



THE CORPORATION OF THE UNITED TOWNSHIPS OF
HEAD, CLARA & MARIA

15 Township Hall Road
STONECLIFFE, ONTARIO, K0J 2K0

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Friday, October 21, 2016

The Honourable Kathleen Wynne, Premier
kwynne.mpp@liberal.ola.org
Legislative Building – Room 281
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1A1

Re: Provincial Policy Statement and County of Renfrew Official Plan

Dear Premier Wynne

At its meeting of Friday, October 14, 2016 the Council of the United Townships of Head, Clara & Maria discussed and passed the following resolution requesting that the province seriously consider amending the Provincial Policy Statement (PPS) and direction to municipalities to create Official Plans (OP) and Zoning By-Laws which “shall be consistent with” the PPS due to the negative impact on the lives and livelihoods of rural Ontarians.

i. Report #14/10/16/1103 – 03 – County of Renfrew Official Plan
Resolution #14/10/16/009

Moved by Councillor Foote and Seconded by Councillor Grills

WHEREAS the *Municipal Act, 2006* states in section 2 that “*Municipalities are created by the Province of Ontario to be responsible and accountable governments with respect to matters within their jurisdiction and each municipality is given powers and duties under this Act and many other Acts for the purpose of providing good government with respect to those matters*”;

AND WHEREAS The Provincial Policy Statement, 2014 (PPS) expresses in its preamble that it “...*provides policy direction on matters of provincial interest related to land use planning and development. As a key part of Ontario's policy-led planning system, the Provincial Policy Statement sets the policy foundation for regulating the development and use of land. It also supports the provincial goal to enhance the quality of life for the citizens of Ontario*”;

AND WHEREAS it further states that “*Provincial plans and municipal official plans provide a framework for comprehensive, integrated and long-term planning that supports and integrates the principles of strong communities, a clean and healthy environment and economic growth, for the long term*”;

AND WHEREAS the *Planning Act* requires that local plans and policy “shall be consistent with” the PPS. And that “Where a provincial plan is in effect, planning decisions must conform or not conflict with the provincial plan”;

AND WHEREAS the Ministry of Municipal Affairs’ Land Use Planning web page begins with the statement that “Ontario’s land use planning system gives municipalities the major role in planning decisions” conflicting directly with the “shall be consistent with” requirement;

AND WHEREAS many rural Ontario residents have pro-actively purchased large tracts of land some years and even decades ago, planning to sever and sell these lands at a future date, in lieu of pensions to finance their retirements and leave a financial legacy for their children;

AND WHEREAS the restrictions continually being placed by the province through the Provincial Policy Statement and the County through the Official Plan on the use of private lands by property owners in rural Ontario in fact negatively affects rural Ontarians’ quality of life by stealing from them their retirements, their pensions and significantly devaluing their land;

AND WHEREAS the most recent version of the County Official Plan’s severance restrictions surrounding “at capacity” or “sensitive” lakes is being implemented arbitrarily and severely - an example in Head, Clara & Maria includes a lake with zero existing development with a restriction on severance of 150 acre tracts of land and setbacks of 300 metres;

AND WHEREAS restrictions around severing lands that do not front on municipal roads or Provincial highways and surrounding sensitive lakes along with the refusal of the province to allow new entrances or private roads to enter TransCanada Highway 17 significantly restricts and stagnates economic growth in rural Ontario and specifically in Head, Clara & Maria;

AND WHEREAS the provincial government through the *Planning Act*, its Provincial Policy Statement and insistence that Official Plans conform to this broad provincial legislation ties the hands of municipalities to act like the responsible governments that the province promises they can be resulting in significant negative financial implications for rural Ontarians and rural municipalities specifically contrary to statements made in the PPS preamble.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that since the land development reality in rural Ontario is significantly different from the reality in urban Ontario that the Council of the United Townships of Head, Clara & Maria does hereby request the Ministry of Municipal Affairs amend *the Planning Act* and Provincial Policy Statement to allow normal and usual use of private lands in rural Ontario, specifically including continued severance and development of lands on private roads;

AND FURTHER THAT County of Renfrew Official Plan restrictions surrounding the development on “sensitive” or “at capacity” lakes be considered on a case by case basis and realistic manner and not simply addressed with wide brush strokes;

AND FURTHER THAT the County of Renfrew through the Official Plan relaxes restrictions in these same areas;

AND FURTHER THAT even though a member of County Council is not bound to follow local municipal Council’s direction that the Council of the United Townships of Head, Clara & Maria does hereby request that Mayor Gibson, in his position as County Council member, oppose the new Official Plan based on the controlling and oppressive approach to land use control imposed by that document;

AND FURTHER THAT this resolution be circulated throughout the county of Renfrew and the province of Ontario for support.

Carried Unanimously

Council respectfully requests your consideration of its position and requests consultation with and consideration of the position of small rural municipalities when drafting policy which focuses on urban/southern Ontario but significantly affects all Ontarians.

Regulation could be created to provide for exemptions for various areas of the province where current restrictions are more detrimental than beneficial to the property owners and the municipalities in which they reside. Current policy stagnates growth for our community and many other small rural Ontarian communities and must be amended to ensure positive growth for the future. We appreciate your consideration of our position.

Sincerely and on behalf of Council



Melinda Reith
Municipal Clerk and CAO

Cc: Premier - Hon. Kathleen Wynne - kwynne.mpp@liberal.ola.org
Hon. Bill Mauro - Ministry of Municipal Affairs - bmauro.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org
John Yakabuski, MPP Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke - john.yakabuski@pc.ola.org
County of Renfrew – Jim Hutton, CAO
County Municipalities
Association of Municipalities of Ontario
Ontario Municipalities



THE CORPORATION OF THE UNITED TOWNSHIPS OF HEAD, CLARA & MARIA

Date: Friday, October 14, 2016 Resolution No.:14/10/16/009

Moved by: *[Signature]* Seconded by: *[Signature]*

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Carried _____

Defeated _____

Mayor _____

