THAT WHEREAS the Province of Ontario has announced the Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund (OMPF) to replace the Community Reinvestment Fund (CRF) as a source of core funding for Ontario municipalities, and

AND WHEREAS one of the components of the OMPF includes assistance to compensate for the reduced taxation received from farmland and managed forest assessment, and

AND WHEREAS this assistance is provided subject to a declining scale based on the amount of farmland and managed forest taxation relative to the total taxation significantly reducing the amount of this assistance for some municipalities, and

AND WHEREAS prior to the introduction of the CRF grant in 1998, municipalities were not subjected to the administrative requirements of the Farm Tax Rebate program receiving the full benefit of taxation of farmland and managed forests, and

AND WHEREAS the stable funding guarantee identified will be reduced over the next few years to zero reducing the total amount received from that received in prior years by 42%, and

AND WHEREAS the OMPF program does not take into consideration revenues received by some municipalities from sources unavailable to all municipalities, and

AND WHEREAS the provincial gas taxes collected across the province are only being shared with municipalities that have public transit systems, and

AND WHEREAS municipalities have been unable to get an explanation from the Ministry of Finance of the rationale behind the design of the OMPF, and

AND WHEREAS this reduction in core funding will result in an unacceptable significant increase in the tax rate of 14.9% creating financial hardship for the residential and business ratepayers of the Township of Wellington North,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Wellington North request that the Province of Ontario consider the level of funding received in 2004 as a minimum level of core funding with annual adjustments to reflect local cost increases and increased municipal responsibilities due to legislative changes from time to time, and

AND FURTHER THAT a copy of this resolution be circulated, for support, to municipalities in the Province of Ontario, and

AND FURTHER THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to local members of provincial parliament, the Ministry of Finance, and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

For further information, please contact:

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