

May 1, 2026

Re: Resolution pertaining to the Employment Insurance Program

Please be advised that at the Regular Council Meeting held on April 1, 2026, Council passed the following resolution:

Moved by: Councillor Siydock Seconded by: Councillor Kuiack Res # 26-644

WHEREAS the Township of South Algonquin is a rural municipality within the Nipissing District that serves as an important gateway to Algonquin Provincial Park; and

WHEREAS tourism is a foundational component of the local economy in South Algonquin and across surrounding Northern Ontario communities, supporting accommodations, restaurants, outfitters, guiding services, and seasonal park operations that rely on a stable seasonal workforce; and

WHEREAS according to the 2021 Census, approximately 105 residents of South Algonquin are employed in the accommodation and food services sector, with an estimated additional 50 residents working seasonally within Algonquin Provincial Park; and

WHEREAS many of these positions are inherently seasonal due to the nature of tourism activity associated with Algonquin Provincial Park and the seasonal operations of tourism-related businesses across Northern Ontario; and

WHEREAS under the current framework of the Employment Insurance Program, many seasonal tourism workers experience a gap between the end of their Employment Insurance benefits—often in February or March—and the resumption of seasonal tourism employment in late May or June when visitor activity returns to the region; and

WHEREAS this gap creates financial hardship for workers who reliably return to seasonal employment each year and creates workforce instability for tourism operators and small businesses across the region; and

WHEREAS recognition of tourism-dependent rural communities within the framework of the Employment Insurance Program would help stabilize the regional workforce, support tourism businesses, and contribute to the economic sustainability of rural municipalities that depend on seasonal tourism; and

WHEREAS municipalities across Northern Ontario experience similar workforce challenges associated with seasonal tourism economies and would benefit from federal policies that better reflect the realities of seasonal employment in rural regions; and

WHEREAS regional municipal organizations such as the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities play a key role in advocating for policy solutions that address the unique economic conditions of Northern Ontario communities;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Township of South Algonquin formally request that the Government of Canada review and consider adjustments to the Employment Insurance Program to better recognize the realities of seasonal tourism

employment in Northern Ontario and communities within the Nipissing District. Council further requests the support and advocacy of the local Member of Parliament, Cheryl Gallant, in bringing this matter forward to the Government of Canada. Additionally, Council requests that the Government of Canada, including the Honourable Steven MacKinnon and Honourable Patty Hajdu, review potential policy measures or pilot programs that address the seasonal Employment Insurance gap affecting tourism-dependent rural communities. Council also calls upon the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities and municipalities across Northern Ontario to support advocacy efforts aimed at ensuring federal Employment Insurance policies reflect the economic realities of tourism-dependent communities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT copies of this resolution be circulated to M.P. Cheryl Gallant, M.P. Pauline Rochefort, the Honourable Steven MacKinnon, the Honourable Patty Hajdu, the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, and all municipalities within the Nipissing District and Northern Ontario for endorsement and support.

-Carried-

If you have any questions regarding the above resolution, please do not hesitate to contact me,

Sincerely,

Tracy Cannon

Tracy Cannon
Deputy CAO/Deputy Clerk-Planner
Email: tcannon@southalgonquin.ca
Phone: 613-637-2650 ext. 202