

*MUNICIPALITY OF PORT HOPE  
RESOLUTION*

Date: 17 June 2025

132- 2025

MOVED BY: *Councillor Holloway Wadhvani*

SECONDED BY: *Deputy Mayor Hink*

Whereas the Government of Ontario has introduced *Bill 5: Protecting Ontario by Unleashing Our Economy Act, 2025*, which proposes substantial changes to environmental planning policies, including replacing the Endangered Species Act with a new framework that reduces protections for at-risk species, and enabling the creation of Special Economic Zones that may override local planning authority and environmental oversight; and

Whereas the Municipality of Port Hope supports increasing housing supply and economic growth, but believes this must be done in a way that upholds environmental responsibility and maintains the integrity of local planning processes; and

Whereas Bill 5, as proposed, weakens safeguards for natural heritage systems, threatening biodiversity, and diminishing the authority of municipalities to manage growth in accordance with local needs and official plans; and

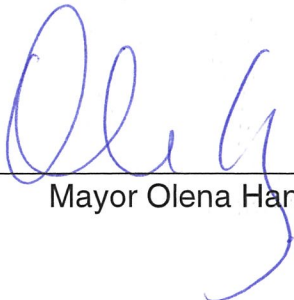
Whereas the Canadian Environmental Law Association submits that all of the Bill 5 schedules, with minor exceptions, should be withdrawn and not further considered by the Legislative Assembly of Ontario *until they are substantially modified to ensure robust protection for the environment, human health, and vulnerable members of the Ontario public, including Indigenous peoples, who may otherwise be harmed by the amendments contained in the various schedules*; and

Whereas the Canadian Civil Liberties finds that Schedule 9, in allowing the Minister of Economic Development to exempt “trusted proponents” from compliance with municipal and provincial law within the special economic zones, promotes abandonment of the rule of law subjecting Ontario’s lands and peoples to the possibility of arbitrary and non-transparent decision-making and effectively nullifying decades of legacy law-making in those zones; and

Whereas Amnesty International Canada urges the Government of Ontario to 1) immediately halt or withdraw Bill 5; 2) Recommit to upholding the rights of Indigenous Peoples as affirmed in Canadian law through the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act; and 3) Engage in transparent inclusive consultations with Indigenous Nations and civil society before tabling new development legislation;

Now therefore be it resolved that Council for the Municipality of Port Hope:

1. Opposes all provisions in Bill 5 that reduce environmental protections and Ontario's proud legacy of protections of Endangered Species, that override the rule of law and that nullify municipal planning authority;
2. Urges the Province of Ontario to support housing and infrastructure development in ways that align with sound environmental planning and wildlife protection and empower municipalities with appropriate planning tools;
3. Directs that a copy of this resolution be sent to: The Honourable Stephen Lecce, Minister of Energy and Mines; The Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing; The Honourable Todd J. McCarthy, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks; The Honourable Graham McGregor, Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism; The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario; The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and All Ontario municipalities.



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Mayor Olena Hankivsky