



The Corporation of the Municipality of Arran-Elderslie
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September 13, 2023

Sent Via Email: minister.omafra@ontario.ca

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

Re: Tile Drainage Loan Program Review

Dear Minister Thompson,

At its Regular Council meeting held Monday, February 13, 2023, Council of The Municipality of Arran-Elderslie passed the attached resolution regarding the review and revision of the current tile drainage loan program facilitated through the Ontario Ministry and Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs.

We would kindly ask for your Ministry's response to our request for your support and respectfully request that the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs strongly consider the aforementioned resolution and commit to a review and revision of the Tile Loan Program in a timely fashion.

Your support on this matter is greatly appreciated.

Regards,

Sylvia Kirkwood
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ATTACH

c: Honorable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
Rick Byers, MPP Grey-Bruce-Owen Sound
Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA)
Ontario Federation of Agriculture
All Municipalities in Grey and Bruce Counties

Agenda Number: 16.1.
Resolution No. 54-03-2023
Date: Monday, February 13, 2023



Moved by: Councillor Dudgeon
Seconded by: Councillor Nickason

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

WHEREAS the Municipality of Arran-Elderslie is proud of its strong agricultural heritage and continues to thrive as a growing agricultural leader; and

WHEREAS the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) provides landowners in a municipality in Ontario that are 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 \$2000 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 seventy-five percent of eligible costs to install a tile drainage system to a maximum of fifty-thousand dollars in any fiscal year, to an individual, as an individual, or in their role in a partnership or corporation; and

WHEREAS the fifty-thousand dollar maximum has not been increased since 2004 at which time it was increased from twenty-thousand dollars to the current fifty-thousand dollar 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; and

WHEREAS the Council of the Municipality of Arran-Elderslie urges 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; and

WHEREAS the Council of the Municipality of Arran-Elderslie 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 all municipalities in Grey and Bruce Counties.

Carried

AD

Mayor Initials

CPM

Clerk Initials