



THE TOWNSHIP OF  
WOOLWICH

BOX 158, 24 CHURCH ST. W.  
ELMIRA, ONTARIO N3B 2Z6  
TEL. 519-669-1647 / 1-877-969-0094  
COUNCIL/CAO/CLERKS FAX 519-669-1820  
PLANNING/ENGINEERING/BUILDING FAX 519-669-4669  
FINANCE/RECREATION/FACILITIES FAX 519-669-9348

September 26, 2025

Prime Minister  
Right Hon. Mark Carney  
Office of the Prime Minister  
80 Wellington Street  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0A2

Right Honorable Prime Minister:

RE: Resolution Passed by Woolwich Township Council – Bill C-61 First Nations Clean Water Act

This letter is to inform you that the Council of the Township of Woolwich passed the following resolution at their meeting held on September 23, 2025:

**WHEREAS in December 2023, the Minister of Indigenous Services introduced house government bill C-61: An Act respecting water, source water, drinking water, wastewater and related infrastructure on First Nation lands also known as the First Nations Clean Water Act; and**

**WHEREAS in an open letter to Members of Parliament on December 12, 2024, the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) called on all Members of Parliament to prioritize the advancement of Bill C-61, calling it “a step toward addressing the long-standing water issues faced by First Nations”; and**

**WHEREAS Bill C-61 was not passed into law before Parliament was prorogued on January 6, 2025; and**

**WHEREAS Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks Todd McCarthy has been unclear on Ontario’s position on this legislation, identifying Bill C-61 as a potential piece of legislation that would “undermine competitiveness” and “delay project development” before apologizing for any confusion and clarifying the need to “bring clean drinking water to First Nations communities, while also bringing the kind of regulatory certainty that attracts investment in businesses and communities”; and**

**WHEREAS Prime Minister Mark Carney and Indigenous Services Minister Mandy Gull-Masty have indicated the Canadian government’s support for introducing legislation like Bill C-61 in the fall of 2025; and**

**WHEREAS as of September 2025, Indigenous Services Canada data shows that while 93 long-term drinking water advisories have been lifted, since November**

**2015, 37 long-term drinking water advisories remain active, including in 27 communities in Ontario; and**

**NOW THEREFORE be it resolved that the Council of the Township of Woolwich:**

- 1. Calls on the Government of Canada and the Minister of Indigenous Services to reintroduce legislation to ensure First Nations have the right to clean and safe drinking water in the Fall of 2025 in the same form as Bill C-61;**
- 2. Calls on the Government of Ontario and the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks to support this important Federal legislation; and**
- 3. Directs staff to forward this resolution to the Prime Minister, Minister of Indigenous Services, Premier of Ontario, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, Assembly of First Nations and all Municipalities in Ontario.**

Should you have any questions, please contact Alex Kirchin, by email at [akirchin@woolwich.ca](mailto:akirchin@woolwich.ca) or by phone at 519-669-6005.

Yours truly,



Jeff Smith  
Municipal Clerk  
Corporate Services  
Township of Woolwich

cc. Hon. Mandy Gull-Masty, Minister of Indigenous Services  
Hon. Todd J. McCarthy, Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks  
Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario  
Assembly of First Nations  
All Municipalities in Ontario