

Township of Woolwich Bill 66 Opposition Motion

Whereas a Bill 66 “Open-for-Business” planning by-law proposes to encourage economic development by eliminating many approval processes and regulations for a major employment use,

And whereas Bill 66 would allow for “Open-for-Business” planning bylaws to override important water, agricultural, and environmental protections contained in the Clean Water Act, the Places to Grow Act, The Great Lakes Protection Act, other provincial legislations and our Official Plans,

And whereas no public notice or hearing is required prior to the passing of an “Open-for-Business” planning by-law,

And whereas a Bill 66 “Open-for-Business by-law cannot be appealed,

And whereas the continued protection of our groundwater, surface water and waterways is vitally important for the health of the residents of our community,

And whereas the protection and integrity of our agricultural areas, Protected Countryside, Countryside Line, Environmentally Sensitive Protected Areas and Environmentally Sensitive Landscapes and natural heritage areas are a paramount concern for our residents,

1) Now therefore be it resolved that the Council of the Township of Woolwich opposes planned changes to the Planning Act proposed in Bill 66 that may allow for an “Open-for-Business” by-law:

2) Be it further resolved that notwithstanding the future adoption of Bill 66, the Township of Woolwich would not consider passing a Bill 66 “Open-for-Business” by-law unless it provides for the following to the highest standards:

- protection of drinking water quality and quantity and other water resources;
- protection of agricultural resources;
- protection of natural heritage features and hazard lands;
- conservation of cultural heritage resources;
- orderly development of safe and healthy communities;
- provision of land use compatibility;
- provision of appropriate water and wastewater servicing;
- adequate provision of employment opportunities;
- adequate provision of housing, including affordable housing;
- appropriate location of growth and development;

- promotion of development that is designed to be sustainable, that supports public transit and that supports active transportation;
- provision of proper upper-tier municipality and agency consultation; and
- provision of adequate public notice, engagement, and consultation:

3) Be it further resolved that Bill 66 needs to be revised to provide:

1. Clarification, acceptable to the Township of Woolwich, around the issues of how the number of employees would be ensured over time, whether there would be a distinction between full and part time employees, what mechanisms would be in place to ensure jobs continue to meet thresholds over time, and what would happen if an employer is bought out, forced to lay off employees or goes bankrupt;
2. That a major employment use would not be defined as including any residential or commercial (including retail use); and
3. Proper notice, consultation, engagement, and appeal;

4) Be it further resolved that the Township of Woolwich reaffirms it will continue to appropriately manage growth in a way that protects drinking water resources and sensitive natural areas, and that includes meaningful public consultation, consistent with the policies of our community's Official Plan,

5) Be it further resolved that this resolution be forwarded to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing as the Township of Woolwich's comments with regards to Bill 66 and that this resolution also be sent to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Premier, Provincial Cabinet Ministers, all Members of Provincial Parliament, and area Members of Parliament.