

Whereas, on June 5th, 2025 the Government of Ontario passed Bill 5: Protecting Ontario by Unleashing Our Economy Act, 2025, which proposes substantial changes to environmental planning legislation, including the repeal of the Endangered Species Act and the creation of “Special Economic Zones” that can be override local planning authority and public consultation;

And Whereas the County of Brant wholeheartedly supports increasing housing supply and economic growth, but believes this must be achieved without undermining environmental protections or compromising the integrity of municipal planning processes;

And Whereas Bill 5, as proposed, risks weakening safeguards for Ontario’s natural heritage and reducing the role of municipalities in managing growth in a responsible and locally informed manner;

And Whereas the County of Brant has made a pledge through the Land Acknowledgement to working in allyship with indigenous nations, sharing responsibility for the stewardship of the land, and a strong commitment to the Truth and Reconciliation calls to action, of which the 92nd call to action highlights “[committing] to meaningful consultation, building respectful relationships, and obtaining the free, prior, and informed consent of Indigenous peoples before proceeding with economic development projects,

And Whereas both of the County of Brant’s neighbouring Indigenous councils, the Six Nations of the Grand River Elected Council and the Missisaugas of the Credit First Nation council have expressed their strong concern and opposition to Bill 5, referring to Bill 5 as “Legalized Lawlessness”.

Now Therefore Be It Resolved That Council for the County of Brant:

- Opposes the provisions in Bill 5 that would reduce environmental protections, override municipal planning authority, or prevent good faith consultation with Indigenous nations;
- Urges the Province of Ontario to advance housing and infrastructure growth through policies that respect sound environmental planning principles and uphold the planning tools available to local governments;
- Urges the Province to support municipalities through ensuring responsible growth through infrastructure projects designed to ensure protection of sensitive wildlife and natural resources;

- Implores that Bill 5: Protecting Ontario by Unleashing Our Economy Act, 2025 be repealed and consultation with municipal organizations such as the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and Rural Ontario Municipal Association be prioritized for the creation of legislation that would accomplish shared goals between both levels of government as equal partners.

And Directs that this resolution be forwarded to:

- The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
- The Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
- The Honourable Todd McCarthy, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks,
- The Honourable Greg Rickford, Minister of Indigenous Affairs and First Nations Economic Reconciliation
- Will Bouma, MPP for Brantford-Brant
- Ernie Hardeman, MPP for Oxford
- Brian Riddell, MPP for Cambridge
- Marit Stiles, MPP for Davenport & Leader of the Official Opposition
- Bonnie Crombie, Leader of the Ontario Liberal Party
- Mike Schriener, Leader of the Ontario Green Party
- Rural Ontario Municipal Association
- Association of Municipalities of Ontario
- All Ontario Municipalities for their awareness and consideration