



RESOLUTION REGARDING ACCELERATED HIGH SPEED INTERNET PROGRAMME

MOVED BY: COUNCILLOR _____

SECONDED BY: COUNCILLOR _____

WHEREAS The Ontario Government recognizes that all Ontarians need access to reliable high-speed internet and in efforts to support improving connectivity throughout the province has launched the Advanced High Speed Internet Program (AHSIP) to bring high-speed internet to every underserved home, business, and community in Ontario; and

WHEREAS Wellington County also recognizes the economic and critical importance in ensuring that access to high-speed internet is available to all residents; and

WHEREAS the Western Ontario Wardens' Caucus (WOWC) has identified issues of concerns of equity in regards to AHSIP's procurement process; and

WHEREAS Wellington County supports the concerns raised by the WOWC, and requests that Infrastructure Ontario (IO) implement changes to the terms and conditions of the AHSIP procurement process that unfairly impact small and regional Internet Service Providers' (ISPs) ability to participate in the program and equally compete with large national carriers; and

WHEREAS Wellington County strongly recommends that lot sizes be reduced to an average reserve price of \$10 million with no single lot having a reserve price greater than \$20 million to ensure equitable distribution of funding, especially at the lower tier level.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Warden send a letter of concern to the Minister of Infrastructure, The Honorable Kinga Surma, with copies to Premier Doug Ford and MPP Randy Pettapiece and MPP Ted Arnott requesting that the province respectfully implement changes to enhance the AHSIP program that would encourage greater participation from local and regional ISPs and equity between municipalities.