



**GEORGINA**

**THE CORPORATION OF THE  
TOWN OF GEORGINA  
Georgina Agricultural Advisory Committee Agenda**

Tuesday, May 20, 2025

7:00 PM

**Pages**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

“The Town of Georgina recognizes and acknowledges that we are on lands originally used and occupied by the First Peoples of the Williams Treaties First Nations and other Indigenous Peoples, and on behalf of the Mayor and Council, we would like to thank them for sharing this land. We would also like to acknowledge the Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation as our close neighbour and friend, one with which we strive to build a cooperative and respectful relationship.

We also recognize the unique relationship the Chippewas have with the lands and waters of this territory. They are the water protectors and environmental stewards of these lands and we join them in these responsibilities.”

**2. ROLL CALL**

**3. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**4. INTRODUCTION OF ADDENDUM ITEM(S)**

**5. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**6. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND GENERAL NATURE THEREOF**

**7. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

1. Minutes of the Meeting held on March 11, 2025

4

**8. SPEAKERS**

**9. DELEGATIONS/ PETITIONS**

**10. PRESENTATIONS**

**11. REPORTS**

1. Memorandum, Proposed Advisory Committee Meeting Format 9  
Committee to decide on the preferred meeting format based on Council Resolution, C-2025-0107 (*see attachments*).

## 12. GENERAL INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Council Endorsement of Disposition Item 12.1.a 16  
Please be advised that at its meeting on April 2, 2025, Council endorsed disposition Item No. 12.1.a, regarding the Georgina Agricultural Advisory Committee requesting the Georgina Fire Department provide Grain Bin Safety Training.  
**RESOLUTION NO. C-2025-0081**  
That Town Council receive and endorse the suggestion made by the Georgina Agricultural Advisory Committee (GAgAC) to direct staff to arrange a Grain Bin Safety training session with the Georgina Fire Department.
2. Livestock Pound Keeper Update  
Mike Hutchinson, Manager, Municipal Law Enforcement, to provide an update on Livestock Pound keeper legislation and information.
3. Discussion on Disposition Item from January 15, 2025 Council Meeting 17  
Committee to discuss and review attachments on Disposition Item from January 15, 2025 Council Meeting.  
At the January 15, 2025 Council meeting, the following motion was passed to refer correspondence to the Georgina Agricultural Advisory Committee for its consideration.  
**RESOLUTION NO. C-2025-0011**  
Moved By Councillor Genge  
Seconded By Regional Councillor Davison  
That the January 15, 2025 General Information Items (i) to (viii) be received and that Item (v), being correspondence from the Township of Oro-Medonte concerning its position to increase the tile Drain Loan Limit, be forwarded to the Georgina Agricultural Advisory Committee for consideration and to Council Members for information purposes.
4. Discussion on Disposition Item from February 26, 2025 Council Meeting 20  
Committee to discuss and review attachments on Disposition Item from February 26, 2025 Council Meeting.  
At the February 26, 2025 Council Meeting, the following motion was

passed to refer correspondence to the Georgina Agricultural Advisory Committee for information and discussion.

Item 12.1 g. York Region Food Council's Food Charter outlining collective values and priorities, a guiding document for food-related policies and action to foster healthy communities.

**RESOLUTION NO. C-2025-0053**

Moved By Regional Councillor Davison  
Seconded By Councillor Neeson

That Town Council endorse the York Region Food Council's Food Charter outlining collective values and priorities, a guiding document for food-related policies and action to foster healthy communities, and that the Food Charter be forwarded to the Georgina Equity and Diversity Advisory Committee and the Georgina Agricultural Advisory Committee for discussion and information.

**13. MOTIONS/ NOTICES OF MOTION**

**14. OTHER BUSINESS**

**15. CLOSED SESSION**

**16. MOTION TO ADJOURN**



**THE CORPORATION OF THE  
TOWN OF GEORGINA**

**Georgina Agricultural Advisory Committee Minutes**

Date: Tuesday, March 11, 2025  
Time: 7:00 PM

Members of  
Committee Present: Lee Dale  
Dale Genge  
Robert Johnston  
James Lockie  
Nathan Pegg

Members of  
Committee Absent: Naomi Davison  
Kevin Hutchings

Staff Present: Samantha Naumoski, Committee Services Coordinator  
Brittany Dobrindt, Planner I

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

"The Town of Georgina recognizes and acknowledges that we are on lands originally used and occupied by the First Peoples of the Williams Treaties First Nations and other Indigenous Peoples, and on behalf of the Mayor and Council, we would like to thank them for sharing this land. We would also like to acknowledge the Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation as our close neighbour and friend, one with which we strive to build a cooperative and respectful relationship.

We also recognize the unique relationship the Chippewas have with the lands and waters of this territory. They are the water protectors and environmental stewards of these lands and we join them in these responsibilities."

Called to order at 7:01 p.m.

**2. ROLL CALL**

As noted above.

**3. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None.

**4. INTRODUCTION OF ADDENDUM ITEM(S)**

None.

**5. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**RESOLUTION NO. GAGAC-2025-0009**

Moved By Lee Dale

Seconded By Robert Johnston

That the March 11, 2025 Agenda be approved as presented.

**Carried**

**6. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND GENERAL NATURE THEREOF**

None.

**7. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

1. Minutes of the Meeting held on February 4, 2025

**RESOLUTION NO. GAGAC-2025-0010**

Moved By Robert Johnston

Seconded By Lee Dale

That the Minutes of the Georgina Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting held on February 4, 2025 be approved as presented.

**Carried**

**8. SPEAKERS**

None.

**9. DELEGATIONS/ PETITIONS**

None.

## 10. PRESENTATIONS

None.

## 11. REPORTS

None.

## 12. GENERAL INFORMATION ITEMS

### 1. Disposition Item - January 15, 2025 Council Meeting

At the January 15, 2025 Council meeting, the following motion was passed to refer correspondence to the Georgina Agricultural Advisory Committee for its consideration.

#### **RESOLUTION NO. C-2025-0011**

Moved By Councillor Genge

Seconded By Regional Councillor Davison

That the January 15, 2025 General Information Items (i) to (viii) be received and that Item (v), being correspondence from the Township of Oro-Medonte concerning its position to increase the tile Drain Loan Limit, be forwarded to the Georgina Agricultural Advisory Committee for consideration and to Council Members for information purposes.

**Carried**

#### **RESOLUTION NO. GAGAC-2025-0011**

Moved By Dale Genge

Seconded By James Lockie

That the Committee receive the Disposition item from the January 15, 2025 Council Meeting for information, and discuss the item at the next Georgina Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting.

**Carried**

### 2. Disposition Item - February 26, 2025 Council Meeting

At the February 26, 2025 Council Meeting, the following motion was passed to refer correspondence to the Georgina Agricultural Advisory Committee for information and discussion.

Item 12.1 g. York Region Food Council's Food Charter outlining collective values and priorities, a guiding document for food-related policies and action to foster healthy communities.

**RESOLUTION NO. C-2025-0053**

Moved By Regional Councillor Davison

Seconded By Councillor Neeson

That Town Council endorse the York Region Food Council's Food Charter outlining collective values and priorities, a guiding document for food-related policies and action to foster healthy communities, and that the Food Charter be forwarded to the Georgina Equity and Diversity Advisory Committee and the Georgina Agricultural Advisory Committee for discussion and information.

**Carried**

**RESOLUTION NO. GAGAC-2025-0012**

Moved By Lee Dale

Seconded By James Lockie

That the Committee receive the Disposition item from the February 26, 2025 Council Meeting for information, and discuss the item at the next Georgina Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting.

**Carried**

**13. MOTIONS/ NOTICES OF MOTION**

None.

**14. OTHER BUSINESS**

None.

**15. CLOSED SESSION**

None.

**16. MOTION TO ADJOURN**

**RESOLUTION NO. GAGAC-2025-0013**

Moved By Lee Dale

Seconded By Robert Johnston

That the Georgina Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

**Carried**

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Nathan Pegg, Vice Chair

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Samantha Naumoski, Committee Services Coordinator



# Interoffice Memorandum

**GEORGINA**

**Clerk's Division**

**To:** Georgina Advisory Committees

**From:** Samantha Naumoski, Committee Services Coordinator

**cc:** Rachel Dillabough, Town Clerk  
Mamata Baykar, Deputy Clerk

**Date:** April 16, 2025

**Re:** **RESOLUTION NO. C-2025-0107**  
Re: Proposed Advisory Committee Meeting Format

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Please be advised that at its meeting held on April 16, 2025, Council considered Report No. LS-2025-0001, regarding the Proposed Advisory Committee Meeting Format (*Attachment No. 1*). Council passed the following Resolution in relation to this report:

**RESOLUTION NO. C-2025-0107**

Moved By Councillor Dale

Seconded By Councillor Neeson

1. That Council receive Report No. LS-2025-0001 prepared by the Clerk's Division, Legislative Services Department, dated April 2, 2025, respecting the Proposed Advisory Committee Meeting Format;
2. That Council express its appreciation to all of the volunteers who continue to dedicate their time participating as Members of the Town's Advisory Committees;
3. That Option 3 be the preferred format for conducting Advisory Committee meetings, being that each Advisory Committee shall determine its preferred meeting format, either Virtual or Structured Hybrid, at the first scheduled meeting of each Council term, and shall remain with this format for the duration of the term, that those Committees that decide to remain virtual may conduct one meeting per year in the hybrid (in person) format upon notifying the Clerk's Division 30 days prior, and that the Appeals Committee meetings shall remain in the virtual format at all times.

**Carried**

Please note that the resolution and comments are taken from the un-adopted draft minutes.

Taking into consideration the above resolution, each advisory Committee, except the Georgina Appeals Committee, are required to decide on the meeting formats to conduct its meetings for the duration of the term, from the following options:

Virtual: Meetings are held from a remote location through electronic means. This method allows the meeting to be conducted through digital platforms or communication tools.

Structured Hybrid: Meetings are held in-person in the Council Chambers. Members will have the opportunity to participate virtually in exceptional circumstances only. Members of the public will have the opportunity to attend the meeting either remotely or in-person. Structured Hybrid Meetings align with the structure of Council Meetings.

**THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF GEORGINA**

**REPORT NO. LS-2025-0001**

**FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF  
COUNCIL**

April 16, 2025

**SUBJECT: PROPOSED ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING FORMAT**

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**1. RECOMMENDATION:**

1. That Council receive Report No. LS-2025-0001 prepared by the Clerk's Division, Legislative Services Department, dated April 2, 2025, respecting the Proposed Advisory Committee Meeting Format;
2. That Council express its appreciation to all of the volunteers who continue to dedicate their time participating as Members of the Town's Advisory Committees;
3. That Council provide direction regarding the preferred format for conducting Advisory Committee meetings, with the following options presented for consideration.

Option 1 - Virtual Meetings;

Option 2 - Structured Hybrid Meetings; or

Option 3 - Each Advisory Committee shall determine its preferred meeting format, either Virtual or Structured Hybrid, at the first scheduled meeting of each Council term, and shall remain with this format for the duration of the term.

**2. PURPOSE:**

Staff are seeking direction from Council to establish the preferred meeting format for Advisory Committees.

**3. BACKGROUND:**

Advisory Committee Meetings went to a fully virtual format at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020.

At the August 14, 2024 Council Meeting, Council considered a resolution from the Georgina Agricultural Advisory Committee requesting that it consider a hybrid meeting format for Committees of Council. Accordingly, Council directed staff to investigate and consider the meeting format for Committees of Council and for the Georgina Public Library Board.

As directed by Council, staff have reviewed and considered relevant options for a preferred meeting format for the following Council Appointed Committees:

- Georgina Agricultural Advisory Committee
- Georgina Accessibility Advisory Committee
- Georgina Appeals Committee
- Georgina Economic Development Advisory Committee
- Georgina Equity and Diversity Advisory Committee
- Georgina Environmental Advisory Committee
- Georgina Heritage Advisory Committee
- Georgina Safe and Active Transportation Advisory Committee
- Committee of Adjustment

Currently, the Georgina Public Library Board mirrors the format of the advisory committees for its meetings; however, under the *Public Libraries Act*, the Board is authorized to determine the mode of calling and conducting its meetings. Historically, the Georgina Public Library Board has always employed the same meeting format as the other advisory committees.

#### **4. ANALYSIS:**

##### **4.1 Meeting Formats**

Currently, the Town of Georgina has two meeting formats in place for its meetings.

##### **Virtual Meetings**

The Virtual meeting format consists of a meeting held from a remote location by electronic means. This method allows the meeting to be conducted through digital platforms or communication tools, where Committee members, staff, and members of the public, engage remotely via video conferencing. This format allows individuals to interact, share information, and collaborate in real-time, regardless of their physical location, using internet-based technologies to facilitate meetings.

##### **Structured Hybrid Meetings**

The Structured Hybrid meeting format refers to a meeting that combines both in-person and virtual participation. In this format, Committee members and staff attend the Council Chambers in-person for each meeting, while allowing the public to join the meeting either remotely or in-person. Committee members have the opportunity to participate virtually in exceptional circumstances. Council meetings are currently held using the structured hybrid format.

##### **4.2 Options For Conducting Advisory Committee Meetings**

### **Option 1 - Virtual Meetings**

Through Virtual meetings, Committee members gain the ability to access meetings from remote locations, allowing them to volunteer their time to support Georgina's Advisory Committees through flexible means. The continuation of virtual meetings is seamless, as all Advisory Committees have been conducting them since the beginning of the term and are operating efficiently. One (1) staff member is required to successfully operate all necessary applications and effectively manage meetings. IT staff and Staff Liaisons are also available for assistance through virtual participation at remote locations. Virtual meetings are easily accessible and have increased citizen engagement, while also providing environmental benefits such as reduced emissions, as staff, Committee members, and the public no longer need to use transportation to meet at the Civic Centre to participate in-person. The Clerk's Division has also received positive feedback from Committee members, a majority preferring to continue virtual meetings, as they provide added flexibility. Additionally, attending virtually has increased the number of prospective candidates interested in joining the Committees.

### **Option 2 - Structured Hybrid Meetings**

The Structured Hybrid meeting format requires both Committee members and staff to attend in-person at the Council Chambers for each meeting. Committee members may participate virtually under exceptional circumstances. This format aligns with the format of Council meetings, ensuring that if the public attends in-person, the Committee will also be present in the Council Chambers. Implementing Structured Hybrid meetings will necessitate additional staffing to manage both in-person and virtual participation, as well as to oversee the technological setup. IT staff and Staff Liaisons will be required to attend meetings in-person at the Council Chambers to support the execution of these meetings. Given that Advisory Committee meetings occur multiple evenings per week, IT staff will be required to be available on-site during these times and days, as will the various staff members required to ensure the efficient operation of the Structured Hybrid meetings.

### **Option 3 - Each Advisory Committee shall determine its preferred meeting format, either Virtual or Structured Hybrid, at the first scheduled meeting of each Council term, and shall remain with this format for the duration of the term.**

This option provides the most flexibility, as each Advisory Committee has the opportunity to determine its preferred meeting format during the first scheduled meeting of each Council term. At their first meeting, members of each Advisory Committee will vote on their preferred meeting format: Virtual or Structured Hybrid. Once a majority vote has been reached, the chosen meeting format shall remain in effect for the duration of the term. The first scheduled meeting of the Council term will be conducted using the meeting format that was in place during the previous Council term for each respective Advisory Committee.

With regard to the current 2022-2026 Term of Council, Committee members would decide on their preferred meeting format at their next scheduled meeting.

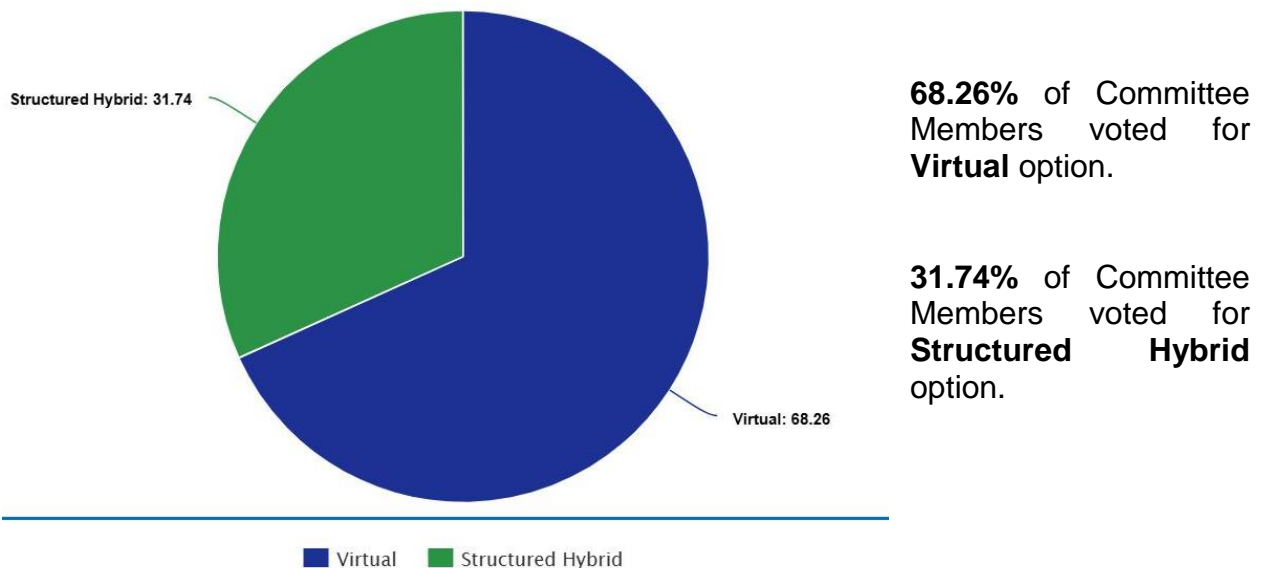
### 4.3 Survey

On February 7, 2025, a survey was emailed to each Advisory Committee seeking input from members on their preferred meeting format for the remainder of the 2022-2026 Term of Council. The options presented included Virtual Meetings and Structured Hybrid Meetings. Committee members were provided with the opportunity to select the meeting format they would prefer to participate in. The following descriptions were provided within the survey:

**Virtual:** Committee Members and Staff would participate in a Meeting from a remote location by electronic means, continuing with the current Committee meeting structure.

**Structured Hybrid:** Committee Members and Staff would be required to attend the Council Chambers in-person for each meeting, while allowing the public to participate virtually or in-person. Members will have the opportunity to participate virtually in exceptional circumstances. Structured Hybrid Meetings align with the structure of Council Meetings.

Overall Survey Results:



### 5. RELATIONSHIP TO STRATEGIC PLAN:

Delivering service excellence

Creating a vibrant, healthy, and safe community for all

### 6. FINANCIAL AND BUDGETARY IMPACT:

Budgetary impacts will be dependent on the option chosen by Council. The budgetary impact has been calculated as a range, as the number of staff involved in each type of committee meeting may vary. The approximate per-meeting cost for a virtual committee meeting ranges from \$286.43 to \$492.79. The approximate per-meeting cost for a hybrid meeting ranges from \$583.23 to \$1,649.28.

The total annual budgetary impact will be dependent on the number of meetings scheduled for each committee, which could range from 8 to 20 meetings per year. We have a total of 9 committees (excluding Georgina Public Library Board). The annual budgetary impact for virtual meetings for individual committee ranges from \$2,291.44 to \$9,855.8 and for Hybrid meetings ranges from \$4,665.84 to \$39,582.72. Hybrid meeting costs are higher due to the increased number of staff involved in administering the meeting, as well as the additional time required for technology setup and testing.

**7. PUBLIC CONSULTATION AND NOTICE REQUIREMENTS:**

There are no notice requirements or public consultation necessary in this determination.

**8. CONCLUSION:**

In conclusion, staff are seeking Council's direction on the preferred format for conducting Advisory Committee meetings through consideration of the following options:

Option 1 - Virtual Meetings

Option 2 - Structured Hybrid Meetings

Option 3 - Each Advisory Committee shall determine its preferred meeting format, either Virtual or Structured Hybrid, at the first scheduled meeting of each Council term, and shall continue with this format for the duration of the term.

**APPROVALS**

Prepared By:	Samantha Naumoski, Committee Services Coordinator
Reviewed By:	Mamata Baykar, Deputy Clerk
Reviewed By:	Rachel Dillabough, Town Clerk
Recommended By:	Michael Bigioni, Director of Legislative Services
Approved By:	Ryan Cronsberry, CAO



# Interoffice Memorandum

**GEORGINA**

**Clerks Division**

**To:** Georgina Agricultural Advisory Committee

**From:** Samantha Naumoski, Committee Services Coordinator

**cc:** Rachel Dillabough, Town Clerk  
Mamata Baykar, Deputy Clerk

**Date:** May 20, 2025

**Re:** **Council Endorsement of Disposition Item 12.1.a**  
Georgina Agricultural Advisory Committee requesting the Georgina Fire Department provide Grain Bin Safety Training

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Please be advised that at its meeting on April 2, 2025, Council endorsed disposition Item No. 12.1.a, regarding the Georgina Agricultural Advisory Committee requesting the Georgina Fire Department provide Grain Bin Safety Training.

**DIRECTION;** staff was requested to provide an update on the status of the 911 numbering on rural farm properties to differentiate between farm properties containing a house, and vacant farm fields to ensure emergency situations in a farm field are easily and quickly located.

## **RESOLUTION NO. C-2025-0081**

Moved By Councillor Dale  
Seconded By Councillor Genge

That Town Council receive and endorse the suggestion made by the Georgina Agricultural Advisory Committee (GAgAC) to direct staff to arrange a Grain Bin Safety training session with the Georgina Fire Department.

**Carried**

Please note that the resolution and comments are taken from the un-adopted draft minutes.

Via email: Rob.Flack@pc.ola.org

November 29, 2024

To: Hon. Rob Flack, Ministry of Agriculture, Food & Rural Affairs

**Re: Request for Support – Increase Tile Drain Loan Limit**

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Please be advised at its meeting held on November 13, 2024, Council of the Township of Oro-Medonte passed the following resolution supporting the Township of Adelaide Metcalfe's request that the Province consider increasing the maximum annual Tile Drain Loan Limit:

*Be it resolved that the staff recommendations with respect to the items listed under "Consent Agenda Correspondence" be adopted as printed:*

*d) Correspondence dated October 22, 2024, from the Township of Clearview and Correspondence dated March 22, 2024 from the Township of Adelaide Metcalfe re: Request for Support - Increase Tile Drain Loan Limit.*

*Staff Recommendation: Receive, Support, Advise Under the Mayor's Signature.*

Yours sincerely,



Randy Greenlaw

Mayor  
/vc

Cc:  
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)  
Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA)  
All Ontario Municipalities



March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024

The Honourable Lisa Thompson  
Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs  
11th Floor  
77 Grenville St.  
Toronto, ON M5S 1B3

**RE: Township of Adelaide Metcalfe – Request to Increase Tile Drain Loan Limit**

Dear Minister Thompson,

On March 18, 2024, the Township of Adelaide Metcalfe Council approved the following resolution:

*WHEREAS farm drainage is of paramount importance in Ontario due to its significant impact on agricultural productivity and sustainability. Effective drainage systems help mitigate waterlogging, control soil moisture levels, and enhance soil structure, thereby optimizing growing conditions for crops;*

*WHEREAS improved drainage also facilitates timely field operations, reduces erosion, and minimizes nutrient runoff, contributing to environmental conservation efforts;*

*WHEREAS Ontario's diverse agricultural landscape, where weather variability is common, well-maintained drainage systems play a crucial role in ensuring stable yields, economic viability, and long-term resilience for farmers across the Province;*

*WHEREAS the Tile Loan Drainage Act, R.S.O 1990, c. T.8 allows for the borrowing of money for the purpose of constructing drainage works;*

*WHEREAS the maximum annual limit for these loans, unchanged since 2004, is currently set at \$50,000.*

*WHEREAS costs for Tile Drainage has increased markedly since 2004;*

*NOW THEREFORE the Council of the Township of Adelaide Metcalfe requests that the Province through the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) consider increasing the maximum annual Tile Loan limit to a minimum of \$100,000.*

*AND THAT this resolution be circulated the Honourable Lisa Thompson – Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA), the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA), and all Ontario municipalities.*

Your consideration of Council's request is appreciated.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'MB', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Michael Barnier  
Clerk & Manager of Legislative Services  
Township of Adelaide Metcalfe  
[mbarnier@adelaidemetcalfe.on.ca](mailto:mbarnier@adelaidemetcalfe.on.ca)

**Cc:** Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)  
Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA)  
All Ontario Municipalities



# YORK REGION FOOD CHARTER

The York Region Food Charter outlines collective values and priorities and is a guiding document for food-related policies and action.

The Food Charter is a vision of thriving urban and rural communities as well as First Nations and Indigenous Communities where residents, organizations, businesses, and governments work together to create a resilient food system that fosters healthy communities.

The Food Charter is centered on food sovereignty<sup>1</sup> and community-determined food and agriculture systems. This document is intended to build connection and responsibility to the land, and healthier food systems.



We seek to meaningfully engage diverse voices that represent York Region's communities and address issues in appropriate and relevant ways. By addressing food related issues, we strive to have a local impact while working towards systemic change in food, community and social justice. This includes reconciliation and supporting the resurgence of knowledge and traditional ways of knowing and doing.

The York Region food system is built on a history of oppression that continues to this day. The impact of this oppression is vast and includes a disconnection from the land and the loss of natural ways of living on the land, such as freely foraging and harvesting food. The ongoing process of colonialism has attempted to undermine the traditional and cultural food traditions of Indigenous, Black and racialized communities. We recognize that these communities continue to be impacted disproportionately by food insecurity, which can only be addressed by self-governance and support, if requested.

# OUR VALUES



## 01. Equity, Social Justice & Food Security<sup>1</sup>

We value the right to food and community-determined food and agriculture systems<sup>2</sup>. We believe everyone should have enough income to effectively prevent food insecurity<sup>3</sup>.

### We Support

- Evidence-based income and social policies which have been proven to reduce food insecurity.
- Community engagement, advocacy and action around income-related issues.
- Collaboration with governments and community partners in First Nations, Indigenous, racialized and other marginalized communities to determine priorities for action to address food insecurity and poverty<sup>4</sup>.

## 02. Health & Well-being

We value the role of food in promoting health, including physical, mental, emotional, cultural, social and spiritual well-being.



### We Support

- Equitable and dignified access to safe, nutritious, culturally relevant, and affordable food.
- Food programs, policies and practices to improve, support and promote holistic<sup>5</sup> well-being.
- The role of food and nutrition in preventing and managing diseases.
- Reducing health inequities<sup>6</sup> so that everyone has the same opportunities for health regardless of social, economic and spatial<sup>7</sup> and environmental factors.
- Body liberation<sup>8</sup> and the importance of creating positive, holistic relationships with food, culture and the land.

## 03. Local Agri-Food Sector<sup>9</sup>

We value the role of the agri-food sector in cultivating a strong economy and equitable local food system while ensuring environmental sustainability.

### We Support

- Indigenous knowledge around hunting, harvesting and gathering.
- Connections between farmers and the broader community.
- Maintaining farmland for agricultural uses.
- The local food sector's growth and development by promoting sustainable technology and innovation in agriculture and food-related industries.
- Growth and production of foods representing York Region's diversity, including traditional world foods, and alternative diets.
- Access to land and training for individuals, communities, and new & small-scale farmers.
- Fair compensation and safe and respectful work environments across the agriculture and agri-food sectors.



## 04. Environmental Stewardship

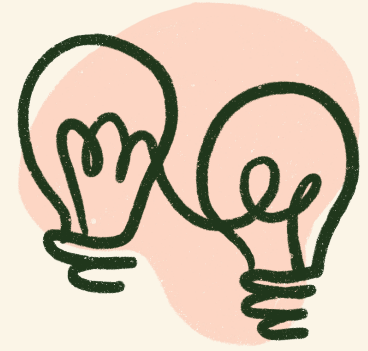
We value a sustainable food system that protects and enhances of the natural environment while working alongside First Nations and Indigenous Communities.

### We Support

- Meaningful engagement with and support for First Nations Communities in conserving biological and cultural diversity.
- The conservation and enhancement of land and natural resources, including water, seeds and livestock breeds, and any other species identified by the First Nations and other Indigenous People.
- Indigenous knowledge holders in sharing their knowledge, within both Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities, on ways to preserve and protect the land.
- Policies and practices that increase climate change resilience in food and agriculture.
- Land-use and planning policies that promote natural environments, enhance food security, and secure urban and rural agriculture land as well as other lands in which harvesting may take place, such as wetlands and forests.
- The creation of a circular food economy<sup>10</sup>, including reducing food waste, minimizing food packaging, promoting avenues for reuse and regenerating natural systems.

## 05. Knowledge & Sharing

We value sharing knowledge and supporting food literacy<sup>11</sup> so that all community members can confidently choose to grow, cook, compost, or participate in food-related careers, contributing to a more sustainable future for the next seven generations.



### We Support

- Creating an understanding of truth and reconciliation across the food system and amplifying First Nations leadership and innovation.
- Promotion of intergenerational and Indigenous learnings and the use of food to share teachings, stories, cultural practices, and ways of knowing.
- Education opportunities that support careers for skilled, knowledgeable workers in entering the agriculture and food sector.
- Learning the components of the food system and the connections between farming, food, the environment and health and well-being.
- Opportunities to learn and share food skills, traditions and knowledge.
- Nutrition and food literacy within schools and the community.



## 06. Culture & Community

We value food as a link that brings communities together and connects people to people, land, culture and identity.

### We Support

- The promotion of public dialogue and initiatives for reconciliation within the food system.
- Celebrating and promoting diversity through culturally and spiritually significant foods and traditions to connect communities and strengthen collaborations.
- Building community and cross-cultural connections through food initiatives such as community food programs and events.
- Information sharing, collaboration and collective action between First Nations Communities, community organizations, and local governments.

1 Food security is "when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life." (Food and Agriculture Organization, World Food Summit, 1996)

2 "The right of peoples to healthy and culturally appropriate food produced through ecologically sound and sustainable methods, and their right to define their own food and agriculture systems" ([La Via Campesina](#)).

3 "Food insecurity is the inadequate or insecure access to food due to financial constraints" ([PROOF, 2024](#)).

4 Poverty takes different forms and is not limited to those living below a set income ([Canada Without Poverty, 2015](#)). "Poverty exists where people lack the material and financial resources to thrive" ([The Canadian Poverty Institute, 2024](#)).

5 Holistic is viewing the whole person (physical, emotional, spiritual, etc.) as interconnected to land and in relationship with others (family, community, nations, etc) ([Cull et al., 2018](#)).

6 Health inequities are avoidable and unjust differences in health between groups of people. These differences arise from social, economic, and political factors that shape the conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work, and age. These factors determine individuals' access to resources, their risk of illness, and their ability to prevent or treat health conditions ([WHO, 2013](#)).

7 Spatial factors refer to the characteristics and organization of physical space, which influence how objects, elements, or organisms are arranged, distributed, or interact within an environment.

8 Body liberation is a movement rooted in the belief that all bodies have a right to exist as they are. Everyone deserves to feel empowered within their own body and embrace their bodies without fear of judgement or prejudice. Body liberation challenges the dominant culture of body shaming and discrimination towards fat, racialized, trans, queer, and disabled individuals. It aims to dismantle systems of oppression including anti-fatness, ableism, healthism and other forms of oppression focused on how bodies exist ([Oxford Review, 2024](#); [Centre for Health and Wellbeing, 2024](#)).

9 The agri-food sector is the actors and activities involved in the production of agricultural products, as well as in storage, post-harvest handling, value-added activities, transportation, processing, distribution, marketing, disposal and consumption of all food and agricultural products ([FAO, 2021](#)).

10 "A circular economy eliminates waste and pollution, and conserves resources. It is a shift from a throw-away to a circular mindset to extend the lifecycle of goods, food and resources through better design and continuous reuse, so nothing goes to waste" ([Regional Municipality of York, 2024](#)). We are promoting human food sustainability practices such as eat locally and seasonally, reduce food waste, use sustainable packaging, conserve water and energy, grow your own food, and educate others.

11 "Food literacy includes food skills and practices that are learned and used across the lifespan to participate within a complex food environment. Food literacy also means considering the social, cultural, economic and physical factors related to food." (Health Canada, [Canada's Food Guide, 2019](#))