



The Corporation of the Town of Tecumseh

October 12, 2021

Via Email

The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Email: premier@ontario.ca

Association of Municipalities of Ontario
Email: Association of Municipalities of Ontario (policy@amo.on.ca)

Dear Premier Ford:

Re: Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) 2021 Conference and Reliable Broadband/High Speed Internet Service

The Council of The Corporation of the Town of Tecumseh, at its regular meeting held Tuesday, September 28, 2021, gave consideration to a September 7, 2021 resolution received from the Town of Essex, requesting that the Province of Ontario deem Broadband Internet as an essential service and to provide support to all municipalities so that all residents of Ontario can have access to broadband as an integral part of their daily lives.

At their meeting, Tecumseh Council passed the following resolution (RCM – 297/21):

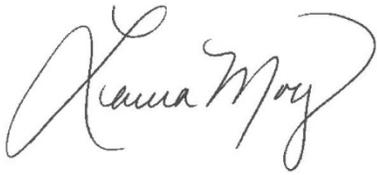
That the Town of Tecumseh support the Town of Essex resolution regarding Rural Broadband High Speed Internet Access and calling upon the Province of Ontario to deem broadband internet as an essential service and to provide support to all municipalities so that all residents of Ontario can have access to broadband as an integral part of their daily lives;

And that a letter requesting support be sent to the Honorable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and all local municipalities;

And further that the Town of Essex resolution be circulated to the Rural Broadband Advisory Committee for information.

Please consider this letter as confirmation of the Town of Tecumseh's support for the Town of Essex' resolution regarding Broadband/High Speed Internet Service.

Yours very truly,



Laura Moy, Dipl.M.M.
Director Corporate Services & Clerk

LM/sw

Attachments

1. Letter from the Town of Essex

cc: Mr. Robert W. Auger, L.L.B., Town Solicitor, Legal and Legislative Services/Clerk, Town of Essex, Email rauger@essex.ca

Ms. Mary Birch, Director of Council and Community Services/Clerk, County of Essex, Email: mbirch@countyofessex.ca

Mr. Tony Haddad, Acting Chief Administrative Officer, Town of Amherstburg, Email: thaddad@amherstburg.ca

Ms. Paula Parker, Clerk, Town of Kingsville, Email: pparker@kingsville.ca

Ms. Jennifer Astrologo, Director of Council Services/Clerk, Town of LaSalle, Email: jastrologo@lasalle.ca

Ms. Kristen Newman, Corporate Leader, Strategic and Legal Affairs, Municipality of Lakeshore, Email: knewman@lakeshore.ca

Ms. Brenda Percy, Municipal Clerk/Manager of Legislative Services, Municipality of Leamington, Email: bpercy@leamington.ca

Rural Broadband Advisory Committee, Email sfuerth@tecumseh.ca



September 21, 2021

TO: The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Email: Doug.fordco@pc.ola.org

AND TO: Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
200 University Avenue, Suite 800
Toronto, Ontario M5H 3C6
Email: amo@amo.on.ca

Re: Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) 2021 Conference

Dear Premier Ford,

At its Regular Council Meeting of September 7, 2021, Essex Town Council received information from Councillor Bjorkman concerning his attendance at the recent Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) 2021 Conference. In particular Councillor Bjorkman advised that the importance of bringing reliable Broadband to all Ontarians was discussed at the conference. During this discussion Council took note of the ongoing concern that a lack of reliable and affordable access to Broadband poses a significant challenge to many Ontarians in particular Ontarians and businesses located in rural/smaller communities. Council then discussed the desire for broadband/high speed internet to be classified and funded by the Province as an essential service so as to ensure all can be a part of and enjoy the benefits of the digital economy. Declaring broadband/high speed internet as an essential service would ensure that the provision of broadband services be given the same priority for Ontarians as the provision of clean water, electricity, health care, education and postal services. Making the provision of broadband service mandatory across every rural and remote corner of the Province will bolster economic development and ensure affordable, reliable and fair access for all to the digital economy.



As a result of the discussion Council passed the following resolution:

R21-09-378

Moved by: Deputy Richard Meloche

Seconded By: Councillor Bondy

That the verbal report/presentation by Councillor Bjorkman regarding his attendance /participation at the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) 2021 Conference be received;

That Council recognizes the need for broadband internet to be an essential service by adopting the following resolution:

Whereas broadband internet is essential for life tasks including education, workforce, healthcare, and is a fundamental element of an inclusive and sustainable world;

Whereas the global pandemic has heightened the awareness of the problems that the lack of reliable and stable access to broadband and digital connectivity have on residents;

Whereas an increasing number of information resources, including government resources and services, are available solely online; and

Therefore, be it resolved that the Council of the Town of Essex does hereby call upon the Province of Ontario to deem Broadband Internet as an essential service and to provide support to all municipalities so that all residents of Ontario can have access to broadband as an integral part of their daily lives; and further that a letter requesting support be sent to the Honorable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and all local municipalities.

Carried



I trust you will find this satisfactory. If you have any questions or comments please feel free to contact the undersigned.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Auger", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Robert W. Auger, L.L.B.
Town Solicitor, Legal and Legislative Services/Clerk
rauger@essex.ca

c.c. Mary Birch, Director of Council and Community Services/Clerk
County of Essex
Email: mbirch@countyofessex.ca

Paula Parker, Municipal Clerk/Risk Manager
Town of Amherstburg
Email: pparker@amherstburg.ca

Sandra Kitchen, Deputy Clerk
Town of Kingsville
Email: skitchen@kingsville.ca

Linda Jean, Deputy Clerk
Town of LaSalle
Email: ljean@lasalle.ca

Kristen Newman, Corporate Leader, Strategic and Legal Affairs
Municipality of Lakeshore
Email: knewman@lakeshore.ca

Brenda Percy, Municipal Clerk/Manager of Legislative Services
Municipality of Leamington
Email: bpercy@leamington.ca



Laura Moy, Director of Corporate Services/Clerk
Town of Tecumseh
Email: lmoy@tecumseh.ca