

November 19, 2024

The Honourable Doug Ford
Prime Minister of Ontario
Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto Ontario M7A 1A1

Ref : Policing Costs for 2025

Dear Prime Minister,

The Council of the Corporation of the Town of Hawkesbury, at its regular meeting on November 12, 2024, adopted the following resolution for a review of the Ontario Policing Costs for 2025:

"R-228-24

Proposed by Mr. Yves Paquette

Seconded by Mr. André Chamaillard

Whereas policing costs for the Town of Hawkesbury, for the years from 2021 to 2024, have been stable and consistent with annual reconciliation of actual costs being manageable during the annual budgetary process, and;

Whereas policing costs for the Town of Hawkesbury, during the years from 2021 to 2024, averaged \$2,948,990 including year-end cost reconciliation, and;

Whereas the 2025 Estimated Cost for the Town of Hawkesbury is now at \$3,160,718 plus a 2023 Year-End Adjustment of \$191,848, representing an increase of 13.7% for the year 2025 in comparison to an annual four-year averaging of policing services, and;

Whereas the Municipal Treasurer for the Town of Hawkesbury, during the 2025 budget process, has stated that the amount from the previous year has increased by \$561,769 representing an increase of over 20% from the budgeted cost for the year 2024, and;

Whereas the Municipal Treasurer has indicated that a one (1) percent increase or decrease in taxation is equivalent to \$125,434 thereby representing a direct percentage increase of 4.48% in direct taxation for the year 2025 for policing costs, and;

Whereas the Municipal Treasurer submitted to the Municipal Council the “**Asset Management Plan**” indicating a net “**Annual Capital Infrastructure Deficit**” of \$5.8 million based upon an annual commitment of \$3.1 million annually towards capital projects or contributions from reserves per year, and;

Whereas Council, based upon the recommendations of the Municipal Treasurer, agreed to an annual increase of 1.5% per year in direct taxation, in addition to the annual contribution towards capital projects, for the sole purpose of reducing the annual capital deficit gap which would take another 19 years, and;

Whereas, with the percentage increase of 4.48% for additional policing costs for the year 2025 plus a capital contribution of 1.5% in taxation for capital projects, the 2025 budget process begins with an increase of 5.98%, and;

Whereas assessment growth for the Town of Hawkesbury, beginning 2021 to 2025, has been 0.34%, 0.32%, 0.79%, 0.97% and 0.35% for the final year which is non-existent to fund any increases for policing costs including a special levy for capital projects to reduce the infrastructure deficit gap, and;

Whereas The Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund (OMPF) is the Province's main general assistance grant to municipalities and its primary intention is to support small, northern, and rural municipalities across the Province; and

Whereas the Corporation of the Town of Hawkesbury, in the 2025 Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund (OMPF), only received an additional amount of \$143,000, falling well below the increase in policing costs or recognizing the limited assessment growth, and;
Whereas similar municipalities are experiencing significant increases for the year 2025.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF HAWKESBURY HEREBY ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

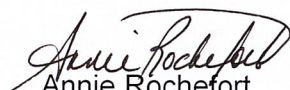
1. THAT policing costs provided by the Ontario Province Police be frozen for the year 2025 based upon 2024 actual policing costs; or, in the alternative.
2. THAT the Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund, be increased to fund the increase in policing costs for the year 2025 which is the Province's main general assistance grant to municipalities and its primary intention is to support small, northern, and rural municipalities across the province with its objectives being to:
 - recognize the challenges of small, northern, and rural municipalities, while targeting funding to those with more challenging fiscal circumstances;
 - support areas with limited property assessment; and to
 - assist municipalities that are adjusting to year-over-year funding changes.

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3. THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to the Minister of Finance, the Minister of the Solicitor General including the Premier of Ontario; and
4. THAT a copy of this resolution be also forwarded to all local municipalities in the United Counties of Prescott in order that they may pass similar resolutions; and
5. THAT a copy of this resolution be also sent to our local Member of the Provincial Parliament, Mr. Stephane Sarrazin, for his endorsement.

Carried"

Yours sincerely,


Annie Rochefort
Deputy Clerk

cc.: The Honourable Michael Kerzner Minister of the Solicitor General
The Honourable Peter Bethlenfalvy Minister of Finance
Mr. Stéphane Sarrazin, M.P.P.
United Counties of Prescott and Russell Municipalities