



**Town of Arnprior  
Regular Meeting of Council: March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2026**

**Correspondence Package Number A-26-MAR-04**

**Recommendation:**

**That** the Correspondence Package Number. A-26-MAR-04 be received, and that the recommendation(s) outlined be brought forward for Council's consideration.

**Action Item:**

**1. Resolution of Support – Association of Ontario Road Supervisors – Protection for Municipal Public Works Workers and Contractors**

**Whereas** municipal public works employees and contracted service providers are responsible for maintaining critical infrastructure including roads, sidewalks, bridges, drainage systems, and winter maintenance operations that are essential to public safety and emergency response; and

**Whereas** during significant weather events and emergencies, these workers act as frontline responders, ensuring routes remain open for ambulances, fire services, police, school transportation, and the travelling public; and

**Whereas** municipalities across Ontario are reporting an increase in harassment, threats, intimidation, and dangerous interference from members of the public directed at municipal workers and subcontractors while they perform their duties; and

**Whereas** these behaviours have included verbal abuse, threats of violence, obstruction of equipment, and actions that delay or disrupt winter maintenance and emergency response operations, placing workers and the broader public at risk; and

**Whereas** interference with municipal operations during storms and emergencies jeopardizes service levels, delays critical response times, and creates significant occupational health and safety risks; and

**Whereas** the Association of Ontario Road Supervisors (AORS) has formally called on the Province of Ontario to strengthen legislative protections, enforcement support, and consequences for those who threaten or obstruct municipal public works staff and contractors;

**Now therefore be it resolved that** the Council of the Town of Arnprior supports the calls to action advanced by the Association of Ontario Road Supervisors to improve protections for municipal public works workers and subcontractors; and

**Be it further resolved that** the Province of Ontario be requested to introduce legislative and enforcement measures that:

- recognize municipal public works workers and contractors as essential service providers during declared significant weather events and emergencies;
- deter and penalize interference, threats, harassment, or obstruction of municipal operations; and
- provide clear direction and support to police services to proactively respond to these incidents;

**And be it further resolved that** a copy of this resolution be forwarded to MPP Billy Denault, The Honourable David Piccini, Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development, The Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, the Association of Ontario Road Supervisors, the County of Renfrew and County of Renfrew municipalities for their consideration.

## 2. **Resolution of Support – Ontario Heritage Organization Development Grant Advocacy**

**Whereas** Ontario municipalities are legislated to preserve records of enduring and historical value, and community archives play a critical role in fulfilling this responsibility, particularly in rural and smaller municipalities; and

**Whereas** The Heritage Organization Development Grant (HODG) is the only provincial operating grant available to grassroots, non-profit heritage organizations, including community archives and historical societies across Ontario; and

**Whereas** the maximum annual HODG grant of \$1,545 per organization has remained effectively unchanged for more than 15 years, resulting in a significant erosion of its real value due to inflation, such that its current purchasing power is approximately two-thirds of what it was in 2010; and

**Whereas** rising operating costs related to insurance, utilities, records preservation, digitization, accessibility, and volunteer coordination have increased financial pressure on heritage organizations, often requiring municipalities to absorb additional costs to ensure continuity of service; and

**Whereas** Strengthening HODG would represent a modest but high-impact provincial investment that would help stabilize community archives, reduce pressure on municipal budgets, and safeguard Ontario's public records and local heritage for future generations;

**Therefore be it resolved that** Council of the Town of Arnprior formally supports a review and modernization of the Heritage Organization Development Grant, including restoring its real purchasing power through inflationary adjustment and exploring options for increased or multi-year operating stability; and

**Further that** this resolution be forwarded to the Honourable Stan Cho, Minister of Tourism, Culture and Gaming, MPP Billy Denault, The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, and AMO for consideration and support.

## Municipal Public Works Workers Facing Escalating Threats on the Job — AORS Calls for Provincial Action

Posted on [February 6, 2026](#)

Ontario's municipal public works professionals are used to working in challenging conditions. Snowstorms, flooding, overnight call-outs, and long hours are all part of the job.

What they should not have to face is harassment, intimidation, or threats of violence simply for doing their work.

Over the past several winter seasons, the Association of Ontario Road Supervisors (AORS) has heard from members across the province about a troubling and escalating trend: aggressive and dangerous behaviour from members of the public directed at municipal workers and subcontractors maintaining roads, sidewalks, and other critical infrastructure.

What was once the occasional frustrated complaint has evolved into a growing safety risk that is disrupting operations and, in some cases, forcing workers off job sites altogether.

### What our members are experiencing

Through direct consultations with municipalities across Ontario, AORS has received reports that include:

- Individuals throwing chunks of ice at active municipal equipment

- Threats to kill sidewalk and plow operators

- A person climbing onto a snowplow and refusing to get off until their road was cleared first

- Staff confronted and aggressively yelled at in public spaces, including at gas stations and coffee shops

- A voicemail threatening to shoot a plow driver with a shotgun

- A resident jumping in front of an active plow during a major storm and refusing to move, delaying operations for over an hour and jeopardizing overall service levels

These examples represent only a small sample of what municipal winter maintenance crews are experiencing across the province.

When a plow is delayed or an operator feels unsafe continuing their route, it doesn't just affect one street — it impacts emergency response, school transportation, and the safety of entire communities.

### Essential workers protecting essential services

During significant weather events, municipal public works staff are frontline responders. They ensure:

- Roads are open for ambulances, fire, and police

- School buses can travel safely

- Sidewalks remain accessible

- Communities stay connected

Interference with these operations is not simply a customer service issue — it is a public safety issue.

Yet, current legislation and enforcement practices do not consistently recognize the seriousness of these incidents. Some municipalities have even reported being told that unless a worker is physically assaulted, it is not considered a police matter.

Waiting until someone is hurt is not prevention.

### What AORS is advocating for

AORS is calling on the Province of Ontario to strengthen protections for municipal workers and subcontractors and to take a proactive enforcement approach.

Specifically, we are advocating for:

- Enhanced legal protections when a Significant Weather Event is declared
- Recognition that interference with winter maintenance operations is a public safety risk
- Stronger enforcement tools and consequences for threats, harassment, and obstruction
- Clear direction and support from the Ontario Provincial Police and other services
- Consideration of measures similar to Manitoba's new minimum following distances for snowplows

### Our actions to date

To elevate this issue, AORS has formally engaged the Province and the public.

Read more:

 [Letter to the Minister of Labour, Training, Immigration and Skilled Trades – David Piccini](#)

 [Letter to the Solicitor General – Michael Kerzner](#)

 [AORS Press Release](#)

 CBC Interviews with AORS President Karla Musso-Garcia (Links coming soon!)

In these conversations, we are making it clear: mistreatment, threats, and interference directed at municipal public works staff will not be tolerated.

### Standing up for our members

Municipal public works professionals take pride in serving their communities — often working through the night and in the worst conditions to keep others safe.

They deserve to return home safely at the end of every shift.

AORS will continue to advocate strongly for the legislative, enforcement, and policy changes needed to protect the people who keep Ontario moving.

If your municipality has experienced similar incidents, we encourage you to share your story with us to help strengthen our advocacy efforts.

### Council Toolkit: Draft Notice of Motion To Support Municipal Workers

To support province-wide advocacy and strengthen the collective municipal voice, AORS is encouraging councils to formally endorse protections for municipal public works workers and

contractors.

Municipal resolutions help demonstrate to the Province that this is not an isolated concern, but a consistent, province-wide public safety issue impacting service delivery in communities of all sizes.

[Here is a template motion municipalities can adapt and bring forward to Council.](#)



Regular Council Meeting Resolution Form

Date: February 17, 2026 No: RESOLUTION - 56-2026  
 Moved by Councillor Kevin Rosien Disposition: CARRIED  
 Seconded by Deputy Mayor Scott Brum Item No: 14.2

Description: Ontario Heritage Organization Development Grant Advocacy

**RESOLUTION:**

**WHEREAS** Ontario municipalities are legislated to preserve records of enduring and historical value, and community archives play a critical role in fulfilling this responsibility, particularly in rural and smaller municipalities; and

**WHEREAS** The Heritage Organization Development Grant (HODG) is the only provincial operating grant available to grassroots, non-profit heritage organizations, including community archives and historical societies across Ontario; and

**WHEREAS** The maximum annual HODG grant of \$1,545 per organization has remained effectively unchanged for more than 15 years, resulting in a significant erosion of its real value due to inflation, such that its current purchasing power is approximately two-thirds of what it was in 2010; and

**WHEREAS** Rising operating costs related to insurance, utilities, records preservation, digitization, accessibility, and volunteer coordination have increased financial pressure on heritage organizations, often requiring municipalities to absorb additional costs to ensure continuity of service; and

**WHEREAS** Strengthening HODG would represent a modest but high-impact provincial investment that would help stabilize community archives, reduce pressure on municipal budgets, and safeguard Ontario's public records and local heritage for future generations;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** Council formally support a review and modernization of the Heritage Organization Development Grant, including restoring its real purchasing power through inflationary adjustment and exploring options for increased or multi-year operating stability; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** This resolution be forwarded to the Minister of Tourism, Culture and Gaming, local Members of Provincial Parliament, AMO, and Ontario municipalities for consideration and support.

MAYOR

Recorded Vote Requested by: _____	Yea	Nay
Mayor Lori Hoddinott	_____	_____
Deputy Mayor Scott Brum	_____	_____
Councillor Kevin Rosien	_____	_____
Councillor Robert Campbell	_____	_____
Councillor Jill Campbell	_____	_____

Declaration of Pecuniary Interest: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Disclosed his/her/their interest(s), vacated he/her/their seat(s),  
 abstained from discussion and did not vote