

**The Corporation of the Municipality of St. Charles
RESOLUTION PAGE**



Committee of the Whole

Agenda Number: 3.2.3.
Resolution Number 2025-214
Title: Report to Council - Natural Gas Expansion - Project Cancellation
Date: September 3, 2025

Moved by: Councillor Laframboise
Seconded by: Councillor Lachance

WHEREAS the Municipality of St.-Charles benefited from the Natural Gas Expansion Program Phase 2 expansion funding announced on June 9, 2021;

AND WHEREAS on August 13, 2025, the Municipality of St.-Charles was notified that the expansion project was cancelled due to mounting costs associated with inflation and difficult terrain;

AND WHEREAS Northern Ontario is on the cusp of substantial growth largely related to accessing critical minerals that will drive expansion in the mining sector;

AND WHEREAS with this economic expansion comes the need to support growth in traditional sectors such as farming, healthcare, forestry, and education;

AND WHEREAS employment growth will create increased demand for new housing developments to ensure that workers have a place to live, work, and play, all of which are closely tied to accessing natural gas as an affordable energy source and essential infrastructure for future residential, commercial, and industrial development;

AND WHEREAS current energy challenges force developers to explore alternatives such as oil and propane, which, while serving as temporary solutions, come with high costs and raise environmental concerns;

AND WHEREAS there is an urgent need for investment in sustainable energy solutions that are affordable, reliable, and environmentally responsible to support both current and future development;

AND WHEREAS natural gas is recognized as a clean, economical, and domestically sourced energy option that will lower energy costs for residents, farms, and businesses, while also enhancing opportunities for northern communities to grow by attracting new housing developments and commercial investment;

AND WHEREAS natural gas serves as a critical transition fuel that reduces reliance on higher-emission sources such as oil and propane, while enabling time and capacity for future investments in renewable and low-carbon energy;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that Council for the Corporation of the Municipality of St.-Charles respectfully requests the Government of Ontario to support and approve the expansion of natural gas infrastructure to rural municipalities such as St.-Charles by undertaking a review of the Ontario Energy Board's Profitability Index model to incorporate a Northern Cost Adjustment that fairly accounts for the higher costs of construction in Northern Ontario caused by terrain challenges such as bedrock and wetlands, as well as the realities of distance, climate, and lower population density, to ensure that rural and northern communities are not disadvantaged in accessing natural gas infrastructure;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Municipality of St.-Charles requests the Province to embed northern natural gas expansion as a priority in Ontario's Integrated Energy Plan and regional economic growth strategies;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution be forwarded to FONOM, ROMA, AMO and all northern municipalities to build collective support for equitable natural gas expansion in Northern Ontario.

CARRIED


MAYOR