

November 17, 2023

Please be advised that during the regular Council meeting of November 14, 2023 the following motion regarding urging the Federal and Provincial governments to establish a guaranteed livable income was carried:

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-568

DATE: November 14, 2023

MOVED BY: Councillor Roberts

SECONDED BY: Councillor Maynard

WHEREAS on November 23, 2021 Prince Edward County was certified as a 'Living Wage' Employer at the "support" level, through the Ontario Living Wage Network;

AND WHEREAS the Ontario livable wage for Hastings & Prince Edward, in 2022 was determined to be \$19.05, which is \$3.55 more than the Provincial minimum wage rate of \$15.50; and this rate is paid to all staff including students in 2023;

AND WHEREAS our residents on programs such as Ontario Works, receive targeted fixed monthly incomes of \$733, and ODSP recipients receive \$1,376;

AND WHEREAS the current Ontario minimum wage rate, a person working 37.5 hours per week will earn approximately \$2,500 monthly (before tax);

AND WHEREAS in accordance with the 2023 Vital Signs Report, up to 3,500 residents (10.1% to 13.5%) are living on low income (less than \$36,000 a year after taxes) and PEC's median income lags behind Ontario by \$7,500/year;

AND WHEREAS the median rent for one bedroom in Prince Edward County in accordance with the County Housing Plan for 2023 \$1,513 a month;

AND WHEREAS rent is considered affordable, when it is no more than 30% of gross annual income and the number of people receiving government benefits has increased to a level above the provincial average in Prince Edward County. Extrapolated, a full 30% of County residents are deemed to be low-income and unable to afford either market real estate or rental housing prices;

AND WHEREAS as of March 31, 2023, there are 1,089 households on the Prince Edward - Lennox and Addington Social Services wait list for subsidized housing in Prince Edward County;

AND WHEREAS, in accordance with the County Food Collective, Food bank use is up 26% in Prince Edward County and as many as 6,000 residents experience food insecurity over a year's time;

AND WHEREAS on July 25, 2023 Council expressed support for a more generous Canada Child Benefit targeting low-income families struggling with food insecurity and urged Federal government expedite its 2021 election promise to roll-out Canada's first national school food policy, and endorsed the Coalition for Healthy School Food mission to work with partners across Canada to advocate for a universal cost-shared healthy Canada-wide school food program on September 26, 2023;

AND WHEREAS the 2017 Business Retention and Expansion (BR+E) study/survey identified the general affordable workforce housing as a primary obstacle in our workforce attraction;

AND WHEREAS the collected data of housing and poverty statistics, and continuing to examine their pending economic vulnerability as a result is important in establishing a livable income;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of Prince Edward County join other municipalities across Ontario, including Belleville, Napanee to urge the Federal and Provincial governments to establish a Guaranteed Livable Income program; and

THAT this resolution be sent to The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada, The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, The Honourable Michael Parsa, M.P.P., Minister of Children, Community and Social Services, Ryan Williams, Bay of Quinte M.P.P., Todd Smith, Bay of Quinte M.P.P, Marit Stiles, Leader of the Official Opposition of Ontario and Pierre Poilievre Leader of the Official Opposition of Canada requesting a response on this matter within 30 days of receipt; and

THAT this resolution be shared with all 444 municipalities in Ontario, The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), The Association of Municipalities Ontario (AMO), and The Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus (EOWC).

CARRIED

Yours truly,



Catalina Blumenberg, **CLERK**

cc: Mayor Steve Ferguson, Councillor Roberts, Councillor Maynard and Marcia Wallace,
CAO