



Community Services

Legislative Services

March 29, 2022

File #120203

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau
Prime Minister
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6
Justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca

The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building, Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1
premier@ontario.ca

Honourable and Dear Sirs:

Re: Climate Change Action

Please be advised the Municipal Council of the Town of Fort Erie at its meeting of March 28, 2022 passed the following resolution:

Whereas extreme weather events have become more frequent and intense with rising sea levels, prolonged droughts, food shortage and daily extinction of animal and plant species; and

Whereas leading climate scientists have issued a "code red for humanity" warning that changes necessary to keep warming below 1.5 degrees celsius will be our last chance to avoid the most dangerous impact of climate chaos; and

Whereas Climate Change is now an emergency; and

Whereas Canada is the only G7 country whose emissions have increased since the Paris Agreement was signed; and

Whereas the Government of Canada is working with the provinces and territories to implement the Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate which includes emissions reduction targets, investing in infrastructure, development of new Building Codes that increase building and infrastructure resiliency, addressing the effects of Climate Change on the health of Canadians; supporting regions that are vulnerable to Climate Change; and working to ensure the long-term health and resilience of our ecosystems and natural environment are protected; and

Whereas the Government of Canada's plan falls short on timelines for effective changes; and

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Mailing Address:

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Whereas Municipalities have the ability to influence change to 50 per cent of emissions within Canada; and

Whereas the Town of Fort Erie has not incorporated Climate Change into its Official Plan; and

Whereas Report No. CAO-17-2020 authored by Bev Bradnam, Manager, Strategic Initiatives was received at the Council-in-Committee Meeting held on October 5, 2020, for information purposes, regarding Climate Change contained action items; and

Whereas the land within our community and its infrastructure is finite;

Now therefore be it resolved,

That: Council declares a Climate Change Emergency; and further

That: The Town of Fort Erie take Climate Change Action and that staff be directed to provide a report to Council outlining the resources required to create and implement a Climate Change Adaptation Plan, including but not limited to human resources, policies and policy changes and financial resources; and further

That: The Town of Fort Erie establish an Advisory Climate Change Adaptation Team and a Climate Change Plan that includes external and internal stakeholders including the Indigenous Community, business, service and manufacturing sectors and members of the community; and further

That: The Town of Fort Erie join Brock University's "Niagara Adapts"; and further

That: Climate Change be strongly considered as a main pillar in the 2022 - 2025 strategy plan; and further

That: The Town of Fort Erie request staff to:

1. Submit a report to Council on the incorporation of new standards that will prevent clear cutting forests for new developments;
2. Consider broadening the scope of Building Codes to include the use of new, greener technologies, as opposed to fossil fuel systems; and
3. Review the ability to attract condominium and apartment builds in available open spaces, or the demolition of existing buildings in the Town's downtown and surrounding core areas; and further

That: The Town of Fort Erie send a letter to the Right Honourable Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, and the Honourable Steven Guilbeault, Minister of Environment and Climate Change, to tighten their timelines for Climate Change Plans to be reflective of the urgency it demands for immediate and meaningful action; and further

That: A copy of this resolution be circulated to all Members of Parliament, all Members of Provincial Parliament and all Ontario Municipalities, and request that those municipalities that do not have plans in place to step up and put resolutions of their own in place to effect positive change and implement an affirmative Climate Change Action Plan.

Research sources:

1. This Changes Everything written by Naomi Klein published in 2014 by Vintage Canada a division of Random House Canada
2. Climate Change written by Robert Henson, published in 2008 by Rough Guides Ltd
3. David Suzuki Foundation. Site: <https://davidsuzuki.org/>
4. Government of Canada: Canada's Climate Plan. Site: <https://www.canada.ca/en/services/environment/weather/climatechange/climate-plan.html>

Yours very truly,



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c.c. The Honourable Steven Guilbeault, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Steven.Guilbeault@parl.gc.ca
All Members of Parliament
All Members of Provincial Parliament
Ontario Municipalities