

The Corporation of the  
**MUNICIPALITY OF TWEED**

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March 10, 2021

Hon. Doug Ford  
Premier of Ontario  
Legislative Building  
Queen's Park  
Toronto, ON  
M7A 1A1

Re: Advocacy for Reform of Joint and Several Liability

Dear Hon. Doug Ford,

During our budget deliberations and the review of the pricing for insurance for the 2021 year, Council is requesting that reform of the Joint and Several Liability system be undertaken. For the Municipality of Tweed, a small municipality within the County of Hastings, with population of 6,044 and total households of 3,023, as at the last census in 2016, we are experiencing significant increasing costs of insurance.

Over the last 5 years, we have experienced increase in our insurance premiums due to Joint and Several Liability. Our last 5 years of insurance premiums have been:

2017	\$161,441.84
2018	\$164,497.28
2019	\$171,649.20
2020	\$213,466.36
2021	\$265,170.24

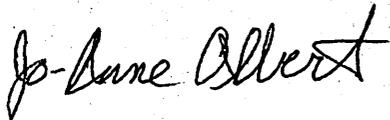
Over the last 5 years, the annual premium has increased by \$103,728.40. That is 64.25%. For the Municipality of Tweed, the 2021 increase of \$51,703.88 results in a tax levy increase of 1.25%. Therefore, when Council wishes to keep the levy no higher than a 2% increase, especially under the financial times that residents have experienced due to the COVID-19 pandemic, more than half of this increase is allocated to insurance premiums. For a population of only 6,044, the annual cost of insurance per household is \$87.72 in 2021, compared to only \$53.41 in 2017.

This phenomenon is not unique to the Municipality of Tweed, nor is this a new concern. In 2010, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) submitted *The Case for Joint and Several Liability Reform in Ontario* on April 1, 2010 (copy can be found at <https://www.amo.on.ca/sites/default/files/assets/DOCUMENTS/Reports/2010/TheCaseforJointandSeveralLiabilityReforminOntario20100401.pdf>).

Because many view municipalities as having "deep pockets", they are often funding a larger portion of awards from court than what the fault percentage is. However, these "deep pockets" are at the cost of every taxpayer within the Municipality.

The Municipality of Tweed is advocating for reform and reconsideration of the *Negligence Act, R.S.O. 1990, c N. 1* to provide for alternatives. Many alternatives were provided in the 2010 AMO report previously referenced, including, but not limited to, Joint and Severable Liability at a set percentage of fault or Joint and Severable Liability based on type of damage.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jo-Anne Albert". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jo-Anne Albert  
Mayor

cc. Hon. Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing  
All 444 Ontario Municipalities  
Association of Municipalities of Ontario

CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SOUTH GLENGARRY

MOVED BY Lyle WARDEN RESOLUTION NO 75-2021

SECONDED BY SAM McDONELL DATE March 1, 2021

WHEREAS COVID-19, a disease caused by the 2019 novel coronavirus, has resulted in the deaths of almost 7,000 Ontarians;

AND WHEREAS Canada currently lags behind dozens of nations in terms of the proportion of the population that has received doses of COVID-19 vaccines;

AND WHEREAS the federal government has moved too slowly and is failing to foster domestic vaccine-production capacity;

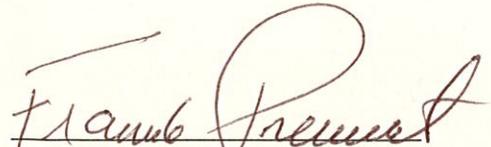
AND WHEREAS the number of administered vaccines in Ontario is not keeping pace with the number of doses that have been received by the provincial government;

AND WHEREAS the provincial COVID-19 vaccine booking system is not yet operational;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Township of South Glengarry urges Premier Doug Ford and the Province of Ontario to procure approved COVID-19 vaccines to be distributed to the residents of the Province of Ontario, increase the Province's vaccination rate to keep pace with the doses that have been received and accelerate the launch of its COVID-19 vaccine booking system;

AND FURTHERMORE that this resolution be forwarded to Premier Doug Ford, MPP Jim McDonell, Hon. Christine Elliot, Minister of Health, Hon. Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance and all Ontario municipalities.

CARRIED       DEFEATED       POSTPONED

  
Mayor Frank Prevost

