



**Resolution of Council  
City Council Meeting**

**Title:** Provincial Support of the Ontario Airport Capital Assistance Program  
**Date:** February 2, 2026

**WHEREAS** small and regional airports in Ontario serve as critical infrastructure—facilitating essential public services including air ambulance operations, forest firefighting, search & rescue, and law enforcement activities, while also driving local and regional economic development; and

**WHEREAS** many of these airports are ineligible for the federal Airports Capital Assistance Program (ACAP) due to eligibility constraints such as lacking year-round scheduled service, yet still require capital funding for safety-related infrastructure; and

**WHEREAS** the Airport Management Council of Ontario (AMCO) has identified a persistent funding gap for non ACAP eligible community airports, estimating that approximately 85 such airports need \$5.5 million annually to address critical airside infrastructure needs; and

**WHEREAS** provinces including British Columbia, Alberta, and Saskatchewan have successfully managed permanent provincial capital-assistance programs—offering clear models for cost-sharing frameworks, eligible project criteria, and annual funding envelopes; and

**WHEREAS** AMCO's proposed Ontario Airport Capital Assistance Program (OACAP) envisions an annual operational budget of \$8.5–10 million, with a 75% provincial / 25% owner cost-share, a \$2 million per applicant cap, and bonuses for key community-benefiting projects; and

**WHEREAS** the 2025 Ontario Budget has already acknowledged "airports as cross country infrastructure" and signaled intent to include them in upcoming capital investments; and

**WHEREAS** the City of Peterborough benefits directly from airport-enabled services and ensuring its continued operation is in the public interest of resident safety, economic resilience, and efficient connectivity.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** The Corporation of the City of Peterborough formally urges the Government of Ontario to:

- i. Implement the Ontario Airport Capital Assistance Program (OACAP) managed by the Ministry of Transportation.
- ii. Adopt the recommended cost-sharing structure (75% provincial / 25% municipal or operator), and cap funds at \$2 million per project per
- iii. Expand eligibility to include public-use registered aerodromes and certified airports not currently eligible for ACAP.
- iv. Reinstate the Ontario Air Advisory Panel to advise on airport infrastructure and policy priorities.
- v. Designate community and regional airports as critical infrastructure under provincial policy.
- vi. Investigate stable funding mechanisms—such as a dedicated stream from the aviation fuel tax—to support OACAP sustainably.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Premier of Ontario,

**Minister of Transportation, local MPPs, AMCO, and all Ontario municipalities operating public airports calling for provincial commitment to OACAP.**

The above resolution, adopted by City Council is forwarded for your information and action, as required. Thank you.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
John Kennedy, City Clerk