

April 8, 2026

The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
The Honourable David Piccini, Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development
The Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

RE: Support for Association of Ontario Road Supervisors (AORS) – Protections for Public Works Workers

Dear Premier and Ministers,

At its April 7th, 2026 meeting, the Council of the Township of McNab/Braeside passed a resolution formally supporting the Association of Ontario Road Supervisors (AORS) in their call for enhanced provincial protections for municipal public works staff and contracted service providers.

Our public works employees are the backbone of community safety. During significant weather events and emergencies, these individuals act as frontline responders. They ensure that roads, bridges, and drainage systems remain functional so that ambulances, fire services, and police can reach those in need.

Despite the essential nature of this work, there is a disturbing rise in harassment, threats, and dangerous interference directed at these workers. Municipalities across Ontario are reporting incidents of verbal abuse, physical threats, and the deliberate obstruction of equipment. Such actions do more than just threaten the safety of the workers; they jeopardize public safety by delaying critical winter maintenance and emergency response operations.

The Township of McNab/Braeside respectfully requests that the Province of Ontario introduce legislative and enforcement measures to:

- Formally recognize municipal public works workers and contractors as essential service providers during declared significant weather events and emergencies;
- Deter and penalize the interference, harassment, or obstruction of municipal operations through strengthened legal consequences; and
- Provide clear direction and support to police services to ensure a proactive response to these incidents.

Our workers deserve a workplace free from violence and intimidation, especially when they are working in hazardous conditions to keep our residents safe.

A copy of the full resolution is attached for your reference. We look forward to your leadership on this critical occupational health and safety issue.

Sincerely,



Mayor Lori Hoddinott, Township of McNab/Braeside

CC: Association of Ontario Road Supervisors (AORS) & Renfrew County Municipalities



Regular Council Meeting Resolution Form

Date: April 7, 2026 No: RESOLUTION - 124-2026
Moved by Councillor Jill Campbell Disposition: CARRIED
Seconded by Councillor Kevin Rosien Item No: 14.4

Description: AORS - Protection for Municipal Public Works Workers and Contractors

RESOLUTION:

WHEREAS municipal public works employees and contracted service providers are responsible for maintaining critical infrastructure including roads, sidewalks, bridges, drainage systems, and winter maintenance operations that are essential to public safety and emergency response;

AND WHEREAS during significant weather events and emergencies, these workers act as frontline responders, ensuring routes remain open for ambulances, fire services, police, school transportation, and the travelling public;

AND WHEREAS municipalities across Ontario are reporting an increase in harassment, threats, intimidation, and dangerous interference from members of the public directed at municipal workers and subcontractors while they perform their duties;

AND WHEREAS these behaviours have included verbal abuse, threats of violence, obstruction of equipment, and actions that delay or disrupt winter maintenance and emergency response operations, placing workers and the broader public at risk;

AND WHEREAS interference with municipal operations during storms and emergencies jeopardizes service levels, delays critical response times, and creates significant occupational health and safety risks;

AND WHEREAS the Association of Ontario Road Supervisors (AORS) has formally called on the Province of Ontario to strengthen legislative protections, enforcement support, and consequences for those who threaten or obstruct municipal public works staff and contractors;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Township of McNab/Braeside supports the calls to action advanced by the Association of Ontario Road Supervisors to improve protections for municipal public works workers and subcontractors;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Province of Ontario be requested to introduce legislative and enforcement measures that:

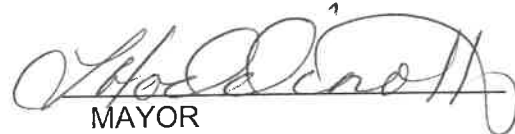
- recognize municipal public works workers and contractors as essential service providers during declared significant weather events and emergencies;
 - deter and penalize interference, threats, harassment, or obstruction of municipal operations;
- and

•provide clear direction and support to police services to proactively respond to these incidents;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a letter conveying Council's support for these measures be sent to:

- The Honourable David Piccini, Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development
- The Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
- The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario

AND THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Association of Ontario Road Supervisors and neighbouring municipalities for their consideration.


MAYOR

Recorded Vote Requested by:

Declaration of Pecuniary Interest:

	Yea	Nay
Mayor Lori Hoddinott	_____	_____
Deputy Mayor Scott Brum	_____	_____
Councillor Kevin Rosien	_____	_____
Councillor Robert Campbell	_____	_____
Councillor Jill Campbell	_____	_____

Disclosed his/her/their interest(s), vacated he/her/their seat(s), abstained from discussion and did not vote