



GEORGINA

Subject: Home Heating Sustainability – Draft Resolution

To: Mayor and Council

From: Shawn Nastke, Director, Strategic Initiatives

Date: May 8, 2024

Briefing:

Background

The Town of Georgina received notice from the City of Brantford on March 28th, 2024, that the Brantford City Council had adopted a resolution around home heating sustainability that recognized the growing burden of energy costs – made more pressing with the carbon tax increase on April 1, 2024 and the recent discontinuation of energy grant and rebate programs (which traditionally encouraged Ontario residents to retrofit their homes to be energy efficient).

On April 10, 2024, Georgina Council directed staff to convert the City of Brantford’s resolution into a version it could support by both removing unverifiable statistics and by including Georgina’s federal and provincial members of parliament.

Draft Resolution

The attached draft resolution addresses the requests raised by Council while still urging the federal and provincial governments to recognize and help remedy the burden of home heating by:

1. Excluding home heating from the federal carbon tax, and
2. Reinstating the home energy retrofit rebate and grant programs, both provincially and federally.

Council Resolution - Home Heating Sustainability

WHEREAS home heating energy costs is a major and onerous burden for Seniors and those with limited or fixed incomes; and

WHEREAS the cost of natural gas to heat homes continues to climb due to many factors such as inflation, delivery and customer charges, carbon tax, among others, causing financial strain for many citizens; and

WHEREAS Canadians have no choice but to heat their homes throughout the winter; and

WHEREAS no citizen should have to choose between putting food on the table or heating their homes; and

WHEREAS the carbon tax is increasing as of April 1, 2024 to \$0.15 per cubic meter for natural gas, and the carbon tax rebate for homeowners is also increasing; and

WHEREAS Ontario homeowners can now expect to receive \$1,120 annually for the rebate on average and the rebate will be renamed to the Canada Carbon Rebate; and

WHEREAS starting on January 1, 2024, both SaskEnergy and SaskPower removed the federal carbon tax from home heating; and

WHEREAS the Canadian and Ontario governments have discontinued grant and rebate programs for Ontarians to retrofit their homes to be energy efficient such as the Canada Greener Homes Grant, making it difficult for homeowners to reduce their reliance on natural gas.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

A. THAT the Federal Government exclude home heating from the federal carbon tax to reduce the burden on citizens, as has been done in Saskatchewan; and

B. THAT the Federal and Provincial Governments reinstate home energy retrofit rebate and grant programs to help Georgina residents retrofit their homes to be more energy efficient and provide barrier-free options for switching to less carbon-intensive fuel sources to lower their utility bills and avoid the carbon tax; and

C. THAT the Clerk BE DIRECTED to forward a copy of this resolution to The Federal Minister of the Environment and Climate Change, The Honourable Steven Guilbeault, The Provincial Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks, The Honourable Andrea Khanjin, The Member of Parliament for York-Simcoe, The Honourable Scot Davidson, The Member of Provincial Parliament for York-Simcoe, The Honourable Caroline Mulroney, and to each municipality in Ontario.



March 28, 2024

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To whom it may concern:

Please be advised that Brantford City Council at its meeting held March 26, 2024 adopted the following:

12.6.13 Home Heating Sustainability

WHEREAS home heating energy costs is a major and onerous burden for Seniors and those with limited or fixed incomes; and

WHEREAS the cost of natural gas to heat homes continues to climb due to many factors such as inaccurate meter readings, inflation, delivery and customer charges, carbon tax, among others, causing financial strain for many citizens; and

WHEREAS 3.8 million households in Ontario currently use natural gas for home heating, representing about 70 per cent of Ontario households; and

WHEREAS the carbon tax charged on heating bills is highly dependent on the amount of natural gas used and accounts for 20-25% of the utility bill; and

WHEREAS Canadians have no choice but to heat their homes throughout the winter; and

WHEREAS no citizen should have to choose between putting food on the table or heating their homes; and

WHEREAS the carbon tax is increasing as of April 1, 2024 to \$0.15 per cubic meter for natural gas, and the carbon tax rebate for homeowners is also increasing; and

WHEREAS Ontario homeowners can now expect to receive \$1,120 annually for the rebate on average and the rebate will be renamed to the Canada Carbon Rebate; and

WHEREAS starting on January 1, 2024, both SaskEnergy and SaskPower removed the federal carbon tax from home heating, resulting in savings for approximately 98 per cent of Saskatchewan families by exempting them from carbon tax on home heating oil; and

WHEREAS the Canadian government has implemented new measures to help Atlantic Canadians lower their energy bills by making the average heat pump free to help low- to median-income Canadians switch to cleaner fuel and incentivizing the switch to heat pumps with \$250 upfront payments; and

WHEREAS the Canadian and Ontario governments have discontinued grant and rebate programs for Ontarians to retrofit their homes to be energy efficient such as Ontario's green home-retrofit rebate program, the ecoENERGY home retrofit program, and the Canada Greener Homes Grant, making it difficult for homeowners to reduce their reliance on natural gas.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- A. THAT the Federal Government exclude home heating from the federal carbon tax to reduce the burden on citizens, as has been done in Saskatchewan; and
- B. THAT the Federal and Provincial Governments reinstate home energy retrofit rebate and grant programs to help Brantford residents retrofit their homes to be more energy efficient and provide barrier-free options for switching to less carbon-intensive fuel sources to lower their utility bills and avoid the carbon tax; and
- C. THAT the Clerk BE DIRECTED to forward a copy of this resolution to The Federal Minister of the Environment and Climate Change, The Honourable Steven Guilbeault, The Provincial Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks, The Honourable Andrea Khanjin, The City of Brantford Member of Parliament, The Honourable Larry Brock, The City of Brantford Member of Provincial Parliament, The Honourable Will Bouma, and to each municipality in Ontario; and
- D. THAT the Mayor of the City of Brantford request that this resolution be added as an agenda item for consideration by the Ontario Big City's Mayor Caucus.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours truly,



Chris Gauthier
City Clerk, cgauthier@brantford.ca

cc Federal Minister of the Environment and Climate Change, Honourable Steven Guilbeault
Provincial Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks, Honourable Andrea Khanjin
All Ontario Municipalities