartbreaking stories of couples entering long-term care who are torn apart has skyrocketed. Simply put, Ontario seniors deserve dignity in care and should have the right to live with their partner as they age. Of note, Nova Scotia passed similar legislation, titled the [Life Partners in Long-Term Care Act](#) in 2021.

Following many meetings with stakeholders, it's clear that "care campuses" which offer different levels of care (independent, assisted living and long-term care) are the progressive model for investing in quality care for Ontario's aging population. Care campuses are an essential element to keeping couples together as they often age at different rates. This level of choice has been brought to my attention as especially important to rural and northern municipal leaders across Ontario. The care campus model for seniors housing that builds different levels of care has unique financial savings that will be critical as we grapple with a rapidly aging province.

We need the Bill to be called to the Standing Committee on Social Policy as soon as possible. We know that couples who are separated across Ontario cannot wait any longer for this legislative change to be made.

Here are the links to recent media coverage of the Till Death Do Us Part Act, which provide more specific insights into the lived experiences of older adults who are separated from their spouses:

- [CTV News Kitchener: Ontario seniors separated in long-term care pushing for the right to remain together](#)
- [CityNews Kitchener: Waterloo MPP appeals for seniors bill to be brought forward](#)
- [Waterloo Region Record: Cambridge senior calls for end to separating couples in long-term care](#)

PO Box 488
201 Atwood Avenue
Rainy River, ON
P0W 1L0



Office Phone: (807) 852-3244
Clerk Phone: (807) 852-3978
Fax: (807) 852-3553
Email: rainyriver@tbaytel.net
Website: www.rainyriver.ca

Town of Rainy River

RESOLUTION

MOVED BY  DATE: October 10, 2023

SECONDED BY  RESOLUTION: 23-020

“WHEREAS the Corporation of the Town of Rainy River is a small community in Northwestern Ontario with limited financial resources;

AND WHEREAS the Town of Rainy River owns and operates the water treatment facilities, water distribution facilities, wastewater treatment facilities and wastewater collection facilities which service the residents of the Town of Rainy River;

AND WHEREAS the Town of Rainy River requires Class II Water Treatment Operators for its facilities;

AND WHEREAS the Corporation of the Town of Rainy River attempts to provide training as prescribed by the Province of Ontario to obtain the necessary classification(s);

AND WHEREAS the Town of Rainy River has been fortunate in obtaining a full staff compliment eager to take on the responsibilities of water treatment and distribution and wastewater collection and treatment operations;

AND WHEREAS any new employees of the Town of Rainy River require certification;

AND WHEREAS training is becoming increasingly difficult to procure;

AND WHEREAS the Province of Ontario has implemented stringent review of water treatment plants to ensure compliance;

AND WHEREAS the Province of Ontario is promoting and providing an increased number of training opportunities for a variety of trades;

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Corporation of the Town of Rainy River petitions the Province of Ontario to expand water treatment training opportunities for communities within Ontario;

AND FURTHER the training be delivered in a method that is flexible and affordable;

AND FURTHER utilize existing networks, such as Contact North, for on-line exam preparation and exam supervision;

AND FURTHER the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Rainy River forward copies of this resolution to Premier Doug Ford, Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks Andrea Khanjin, MPP Greg Rickford, Walkerton Clean Water Centre, Ontario Municipalities.”

ABSTAIN _____
AYES _____
NAYES _____

D. ARMSTRONG _____
D. EWALD _____
J. HAGARTY _____
B. HELGESON _____
N. IVALL _____
M. KREGER _____
G. PROST _____

CARRIED _____ ✓
DEFEATED _____


MAYOR OR ACTING MAYOR



Sent via email to: premier@ontario.ca

October 17, 2023

The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Queen's Park
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1A

Dear Premier Ford:

Re: Social and Economic Prosperity Review

I am writing today with respect to a question of utmost importance for Ontario's residents, businesses, and communities. The provincial-municipal fiscal partnership is central to Ontario's economic competitiveness, social well-being, and environmental management. It provides the foundation for the \$60 billion in investments that the municipal sector makes each year, the critical health and social services that save lives every day, and all of the municipally funded elements that together define the character of Ontario's communities.

Due to increasing demands on municipalities and evolving federal and provincial funding policies, the provincial-municipal fiscal framework is now broken. Complex challenges like homelessness, mental health and addictions, and long-term care transcend any one level of government and require multi-faceted, transformational approaches. Unprecedented housing supply shortages, decades in the making, require long-term approaches to infrastructure investment that have moved beyond the principle of "growth pays for growth". As a former municipal leader, you are aware that Ontario's municipalities are unique within Canada in terms of the fiscal burden they shoulder for health and social services that are typically considered provincial responsibilities. In 2022, municipalities **spent \$3.8 billion more than they received** in areas of provincial responsibility like social housing, long-term care, land ambulance, social services, and child care as a result of current cost sharing arrangements. Municipalities cannot continue to subsidize the provincial government in the face of mounting pressures.

Ontario's provincial and municipal governments have a strong track record of working together to solve complex challenges and develop sound public policy. We have previously come together in principles-driven processes to review provincial-municipal service delivery roles and fiscal architecture and to identify fixes. A similar process is needed now.

At its meeting on September 29th, the AMO Board endorsed a vision for a Social and Economic Prosperity Review to update the provincial-municipal partnership to build sustainable communities, stronger economic foundations, and a better quality of life. This process would have the goal of developing a sustainable, accountable provincial-municipal relationship where both orders of government can fulfill their responsibilities, guided by the principles of:

- fiscal sustainability for both orders of government
- fairness for taxpayers and affordability for residents
- coordinated and timely infrastructure investment resilient to climate realities
- increased housing supply and affordability
- robust health and social services supporting increased economic participation
- long-term economic development and prosperity for Ontario and its communities
- modern, effective, and streamlined service delivery.

The AMO vision would see provincial and municipal governments coming together to guide robust, joint analysis and recommendation development that considers evidence, balances different perspectives, and ultimately generates consensus on a path forward. AMO's Memorandum of Understanding, with your government, provides an ideal framework in which this collaboration can occur.

AMO is calling on the provincial government to commit to this Social and Economic Prosperity Review in collaboration with municipalities to begin as soon as possible. We welcome the opportunity to meet with you, Minister Calandra, and Minister Bethlenfalvy to discuss further at your earliest convenience.

AMO is confident that your government is committed to Ontario's social and economic prosperity. Together, we have the opportunity to create a legacy of stronger, more sustainable communities that form the foundation of a prosperous Ontario.

Sincerely,



Colin Best
AMO President and Councillor, Region of Halton

cc: The Honourable Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
The Honourable Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance
Martha Greenberg, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Greg Orencsak, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Finance