



**TOWNSHIP OF  
BRUDENELL, LYNDOCH AND RAGLAN**

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July 8, 2026

The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario  
Premier's Office  
Room 281, Legislative Building, Queen's Park  
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

**RE: Ontario's Deposit Return System Closures**

Dear Mr. Ford,

Please be advised that at the Regular Council Meeting on July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2026, Council for the Corporation of the Township of Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan passed the following resolution, supporting the resolution from the Township of Madawaska Valley.

**Resolution No: 2026-07-08-17**  
**Moved by: Councillor Kauffeldt**  
**Seconded by: Councillor Banks**

**"Be it resolved** that the Council for the Corporation of the Township of Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan support the Township of Madawaska Valley's resolution regarding Ontario's Deposit Return System Closures as attached.

**And further that** this resolution be forwarded to the Premier of Ontario, Minister of Finance, Renfrew Nipissing Pembroke MPP, Association of Municipalities of Ontario, and Renfrew County Municipalities."

**Carried.**

Sincerely,

Tammy Thompson  
Deputy Clerk  
Township of Brudenell, Lyndoch and Raglan



**THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP  
OF MADAWASKA VALLEY**

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**Moved by: Shelley Maika  
Seconded by: Mary Blank**

**06-RC-20 May 2026  
20 May 2026**

**BE IT RESOLVED**

**WHEREAS** The Province of Ontario has undertaken significant changes to the retail alcohol marketplace, resulting in the closure of numerous Beer Store locations, particularly in small towns and rural communities, reducing access points for the return of empty alcohol containers; and

The Beer Store operates Ontario's deposit return system, and its closures have transferred the responsibility for empty container returns to small, independently owned rural retailers, often making them the sole return location within vast geographic areas; and

Small rural convenience stores and LCBO Convenience Outlet (LCO) operators are mandated to accept empty alcohol containers as a condition of their licence, requiring substantial investments in infrastructure, storage space, staffing, health and safety measures, and insurance; and

Large grocery chains, big-box retailers, and LCBO-operated retail stores selling alcohol are not currently required to accept empty alcohol container returns, creating an uneven and unfair regulatory environment; and

Privately owned rural retailers receive little to no compensation for the labour, space, operational costs, and risks associated with processing empty returns, while the recycling system generates significant revenue at the provincial and corporate level; and

The burden of empty returns has increased dramatically following Beer Store closures, particularly during peak seasonal and tourist periods, placing small rural businesses at risk of financial instability or closure; and

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electronically to [dclerk@madawaskavalley.ca](mailto:dclerk@madawaskavalley.ca)***

These small retailers provide essential services that support local residents, seasonal residents, tourism operations, restaurants, community events, fundraisers, parks, and recreation facilities, and their loss would have negative economic, social, and environmental impacts on rural municipalities; and

The closure of additional Beer Store locations without a fair and equitable province-wide returns solution risks increased littering, improper disposal, pressure on municipal waste facilities, and reduced recycling participation; and

Municipal councils across Ontario are increasingly being called upon to support local businesses facing unintended consequences of provincial policy decisions related to alcohol retail modernization;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT**

**THAT** The Council of the Corporation of the Township of Madawaska Valley formally expresses its support for small, independently owned rural retailers and LCBO Convenience Outlet operators that are disproportionately impacted by Beer Store closures and mandatory empty container return requirements; and

**THAT** The Council calls on the Province of Ontario, the Minister of Finance, and relevant provincial agencies to urgently review and reform the alcohol container return system to ensure it is fair, equitable, and sustainable for small rural communities; and

**THAT** The Council urges the Province to address the imbalance whereby large grocery chains, big-box retailers, and LCBO corporate stores are not required to accept empty returns while small private businesses are compelled to do so; and

**THAT** The Council requests that the Province implement one or more of the following measures:

- o Mandatory participation in empty container returns by all alcohol retailers, including large retailers and the LCBO;

- o Fair and adequate compensation for retailers required to accept empties to cover staffing, infrastructure, insurance, and health and safety costs;

- o Alternative, provincially funded return infrastructure in rural and underserved areas; and

- o Transitional supports for retailers impacted by Beer Store closures to prevent further loss of essential community businesses; and+

**THAT** The Council further requests that copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Finance, the local Member of Provincial Parliament Billy Denault, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), Renfrew County Municipalities and other relevant stakeholders for advocacy and action.

**X CARRIED**

*Suzanne Klatt*

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