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May 13, 2020

Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Room 281
Legislative Building – Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1A1

Via Email: doug.fordco@pc.ola.org

Dear Premier Ford,

Re: Framework for Reopening our Province - Residential Construction in Rural Areas

Please be advised the Council of the Township of North Frontenac passed the following Resolution at the May 8, 2020 Meeting:

Moved by Councillor Hermer, Seconded by Councillor Perry #191-20

Whereas on March 17, 2020 the government of Ontario announced that it was declaring a state of emergency under s 7.0.1 (1) of the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act* so that the Province could use every power possible to protect the health and safety of all individuals and families during the COVID-19 pandemic;

And Whereas on Friday, April 3, 2020, the government of Ontario gave notice of changes to Ontario Regulation 82/20 being the Order for the temporary closure of places of non-essential business made under subsection 7.0.2 (4) of the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act*, which reduced the list of essential businesses permitted to continue operation during the provincial state of emergency;

And Whereas Section 30 of the new Schedule 2 of Ontario Regulation 82/20 has been generally interpreted to prohibit residential construction where a building permit had not been issued prior to April 4, 2020;

And Whereas residential construction represents a significant number of jobs in rural Ontario and forms an integral part of the rural Ontario economy through considerable direct, indirect and induced impacts;

And Whereas on Monday, April 27, 2020 the government of Ontario released A *Framework for Reopening our Province*, which outlines the criteria Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health and health experts will use to advise the government on the loosening of emergency measures, as well as guiding principles for the safe, gradual reopening of businesses, services and public spaces;

And Whereas Stage 1 of the *Framework* will consider the opening of workplaces that can immediately meet or modify operations to meet public health guidance and occupational health and safety requirements;

And Whereas residential construction in rural areas is characterized by single-family dwelling types situated on large lots, which are attended by a very limited number of

tradespersons and contractors at any given time, and are being constructed for specific clientele with planned occupancy dates;

Now Therefore Be It Resolved That the Council of the Township of North Frontenac requests that the government of Ontario consider lifting the prohibition on residential construction where no building permit had been issued prior to April 4, 2020, in all instances where such construction can take place in accordance with the principles outlined in the government's *Framework for Reopening our Province* at its earliest opportunity in order to alleviate the economic hardships being experienced by rural Ontario's construction sector and the residents and families which it serves; **And That** this Resolution be forwarded to the Office of the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario and the Honourable Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing;

And Further That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the Eastern Ontario Warden's Caucus (EOWC), and to all rural Ontario municipalities, requesting their support.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Mieske'.

Tara Mieske
Clerk/Planning Manager
TM/bd

c.c. Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
Eastern Ontario Wardens Caucus (EOWC)
Rural Ontario Municipalities