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To Karen Constant <administration@calvintownship.ca>

cc

bcc

Subject RESOLUTION #2016-083 SUPPORT REQUEST TO  
RECONSIDER SUSPENSION OF THE RURAL ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM INTO THE JOBS AND  
PROSPERITY FUND

Below please find the above referenced resolution approved by the Council of the Corporation of the Municipality of Calvin at their regular meeting on Tuesday May 24th:

**2016-083 SUPPORT REQUEST TO RECONSIDER SUSPENSION OF THE RURAL  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM INTO THE JOBS AND PROSPERITY FUND**

*Moved by Coun Pennell and seconded by Coun Edwards*

*WHEREAS the Council of the Corporation of the Municipality of Calvin supports the following resolution by the Municipality of South Dundas passed at their regular meeting held on April 19, 2016 which states:*

*WHEREAS in the 2016 Ontario Budget, the government of Ontario has suspended current intake of applications to the Rural Economic Development Program and has indicated that it plans to integrate the Program into the Jobs and Prosperity Fund; and*

*WHEREAS the Jobs and Prosperity Fund is narrowly focused and is restricted to private sector organizations and industry partners, which prevents access to funding for rural municipalities and others who formerly benefitted from the Rural Economic Development Program. The emphasis on large projects that meet either of minimum \$5 million or \$10 million in eligible project costs thresholds, will significantly restrict benefits from this fund; and*

*WHEREAS in contrast, the Rural Economic Development Program supported a number of capacity building projects including but not limited to 'Business Retention and Expansion' and 'Downtown Revitalization' projects and 'Economic Development Strategic Planning' projects for small rural municipalities who were looking to improve their local economy. Also of note is that because the Jobs and Prosperity Fund is not specifically designated for rural areas, that funds from this program will likely favour more urban areas of the province.*

*NOW THEREFORE BE IT resolved that the Municipality of South Dundas asks the government of Ontario to reconsider the suspension of and the integration of the Rural Economic Development Program into the Jobs and Prosperity Fund with the view to ensuring that the Rural Economic Development Program stays as an intricate funding program of the province that will support capacity building and foster economic growth in rural municipalities in Ontario.*

*BE IT FURTHER resolved that this resolution be circulated to all municipal and regional*

*councils in Ontario requesting that they endorse and support this resolution and communicate their support to the Premier and the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs.*

*Carried*

Have a great day!

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