



Office of the Mayor

WAYNE H. REDEKOP

September 24, 2021

Sent Via Email: premier@ontario.ca

The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building, Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

Honourable and Dear Sir:

Re: Request the Provincial Government to Implement a Right-of-Passage along the Lake Erie Shoreline

I have the privilege of being the mayor of a thriving municipality located at the confluence of Lake Erie and the Niagara River. For literally millennia humans have congregated and lived by these waters. From the earliest days of our Indigenous people to current residents, Lake Erie has been a place of renewal and comfort. Generations of people have enjoyed peacefully walking along the shore of Lake Erie, respecting the rights of those who may own property to the water's edge.

The Town corresponded with you on August 28, 2018 regarding a resolution passed the previous night by the Council of the Town of Fort Erie. I do not believe that you responded to our letter, a copy of which is attached hereto, or that resolution.

The Municipal Council of the Town of Fort Erie, at its meeting of September 20, 2021, passed the following resolution:

Whereas access along the Lake Erie Shoreline remains an important issue in the Town of Fort Erie; and

Whereas the Council for the Town of Fort Erie has previously requested that the Provincial Government to pass legislation permitting a right-of-passage along the Lake Erie shoreline, without success;

Now therefore be it resolved;

That: Council again requests the Premier of Ontario, The Honourable Doug Ford, to implement legislation that will provide individuals the right to pass peaceably along the Lake Erie shoreline and any other of the Great Lakes within 5 feet of the water's edge, respecting the rights of any private property owners across whose property the individuals may pass, and further

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Mailing Address:

The Corporation of the Town of Fort Erie
1 Municipal Centre Drive, Fort Erie ON L2A 2S6

Office Hours 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Phone: (905) 871-1600 FAX: (905) 871-4022

Web-site: www.forterie.ca

That: The Mayor is directed to send a letter to the Premier providing background on the matter and the rationale for this request, and further

That: This Resolution be circulated to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Region of Niagara, all municipalities in Niagara, the Members of Provincial Parliament in Niagara and the Members of Parliament in Niagara for their support.

The value of our Great Lakes as a life-sustaining resource can best be understood and appreciated by the public if it has access to their shores. That access is and should be the birthright of all members of our society who are respectful of any private property rights that may exist. I very much look forward to discussing with you how to move this initiative.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Yours very truly,



Wayne H. Redekop,
Mayor

WHR:dlk

wredekop@forterie.ca

Attach.

c.c. Chris Bittle, MP, St. Catharines chris.bittle@parl.gc.ca
Tony Baldinelli, MP, Niagara Falls Tony.Baldinelli@parl.gc.ca
Vance Badawey, MP, Niagara Centre vance.badawey@parl.gc.ca
Dean Ellison, MP dean.allison@parl.gc.ca
Jeff Burch, MPP, Niagara Centre jburch-qp@ndp.on.ca
Sam Oosterhoff, MPP, Niagara West sam.oosterhoff@pc.ola.org
Jennifer Stevens, MPP, St. Catharines JStevens-co@ndp.on.ca
Wayne Gates, MPP, Niagara Falls wgates-co@ndp.on.ca
Niagara Region
Local Area Municipalities
Town of Fort Erie Council



Community Services

Legislative Services

August 28, 2018

Sent via email: premier@ontario.ca

The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
Room 281, Legislative Building, Queen's Park
Premier's Office
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

Honourable and Dear Sir:

Re: The Right of Passage

The Municipal Council of the Town of Fort Erie at its meeting of August 27, 2018 passed the following resolution.

Whereas the people of Ontario are blessed with the Great Lakes and miles of diverse waterfront, and

Whereas the waters of the Great Lakes constitute the largest reservoir of fresh water in the world, and

Whereas the value of these waters as a life-sustaining resource can best be understood and appreciated by the public if it has access to the waterfront along the shoreline of the Great Lakes, and

Whereas MPP's for Niagara Falls-Fort Erie-Niagara-on-the-Lake have presented Private Member's Bills (The Right of Passage Bills) to ensure public walking rights along Ontario's Great Lakes shoreline, and

Whereas none of these Private Member's Bills have been passed by the Ontario Legislature, and

Whereas now, more than ever, the right of the public to walk along the Great Lakes shoreline should be confirmed by statute;

Now therefore be it resolved,

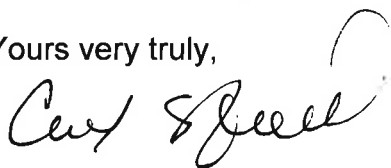
That: Council of the Town of Fort Erie calls upon the Premier, Doug Ford, to present and enact government legislation, The Right of Passage Act, to:

- a) Ensure that the public has the right to walk along all Great Lake shorelines between the water's edge and the high water mark,
- b) Require removal by property owners of all fences running vertical to the shoreline a distance of no less than 10 feet from the water's edge and any other obstructions to the public's right to walk the shore,
- c) Permit public access to the Great Lakes shoreline only via public lands, such as parks, road allowances or easements, and
- d) Prohibit the public from any activity on privately owned waterfront, other than a right to walk along the shoreline, and further

That: A copy of this resolution be delivered to the Premier, The Honourable Doug Ford, for action and to the MPP's and MP's in Niagara, the Clerk of the Niagara Region and of the area municipalities for information and support. **(Carried)**

We thank you for your attention and action on this very important matter.

Yours very truly,



Carol Schofield,
Manager, Legislative Services/Clerk
cschofield@forterie.ca

CS:dlk

Attach.

cc: Rob Nicholson, MP-Niagara Falls, Parliament of Canada *Sent via email:* rob.nicholson@parl.gc.ca
Vance Badawey, MP-Niagara Centre, *Sent via email:* vance.badawey@parl.gc.ca
Chris Bittle, MP-St. Catharines *Sent via email:* chris.bittle@parl.gc.ca
Wayne Gates, MPP-Niagara Falls, Legislative Assembly of Ontario *Sent via email:* wgates-co@ndp.on.ca
Sam Oosterhoff, MPP-Niagara West-Glanbrook, Legislative Assembly of Ontario *Sent via email:* sam.oosterhoff@pc.ola.org
Jennifer Stevens, MPP-St. Catharines *Sent via email:* JStevens-CO@ndp.on.ca
Jeff Burch, MPP-Niagara Centre *Sent via email:* JBurch-QP@ndp.on.ca
Ann-Marie Norio, Regional Clerk, Niagara Region *Sent via email:* Ann-Marie.Norio@niagararegion.ca
Niagara Local Area Municipalities *Sent via email*