

Comprehensive Review and Overhaul of the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act, 1990

WHEREAS the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act, 1990*, and its regulations were established to provide a framework for managing emergencies and civil protection in Ontario and has remained largely unchanged for nearly 20 years;

WHEREAS municipalities across the Province of Ontario are encountering a range of emerging situations that are diverse and increasingly complex that were not adequately envisioned when the *Act* was drafted;

WHEREAS the evolving nature of emergencies, including but not limited to pandemics, cyber threats, climate-related events, mental health crises, and homelessness, requires a modernized and comprehensive legislative framework to empower municipalities to effectively respond and protect their communities;

WHEREAS the review should include the Province reinforcing the spheres of jurisdiction under the *Municipal Act, 2001*, to ensure declarations of emergencies are made in accordance with municipal powers established under the *Municipal Act, 2001*, and

WHEREAS a thorough review and overhaul of the *Act* and its regulations will enhance the capacity of municipalities to prevent, mitigate, prepare, respond and recover from various unforeseen and emergent circumstances;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That Regional Council **URGES** the Province of Ontario to engage in a consultative process with municipalities, emergency management professionals, and relevant stakeholders to gather input and insights for the development of updated legislation that reflects the current needs and realities of local communities;
2. That the Regional Chair **BE DIRECTED** to send a letter requesting the Provincial Government to undertake a comprehensive review and overhaul of the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act, 1990*, and its regulations to better align with the current and future needs of municipalities in addressing emergent and evolving situations; and
3. That a copy of this resolution **BE CIRCULATED** to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Treasury Board Secretariat, Minister of Small Business and Red Tape Reduction, Niagara's MPs and MPPs, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and the local area municipalities.