The Corporation of The Township of The Archipelago
Council Meeting

Agenda Number:	15.5.
Resolution Number	26-164
Title:	Hydro One Sudbury–Barrie Transmission Line Project – Route Selection and Municipal Impacts
Date:	Friday, November 20, 2026

Moved by: Councillor Frost
Seconded by: Councillor Liverance

WHEREAS Hydro One is undertaking a Class Environmental Assessment for the proposed Sudbury–Barrie Transmission Line Project, involving approximately 300 kilometres of new 500-kilovolt transmission infrastructure between the Hanmer Transformer Station near Sudbury and the Essa Transformer Station near Barrie; and

WHEREAS the proposed transmission corridor includes portions of the Township of The Archipelago, primarily within Wards 5 and 6, potentially affecting private properties, environmentally sensitive areas, recreational lands, and the natural landscape; and

WHEREAS the Township recognizes the importance of strengthening Ontario's electricity transmission infrastructure to support future energy demands, economic development, and long-term energy security; and

WHEREAS the Township of The Archipelago is characterized by its extensive Georgian Bay shoreline, inland lakes, wetlands, forests, environmentally sensitive lands, and significant areas of Crown land, all of which contribute to the environmental, recreational, and economic character of the municipality; and

WHEREAS seasonal and permanent residents, recreational properties, tourism, and associated businesses contribute significantly to the local economy, and the preservation of the Township's natural landscapes and environmental features is essential to maintaining these economic and community interests; and

WHEREAS the natural and near-natural state of the environment is the economic driver of the

Township of The Archipelago; and

WHEREAS the location of major electrical transmission infrastructure has the potential to negatively impact private property values, recreational enjoyment, natural viewsheds, environmentally sensitive areas, wildlife habitats, and future land-use opportunities; and

WHEREAS the Township is concerned that the narrowing of Hydro One's original study area may have prematurely excluded potentially viable alternative transmission routes without sufficient public explanation or supporting technical documentation; and

WHEREAS the Township believes that a comprehensive and transparent evaluation of alternative routes should consider opportunities to minimize impacts on established communities, private properties, recreational lakes, environmentally sensitive areas, and municipal infrastructure; and

WHEREAS the Township further believes that route selection should consider the potential use of existing infrastructure corridors, Crown lands, and other suitable locations where such alternatives may reduce environmental, social, and economic impacts; and

WHEREAS the location and concentration of major transmission infrastructure should also consider long-term system resilience, including potential risks associated with forest fires, severe weather events, and other natural hazards; and

WHEREAS the Township considers ongoing and meaningful consultation with affected municipalities, Indigenous communities, property owners, and residents to be essential to an effective and transparent route-selection process;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Corporation of the Township of The Archipelago requests that Hydro One:

1. **Provide a clear and transparent explanation**, including supporting technical documentation, of the rationale and evaluation criteria used to narrow the original study area and identify the current transmission corridor alternatives.

2. **Prioritize the avoidance and minimization of impacts** on private property, recreational and residential development, environmentally sensitive lands, wildlife habitats, natural landscapes, and significant viewsheds associated with Georgian Bay and inland lakes.

3. **Assess the potential impacts on municipal interests**, including existing and future land use, municipal infrastructure, road networks, emergency services, economic development, and recreational and tourism activities.

4. **Evaluate long-term infrastructure resilience and system security**, including the potential risks

associated with locating major transmission facilities within existing infrastructure corridors and exposure to extreme weather events, forest fires, and other natural hazards.

5. **Commit to ongoing and meaningful consultation** with the Township of The Archipelago throughout the Environmental Assessment and subsequent project development stages, including direct engagement with municipal staff and Council before a preferred route is selected. Hydro One is further requested to notify the Township in advance of correspondence being distributed to affected property owners and residents, ensuring the municipality is informed and prepared to respond to public inquiries and concerns.

6. **Provide detailed, accessible mapping and relevant GIS data** identifying proposed transmission corridors and route alternatives to enable the Township to undertake its own assessment of potential impacts on properties, environmental features, municipal infrastructure, and future land-use planning.

AND FURTHER THAT Council expresses its strong opposition to any proposed transmission route through the Township of The Archipelago that results in significant and avoidable impacts on private properties, environmentally sensitive areas, recreational lakes, or the natural character of the municipality without a demonstrated assessment of reasonable alternatives;

AND FURTHER THAT the Township supports a coordinated regional approach through the West Parry Sound Hydro Corridor Task Force to ensure that the collective interests and concerns of affected municipalities are appropriately represented throughout the Environmental Assessment process;

AND FURTHER THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario; the Honourable Stephen Lecce, Minister of Energy and Mines; the Honourable Graydon Smith, MPP for Parry Sound–Muskoka; Ogimaa Adam Pawis, Shawanaga First Nation; Ogimaa Shane Tabobondung, Wasauksing First Nation; Hydro One; and the West Parry Sound area municipalities for their information and support.

Carried