

June 2, 2025

Via Email:

The Honourable Gary Anandasangaree
Minister of Public Safety
gary.anand@parl.gc.ca

Re: Advocating for Sustainable Federal Funding for PARA Marine Search and Rescue

Please be advised that at its meeting held on May 26, 2025, the Council of the Town of Whitby adopted the following as Resolution # 106-25:

Whereas PARA Marine Search and Rescue (PMSAR) is a registered Canadian charity that has been operating with a dedicated team of volunteers since 1967, who have contributed thousands of hours annually to ensure the safety of individuals participating in water activities on Lake Ontario; and,

Whereas PMSAR annually conducts over 30 search and rescue missions in coordination with Canadian Coast Guard, from Port Credit to Port Hope. Notable rescues include the recovery of kayakers, children on floats, and searches for missing persons off the shores of Lake Ontario. The unit works alongside various other government departments including local police, fire, EMS, and Coast Guard for both Canada and the US; and,

Whereas PMSAR's commitment to safety, teamwork, and community has been recognized through numerous awards and recognitions; and,

Whereas PMSAR and its volunteers play a vital role in keeping the Lake Ontario waterfront and residents in Durham Region safe; and,

Whereas despite its vital work, PMSAR operates with minimal federal support, relying heavily on community funding and volunteer efforts to raise funds for major capital acquisitions; and,

Whereas the lack of direct sustainable and predictable funding from upper-tier governments poses a significant risk to the continuity and effectiveness of PMSAR's long-term operations; and,

Whereas PMSAR is in need of additional funding to procure a new vessel to replace their current vessel which will be at end of life in the mid-2030s; and,

Whereas ongoing annual operating funding from the federal government will lessen the burden for PMSAR as they work towards raising the approximately \$2,000,000 required for a new vessel.

Now therefore, be it resolved:

1. That Whitby Council calls on the Federal Government to commit ongoing and predictable operating funding from the federal government to PARA Marine Search and Rescue to support the organization's long-term operational needs, including vessel and equipment replacement, and for the continued safety and protection of residents on Lake Ontario;
2. That Whitby Council encourages all Durham municipalities and the City of Toronto to bring forward similar motions advocating for ongoing operating support for PARA Marine Search and Rescue; and,
3. That a copy of this motion be sent to Ryan Turnbull, MP for Whitby; Lorne Coe, MPP for Whitby; Public Safety Canada; the Regional Municipality of Durham; all Durham Region lower-tier municipalities; the City of Toronto; and PARA Marine Search and Rescue.

Should you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact the Office of the Town Clerk at 905-430-4300.



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