



June 3, 2021

The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building, Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1Y7
premier@ontario.ca

Via Email

Dear Premier Ford:

Re: Drainage Matters and the Canadian National Railway

At the Regular Council Meeting of the Township of Havelock-Belmont-Methuen Council received the resolution sent by the Municipality of Southwest Middlesex on December 7, 2020 in regards to drainage matters and the current working relationship with the Canadian National Railway (CNR) and passed the following resolution:

R-009-21 Moved by Deputy Mayor Gerow
 Seconded by Councillor Ellis

That staff are hereby directed to send correspondence supporting the resolution from the Municipality of Southwest Middlesex regarding drainage matters on Canadian National Railway lands.

Carried

While the Township of Havelock-Belmont -Methuen does not have dealings with CN Rail, but rather with the Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR), the Township has experienced similar delays with drainage projects and agree that the situation with the major railway companies and municipalities needs to improve. Council directed staff to send correspondence in support for your resolution.

A copy of the above noted resolution from the Municipality of Southwest Middlesex is attached for your reference. Your consideration of this matter is respectfully requested.

Sincerely,

Bianca Boyington

Bianca Boyington
Deputy Clerk

Copy: The Honourable Marc Garneau, Minister of Transport
The Honourable Ernie Hardeman, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
Dave Smith, MPP Peterborough-Kawartha
Maryam Monsef, MP Peterborough-Kawartha
The Association of Municipalities of Ontario
All Ontario Municipalities



Municipality of Southwest Middlesex

December 7, 2020

Please be advised that the Council of Southwest Middlesex passed the following resolution at its November 25, 2020 Council meeting:

Drainage Matters: CN Rail

Moved by Councillor McGill

Seconded by Councillor Vink

“WHEREAS municipalities are facilitators of the provincial process under the *Drainage Act* providing land owners to enter into agreements to construct or improve drains, and for the democratic procedure for the construction, improvement and maintenance of drainage works; and

WHEREAS municipal drain infrastructure and railway track infrastructure intersect in many areas in Ontario; and

WHEREAS coordination with national railways is required for the construction or improvement of drains that benefit or intersect with national railways; and

WHEREAS the national railways have historically participated in the process for construction, improvement and maintenance of drainage works; and

WHEREAS currently municipalities are experiencing a lack of coordination with national railways on drainage projects; and

WHEREAS the lack of coordination is resulting in projects being significantly delayed or cancelled within a year; and

WHEREAS municipal drains remove excess water to support public and private infrastructure and agricultural operations;

THEREFORE be it resolved that the Province of Ontario work with the Federal Minister of Transportation to address concerns regarding municipal drainage matters and need for coordination with the national railways; and

THAT Council circulate the resolution to the Provincial Ministers of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs, and Municipal Affairs and Housing, and the Federal Minister of Transportation, the local MP and MPP, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, and all municipalities.”

Sincerely.



Jillene Bellchamber-Glazier
CAO-Clerk

Cc: The Honorable Marc Gardeau, Minister of Transport
The Honorable Ernie Hardeman, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
Monte McNaughton, MPP Lambton-Middlesex-London
Lianne Rood, MP Lambton-Kent-Middlesex
The Association of Municipalities of Ontario
All Ontario Municipalities