The Municipality of West Elgin

22413 Hoskins Line, Box 490, Rodney Ontario N0L 2C0

October 11, 2019

At the Regular Meeting of Council on October 10, 2019, the Council of the Municipality of West Elgin passed the following Resolution:

Resolution No. 2019-531
Moved: Deputy Mayor Leatham
Seconded: Councillor Tellier

That West Elgin Council hereby supports the Resolution of the Town of Penetanguishene regarding Municipal Amalgamation as attached.

Disposition: Carried

P: 519.785.0560
F: 519.785.0644
E: deputyclerk@westelgin.net
www.westelgin.net

October 2, 2019

Hon Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Premier's Office - Room 281
Legislative Building - Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

Delivered by Email to:
doug.ford@pc.ola.org

BY EMAIL ONLY

Dear Premier;

RE: Resolution from the Town of Penetanguishene – Municipal Amalgamation

As you are aware, the Town of Penetanguishene, Township of Tay and Township of Tiny provided a joint letter response on June 5, 2019 regarding the Regional Governance Review.

Please also be advised that the Council of the Town of Penetanguishene, during their September 25, 2019 Council meeting and at the request of the Township of McKellar, adopted the following resolution:

"WHEREAS there are 444 municipalities in Ontario that are very efficient and well governed, and who respond quickly to ratepayer's needs;

AND WHEREAS in the 1990's the Conservative Government forced many municipalities to amalgamate on the guise they would become more efficient, effective, save money, lower taxes and ultimately reduce the provincial deficit;

AND WHEREAS there has never been a valid evidence-based study that supported these outcomes;

AND WHERAS forced amalgamation actually accomplished just the opposite: ill feelings, increased animosity and mistrust, job losses, rise in local taxes and an increase in the provincial deficit;

AND WHEREAS there are many positive examples of small rural and northern municipalities working together in a collaborate and cooperative manner via, shared agreements that responds to local needs without amalgamation and provincial interference;

AND WHEREAS the Provincial Government has a large deficit due to their own decision-making;

AND WHEREAS recently the same Conservative Government recently reduced one large regional municipal government by 50%, without "consultation";

AND WHERAS this same Conservative Government is presently reviewing other provincial regional governments through a purported "consultative" approach with a view to reduce or eliminate them;

AND WHEREAS the Provincial Government should investigate all other internal ways of reducing their deficit and becoming more fiscally responsible over time rather than downloading to the one level of government that is the most efficient, has the lowest cost and is closest to the electorate which will not put a dent in the provincial deficit;

AND WHEREAS the Province could look at what other provinces have done to reduce the debt with one singular education system, organizing unorganized municipalities, controlling OPP costs, substantially increase fines, and find a way to collect millions and millions of dollars in unpaid fines and instead, invest in the north to create jobs and stimulate and enhance economic development;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT before the Provincial Government forces amalgamation in any of the 444 municipalities in Ontario, our AMO organization go beyond requesting "consultation" and "demand" that the Provincial Government do the following:

1. Hold a local referendum letting the citizens decide to amalgamate or not.
2. Conduct an evidence-based study to show that amalgamation actually saves costs, jobs, lowers taxes and reduce the provincial deficit.
3. Allow those municipalities to work out their own local collaborative agreement that best suit their local needs and to be permitted to do so on their own time line and volition.
4. To ensure that there is absolutely no conflict of interest in this consultative process.
5. To emphasize the political reality of forcing amalgamation on the many rural and northern municipalities across Ontario.

AND FURTHER THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to Doug Ford, Premier of

Ontario; Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier; Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs; Andrea Horwath, Leader of the New Democratic Party; and all MPPs in the Province of Ontario;

AND FURTHER THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA), Rural Ontario Municipalities Association (ROMA), Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM), and all Ontario municipalities for their consideration."

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Stacey Cooper, Clerk
Town of Penetanguishene

c. Hon. Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier
Hon. Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs
MPP's in the Province of Ontario
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA)
Rural Ontario Municipalities Association (ROMA)
Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM)
All Ontario Municipalities