Motion in Response to Bill 23 the new More Homes Built Faster Plan

Whereas Bill 23 the Province's new More Homes Built Faster Plan, as proposed, will have serious economic, social, and environmental implications that cannot be ignored, as follows;

1. Fiscal: changes to the Development Charges Act and Planning Act challenge the long-standing and fundamental tenet that growth should pay for growth and threaten to shift the burden of costs associated with growth onto existing municipal taxpayers;

2. Environmental: amendments to the Conservation Authorities Act and the Planning Act signal a move away from environmental protection at a time when municipalities are experiencing real impacts of climate change;

3. Quality of Life: actions to bring new housing to market quickly through amendments to the Planning Act, Heritage Act, Ontario Land Tribunal Act, and the Conservation Authorities Act may have the unintended consequence of diminishing the quality, appeal and liveability of our communities;

And Whereas the speed with which the government intends to advance this bill through the legislature provides scant opportunity for municipalities or the public to fully understand the details and the risks;

Now Therefore Be It Resolved that Council of the Corporation of the Town of Collingwood petition the Provincial Government to slow down the process to allow time for a thorough consultation regarding Bill 23 with municipalities, the public and environmental groups and agencies, to consider the benefits and the risks, and to contribute to the development of alternatives to enhance the intent of the Bill without compromising the desired outcomes for all municipalities and their residents.

And that this resolution be forwarded to Simcoe County, MPP Brian Saunderson, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing Steve Clark, Minister of Finance Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks David Piccini, and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario.