



January 12, 2026

No: 03-01-2026

Moved: Councillor Hampton  
Seconded: Councillor Nickason

WHEREAS the Province of Ontario has enacted the Water and Wastewater Public Corporations Act, 2025, as part of Bill 60, establishing a new governance framework for municipal water and wastewater services;

WHEREAS water and wastewater services are essential public goods that should remain publicly owned and managed locally;

WHEREAS the Act authorizes the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing to designate a corporation responsible for providing water and wastewater services to any lower-tier municipality, necessitating the transfer of municipal assets, personnel, and operational authority to the designated entity;

WHEREAS the Municipality of Arran-Elderslie has, since December 1, 2000, demonstrated a proven record of effective in-house water and wastewater service delivery, characterized by financial sustainability, regulatory compliance, transparent governance, and strategic infrastructure management;

WHEREAS there are significant concerns with the Act related to transparency, potential loss of local autonomy, financial uncertainties, and increased administrative complexity;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT any transition to a public corporation model for water and wastewater services should be determined voluntarily by municipalities, rather than mandated provincially;

THAT comprehensive consultation with municipalities is imperative prior to any designation under the Act, ensuring local priorities, challenges, and unique circumstances are thoroughly considered;

THAT the Province should enshrine key principles of governance, accountability, and financial management within the legislation itself, rather than relegating these matters to future regulations;

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THAT maintaining public ownership and direct accountability for water and wastewater services remains paramount, with the primary objective of maximizing public value for residents;

THAT the Province must address the Act's financial ramifications, including impacts on municipal borrowing capacity, to protect municipal financial sustainability and infrastructure planning;

THAT municipal staff continue to monitor legislative developments, advocate for the preservation of local decision-making authority, and provide timely updates to Council as new information becomes available;

THAT this resolution be forwarded to the Premier of Ontario, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, the Ontario Clean Water Agency, all Ontario municipalities, Members of Provincial Parliament, and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO).

Result: Carried