



THE TOWNSHIP OF
WOOLWICH

BOX 158, 24 CHURCH ST. W.
ELMIRA, ONTARIO N3B 2Z6
TEL. 519-669-1647 / 1-877-969-0094
COUNCIL/CAO/CLERKS FAX 519-669-1820
PLANNING/ENGINEERING/BUILDING FAX 519-669-4669
FINANCE/RECREATION/FACILITIES FAX 519-669-9348

INFO-25-168

September 26, 2025

Prime Minister
Right Hon. Mark Carney
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A2

Right Honorable Prime Minister:

RE: Resolution Passed by Woolwich Township Council – Bill C-61 First Nations Clean Water Act

This letter is to inform you that the Council of the Township of Woolwich passed the following resolution at their meeting held on September 23, 2025:

WHEREAS in December 2023, the Minister of Indigenous Services introduced house government bill C-61: An Act respecting water, source water, drinking water, wastewater and related infrastructure on First Nation lands also known as the First Nations Clean Water Act; and

WHEREAS in an open letter to Members of Parliament on December 12, 2024, the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) called on all Members of Parliament to prioritize the advancement of Bill C-61, calling it “a step toward addressing the long-standing water issues faced by First Nations”; and

WHEREAS Bill C-61 was not passed into law before Parliament was prorogued on January 6, 2025; and

WHEREAS Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks Todd McCarthy has been unclear on Ontario’s position on this legislation, identifying Bill C-61 as a potential piece of legislation that would “undermine competitiveness” and “delay project development” before apologizing for any confusion and clarifying the need to “bring clean drinking water to First Nations communities, while also bringing the kind of regulatory certainty that attracts investment in businesses and communities”; and

WHEREAS Prime Minister Mark Carney and Indigenous Services Minister Mandy Gull-Masty have indicated the Canadian government’s support for introducing legislation like Bill C-61 in the fall of 2025; and

WHEREAS as of September 2025, Indigenous Services Canada data shows that while 93 long-term drinking water advisories have been lifted, since November

2015, 37 long-term drinking water advisories remain active, including in 27 communities in Ontario; and

NOW THEREFORE be it resolved that the Council of the Township of Woolwich:

- 1. Calls on the Government of Canada and the Minister of Indigenous Services to reintroduce legislation to ensure First Nations have the right to clean and safe drinking water in the Fall of 2025 in the same form as Bill C-61;**
- 2. Calls on the Government of Ontario and the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks to support this important Federal legislation; and**
- 3. Directs staff to forward this resolution to the Prime Minister, Minister of Indigenous Services, Premier of Ontario, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, Assembly of First Nations and all Municipalities in Ontario.**

Should you have any questions, please contact Alex Kirchin, by email at akirchin@woolwich.ca or by phone at 519-669-6005.

Yours truly,



Jeff Smith
Municipal Clerk
Corporate Services
Township of Woolwich

cc. Hon. Mandy Gull-Masty, Minister of Indigenous Services
Hon. Todd J. McCarthy, Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks
Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
Assembly of First Nations
All Municipalities in Ontario