

April 13, 2021

Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
200 University Ave., Suite 801
Toronto, ON M5H 3C6

Re: Healthy, Professional News Media

Please be advised the Council of the Municipality of Chatham-Kent at its regular meeting held on April 12, 2021 passed the following resolution:

Whereas a healthy, professional news media is essential for the proper functioning of civil society and democracy at the local, regional, federal and international levels; and

Whereas residents of 190 Canadian communities - lost 250 established news outlets because of closings or mergers between 2008 and 2018; and

Whereas the federal government allocated nearly \$600 million in aid for Canadian media over five years in its 2019 budget, including a 25-percent tax credit for newsroom salaries; a 15-percent tax credit for digital media subscribers; and charitable tax status for non-profit news outlets; and

Whereas Canadians have lost the essential services provided by nearly 500 journalists due to layoffs in the Canadian media since the COVID-19 pandemic began to mid-April of 2020 - a time it became clearer to the public how important it is for Canadians to receive factual information - and advertising revenues have plunged, prompting an emergency \$30-million advertising-buy by the federal government; and

Whereas the news media in Chatham-Kent have been instrumental during the COVID-19 pandemic, ensuring local citizens have timely and factual local information; and

Whereas periodic misinformation on social media sites hampers the ability to communicate factually with local citizens; and

Whereas a stronger local media would demonstrate the value of accurate information and provide a more balanced perspective for discussion of public issues,

Be it Therefore Resolved that Chatham-Kent Council encourage other Municipal Councils within the province and across Canada

- to acknowledge that a robust news media is essential to the proper functioning of democracy in their jurisdictions,
- to endorse legislation and regulations to support and rejuvenate news outlets across Canada and
- to urge the Federal Government to move quickly to pass legislation to ensure an ecosystem for a healthy news media to serve all Canadians

And Further that this resolution be forwarded to area municipalities, local M.P.s and M.P.P.s, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and Association of Municipalities of Ontario

And Further that Chatham-Kent Council encourage all residents to support local journalism.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Judy Smith at ckclerk@chatham-kent.ca

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Judy Smith', written over a horizontal line.

Judy Smith, CMO

Director Municipal Governance

Clerk /Freedom of Information Coordinator

C.

Lianne Rood, MP
Dave Epp MP
Rick Nicholls, MPP
Monte McNaughton, MPP
Federation of Canadian Municipalities
Local Ontario Municipalities