April 14, 2008

Municipalities of Ontario

Dear Councils;

Tay Valley Township Resolution Re: Provincial Funding – Evaluation & Approval Process

Please be advised that the Council of Tay Valley Township passed the following resolution at their Regular Meeting held on April 8th, 2008;

WHEREAS it is very encouraging for municipalities to see that the federal and provincial governments have, for several years now, finally given formal recognition, through their various short and long-term budget announcements, that they have certain responsibilities to help fund new and replacement municipal infrastructure;
AND WHEREAS the funding contributions from the senior levels of government result in, among other things, cleaner air and water, safer roads and bridges, etc.;
AND WHEREAS the funding has resulted from programs such as the Canada-Ontario Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund, Rural Infrastructure Investment Initiative, Municipal Infrastructure Investment Initiative, Move-Ontario and the Municipal Roads and Bridges Fund;
AND WHEREAS the stated objectives of the various programs such as "... to ensure that Ontarians in small urban and rural communities enjoy a quality of life that is second to none ..."; "... support economic development, prosperity and quality of life in small and rural municipalities"; "... to direct new infrastructure funding to support the construction or renewal of municipally owned infrastructure assets" are admirable and very desirable;
AND WHEREAS, with the exception of the Move Ontario and the Municipal Roads and Bridges Funds, detailed, costly, onerous and in some cases, very complicated applications had to be submitted to try and access funds from the various programs;
AND WHEREAS those applications were submitted as a municipality’s highest priority;
AND WHEREAS those municipal priorities were then subjected to the province’s own set of criteria which have been proven to be, less than transparent;
AND WHEREAS a perception has evolved that the selection process is politically driven rather than being based on an open and accountable analysis of project eligibility and community needs;
AND WHEREAS the senior levels of government now recognize that ALL municipalities are in urgent need of new and replacement infrastructure and that municipalities have very limited resources from which to fund these many and varied projects;
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the province make infrastructure funding available to ALL municipalities based upon formulae similar to those developed for the Move Ontario and the Municipal Roads and Bridges Fund so that municipal politicians and staff do not have to waste valuable time, effort and money in applying for the various programs’ funds that would enable the construction of necessary projects;
AND FURTHERMORE THAT a copy of this motion be sent to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Leader of the Official Opposition of Ontario, the Leader of the New Democratic Party of Ontario, Randy Hillier MPP, all municipalities in Lanark County, and to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario for circulation to all municipalities in the Province of Ontario for support.

The resolution is being circulated to all municipalities in the Province of Ontario for support. Your serious consideration of this important issue would be very much appreciated.

Sincerely,

Leslie Drynan
Leslie Drynan
Clerk