



The Corporation of the Township of Georgian Bluffs

April 4, 2023

The Honorable Lisa M. Thompson
Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
11th Floor 77 Grenville St.
Toronto, Ontario
M5S 1B

Sent Via Email: minister.omafra@ontario.ca

To whom it may concern,

Re: Tile Drainage Loan Program Review

This is to advise that Council for the Township of Georgian Bluffs passed the following resolution on the March 22, 2023, meeting of Council:

RES2023-044

Moved By: Councillor Isaac Shouldice

Seconded By: Councillor Cathy Moore Coburn

WHEREAS Council of the Municipality of Arran-Elderslie passed a resolution at their regular meeting of Council on February 13, 2023, regarding a review of the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) Tile Drainage Loan Program; and

WHEREAS the resolution was circulated to the Township of Georgian Bluffs and added to the Township of Georgian Bluffs' Council Agenda on March 1, 2023; and

WHEREAS Council of the Township of Georgian Bluffs supports the Municipality of Arran-Elderslie's call for review of the OMAFRA Tile Drainage Loan Program as a rural municipality with a large agricultural landscape; and

WHEREAS installing tile drainage is a very common land improvement practice among farmers in Ontario and provides many benefits that allow for increased yields, improved soil conditions and reduces the risk of crop losses; and



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WHEREAS OMAFRA provides landowners in a municipality in Ontario planning to install a tile drainage system on their agricultural land with the option for a tile loan under the OMAFRA Tile Loan Program; and

WHEREAS the cost of installing a tile drainage system has increased exponentially over the years with the average cost per acre reaching \$2,000 and beyond, coupled with the rising cost per acre of farmland, further strengthening the need to invest in the lands to maximize profit realizations; and

WHEREAS the OMAFRA Tile Drainage Loan Program allows for a loan of up to 75% of eligible costs to install a tile drainage system to a maximum of \$50,000 in any fiscal year, to an individual, as an individual, or in their role in a partnership or corporation; and

WHEREAS the maximum has not been increased since 2004 when the maximum was increased from \$20,000 to the current \$50,000 maximum; and

WHEREAS the Ontario Federation of Agriculture requested an increase to the maximum annual loan amount to \$100,000 in 2021 and no changes to the program have been realized from that request;

NOW THEREFORE the Council of the Township of Georgian Bluffs supports the Municipality of Arran-Elderslie's call for the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs to review the provisions of the Tile Loan Program to consider the economic changes that have occurred since the last review was undertaken nineteen years ago in 2004 and consider increasing the maximum loan amount to \$125,000;

NOW THEREFORE the Council of the Township of Georgian Bluffs further urges the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs to commit to regular reviews of the program to ensure it remains in line with the current economic conditions;

NOW THEREFORE be it resolved that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Honorable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, Honorable Lisa M. Thompson, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, Rick Byers, MPP Grey-Bruce-Owen Sound, the Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA), the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, and The Municipality of Arran-Elderslie.

Carried



The Corporation of the **Township of Georgian Bluffs**

Thank you,

Rayburn M.

Rayburn Murray

Legislative Services Coordinator

cc: Honorable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
Rick Byers, MPP Grey-Bruce-Owen Sound
Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA)
Ontario Federation of Agriculture