



February 6, 2024

Honourable Peter Bethlenfalvy
Minister of Finance
Frost Building South
7th Floor
7 Queen's Park Cres.
Toronto, ON M7A 1Y7
Peter.Bethlenfalvy@pc.ola.org

Dear Honourable Minister Bethlenfalvy:

Re: Support for Comprehensive Review of Social and Economic Prosperity

At their meeting held on February 6, 2024, Council discussed the need for a stable and sustainable municipal financial position. Council supports the Association of Municipalities of Ontario as they request that the Province undertake a comprehensive review of social and economic prosperity. The resolution adopted by Council is below.

R-43-2024

It was **Moved** by C. Hull, **Seconded** by T. Bell and **Carried**

Whereas current provincial-municipal fiscal arrangements are undermining Ontario's economic prosperity and quality of life;

And whereas nearly a third of municipal spending in Ontario is for services in areas of provincial responsibility, and expenditures are outpacing provincial contributions by nearly \$4 billion a year;

And whereas municipal revenues, such as property taxes, do not grow with the economy or inflation;

And whereas unprecedented population and housing growth will require significant investments in municipal infrastructure;

And whereas municipalities are being asked to take on complex health and social challenges – like delivering long term care services, homelessness and affordable housing options, addressing the mental health and addictions crises, and other social services;

And whereas inflation, rising interest rates, and provincial policy decisions are sharply constraining municipal fiscal capacity;



TOWN OF SOUTH BRUCE PENINSULA

And whereas property taxpayers – including people on fixed incomes and small businesses – can't afford to subsidize income re-distribution programs for those most in need;

And whereas the Province can, and should, invest more in the prosperity of communities;

And whereas municipalities and the Provincial government have a strong history of collaboration;

Therefore be it resolved that The Town of South Bruce Peninsula requests that the Province of Ontario commit to undertaking with the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, a comprehensive social and economic prosperity review to promote the stability and sustainability of municipal finances across Ontario;

And further that this resolution be sent to The Premier of Ontario Doug Ford, Hon. Peter Bethlenfalvy – Ontario's Minister of Finance, Rick Byers – MPP Grey/Bruce/Owen Sound, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and all other Ontario municipalities.

We trust that you will consider our request and look forward to hearing from you in this regard.

Yours very truly,

Angie Cathrae

Director of Legislative Services/Clerk

519-534-1400 ext 122

Angie.cathrae@southbrucepeninsula.com

cc: Premier Doug Ford, Rick Byers MPP Bruce/Grey/Owen Sound, Association of Municipalities of Ontario, All Ontario Municipalities