



The Corporation of the Township of Emo

P.O. Box 520, Emo, Ontario, P0W 1E0

Website: www.emo.ca
E-mail: township@emo.ca

Phone: 807-482-2378
Fax: 807-482-2741

March 16, 2020

Via email: premier@ontario.ca

Premier of Ontario,
Legislative Building,
Queen's Park,
Toronto, ON,
M7A 1A1

Dear Premier Doug Ford,

RE: **Cell Phone Service on Hwy 502.**

Please be advised at the regular meeting of the Council of the Township of Emo held on February 11, 2020, the following resolution was passed:

“ WHEREAS Ontario Provincial Highway 502 is a winding, desolate stretch of road over 120 kilometres long that travels through the Canadian Shield, connecting the Kenora and Rainy River Districts, which is frequented by many American tourists in the summer, and travelled by many more Ontarians in the winter for business, family, sports tournaments and more; and

WHEREAS along almost the entire length of this provincial highway, there is no cellular/wireless phone service available, so that individuals who are in or discover accidents cannot call for help via 911 or emergency service numbers; and

WHEREAS there are lives at stake every day driving Highway 502, and it is the direct responsibility of the Ministry of Transportation, the Ministry of Infrastructure and the Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines to ensure the safety of its citizens on this provincial highway; and

WHEREAS as part of Up to Speed: Ontario's Broadband and Cellular Action Plan, the government of Ontario “recognizes the importance of having infrastructure in place to support public safety across the province, especially in rural, remote and northern areas,” and commits to spend \$315 million over five years on expanded access for underserved communities; and

WHEREAS last year, the province of Ontario provided over \$70 million to the Eastern Ontario Regional Network's project to virtually eliminate coverage gaps in the region to, as Northumberland-Peterborough South MPP David Piccini said, "Improve connectivity so that people can feel confident and safe, at home and on the road;" and

WHEREAS fatalities on Highway 502, as recently as in the first weeks of 2020, have directly impacted the lives and families of the residents of the Township of Emo;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council for the Corporation of the Township of Emo call on the provincial government and the Minister of Energy, Northern Development and Mines, the Hon. Greg Rickford, Kenora-Rainy River MPP, to swiftly and aggressively work to close this gap in safety for residents of Northwestern Ontario, by working with area mobility providers and other key stakeholders to establish network infrastructure coverage over the entire length of Provincial Highway 502; and

FURTHER, that this resolution be forwarded to Hon. Caroline Mulroney, Minister of Transportation, Hon. Monte McNaughton, Minister of Infrastructure, Dan Topatigh, President and CEO of Tbaytel, Mirko Bibic, President and CEO of Bell Canada, and the municipalities of the Kenora-Rainy River riding."

Yours truly,



Bridget Foster,
CAO/Clerk-Treasurer

BF/ss

cc. Minister of Energy, Northern Development and Mines,
Hon. Greg Rickford, MPP Kenora-Rainy River, greg.rickford@pc.ola.org;

Minister of Transportation,
Hon. Caroline Mulroney, caroline.mulroney@pc.ola.org;

Minister of Infrastructure,
Hon. Laurie Scott, laurie.scott@pc.ola.org;

President and CEO of Tbaytel,
Dan Topatigh, customercare@tbaytel.net;

President and CEO of Bell Canada,
Mirko Bibic, bcecomms@bce.ca;

Municipalities of the Kenora-Rainy River riding.