



June 2, 2025

**Mayor Yvonne Hamlin and Members of Council,**

**Town of Collingwood**

By email: [REDACTED]

Dear Mayor Hamlin and Members of Council:

**Re: Motion to Oppose Bill 5 and Bill 17**

While we appreciate the Ontario government's intent to reduce red tape and modernize legislation, we're worried that parts of these bills could undermine local decision-making, reduce oversight, and restrict Ontario's flexibility to plan responsibly for future challenges.

We are all aware of the changes being proposed in Bill 5 – *Protect Ontario by Unleashing our Economy Act, 2025*. This Bill is currently in the Standing Committee. CCAT supports those organizations who are opposing Bill 5 – and we urge the Town to join with many Ontario municipalities, credible think tanks, research organizations, and scores of local non-government organizations within the Simcoe, Grey and Bruce area in opposing portions of Bill 5 that axe the Endangered Species Act, change the Environmental Protection Act, and put the trust in “trusted proponents” rather than the integrity of its municipal partners.

Bill 5 will have a devastating effect on the ongoing sustainability of our Province. Importantly, it is in direct opposition to the Town of Collingwood's comprehensive and participatory strategies for addressing climate change and promoting sustainable development.

Based on reviews of Bill 17 – the Province's *Protect Ontario by Building Faster and Smarter Act*, this too is a flawed and dangerous bill. Bill 17 also echoes the undemocratic elements of Bill 5 in extending MZO powers to the infrastructure minister and threatening . While the CCAT is in support of a streamlined process for ensuring housing supply – (affordable, attainable and market), this should be achieved without compromising the importance of environmental protection and climate mitigation measures.

Bill 5 and Bill 17 together provide a hodgepodge of changes that together will cause chaos in the development process and put our environment, what we love in this region and why we live here, and our sustainable future at great risk. Our view is we can achieve streamlined economic growth and increased housing supply **and** continue to protect our environment and support the integrity of our municipal planning process.

To date a number of municipalities have passed resolutions opposing Bill 5: including Orangeville, Caledon, Lambton, Kingston and Mono. A copy of the proposed motion is attached which has been enhanced to include both Bill 5 and 17.

We respectfully request Council to endorse and pass a motion opposing Bill 5 and Bill 17 at your next council meeting scheduled for June 9th.

Respectfully,



Catherine Daw, Board Chair

On behalf of the members of Collingwood Climate Action Team

**Catherine Daw** (she/her)

**Board Chair**



<https://collingwoodclimateaction.com/>

## **Motion: Responsible Growth and Opposition to Bill 5 and Bill 17**

**Whereas** the Government of Ontario has introduced Bill 5, *Protecting Ontario by Unleashing Our Economy Act, 2025*, which proposes substantial changes to environmental planning policies, including replacing the Endangered Species Act with a new framework that reduces protections for at-risk species, and enabling the creation of Special Economic Zones that may override local planning authority and environmental oversight;

**And whereas** the Town of Collingwood supports increasing housing supply and economic growth, but believes this must be done in a way that upholds environmental responsibility and maintains the integrity of local planning processes;

**And whereas** Bill 5, as proposed, weakens safeguards for natural heritage systems, threatening biodiversity, and diminishing the authority of municipalities to manage growth in accordance with local needs and official plans;

**And whereas** the Canadian Environmental Law Association submits that all of the Bill 5 schedules, with minor exceptions, should be withdrawn and not further considered by the Legislative Assembly of Ontario until they are substantially modified to ensure robust protection for the environment, human health, and vulnerable members of the Ontario public, including Indigenous peoples, who may otherwise be harmed by the amendments contained in the various schedules.

**And whereas** the Canadian Civil Liberties finds that Schedule 9, in allowing the Minister of Economic Development to exempt “trusted proponents” from compliance with municipal and provincial law within the special economic zones, promotes abandonment of the rule of law subjecting Ontario’s lands and peoples to the possibility of arbitrary and non-transparent decision-making and effectively nullifying decades of legacy law-making in those zones.

**And whereas** Amnesty International Canada urges the Government of Ontario to 1) immediately halt or withdraw Bill 5; 2) Recommit to upholding the rights of Indigenous Peoples as affirmed in Canadian law through the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act; and 3) Engage in transparent inclusive consultations with Indigenous Nations and civil society before tabling new development legislation.

**And whereas Bill 17** proposes amendments that could prohibit municipalities from enacting building requirements beyond the Ontario Building Code, thereby restricting local green building initiatives currently underway across the province including the Town of Collingwood.

**And whereas** it aims to override municipal policies designed to promote sustainable building practices and their legislated responsibility to protect public health and environmental wellbeing.

**And whereas** The Atmospheric Fund (TAF) affirms through research that green standards have not slowed housing construction.

Therefore, be it resolved that the Town of Collingwood Council:

1. Opposes all provisions in Bill 5 and Bill 17 that reduce environmental protections and Ontario's proud legacy of protections of Endangered Species, that override the rule of law and that nullify municipal planning authority;
2. Urges the Province of Ontario to support housing and infrastructure development in ways that align with sound environmental planning and wildlife protection and empower municipalities with appropriate planning tools;
3. Directs that a copy of this resolution be sent to:
  - The Honourable Brian Saunderson, MPP for Simcoe-Grey
  - The Honourable Stephen Lecce, Minister of Energy and Mines;
  - The Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing;
  - The Honourable Todd J. McCarthy, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks;
  - The Honourable Graham McGregor, Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism
  - The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario;
  - The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO);
  - All Ontario municipalities.