



June 24, 2026

**BY EMAIL**

The Honourable Ron Flack  
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing  
777 Bay Street, 17<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3  
Email: [rob.flack@pc.ola.org](mailto:rob.flack@pc.ola.org)

**Re: Vacant Commercial Storefront Tax**

At its Regular Council Meeting held on June 15, 2026, Council supported the enclosed correspondence dated June 2, 2026 from the Township of Clearview regarding vacant commercial storefront tax.

Council accordingly passed the following resolution:

**R26-06-283**

Moved By Councillor McGuire-Blais  
Seconded By Councillor Verbeek

**That** the correspondence from Clearview Township regarding Vacant Commercial Storefront Tax, be received and supported; and

**That** a letter from the Town of Essex be sent to The Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

**Carried**

We trust you will find this satisfactory. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact the undersigned.



Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "jml", written in a cursive style.

Joseph Malandrucolo  
Director, Legal and Legislative Services/Clerk  
[jmalandrucolo@essex.ca](mailto:jmalandrucolo@essex.ca)

Enclosure

cc. Honourable Doug Ford [premier@ontario.ca](mailto:premier@ontario.ca)  
Anthony Leardi, MPP Essex [Anthony.Leardi@pc.ola.org](mailto:Anthony.Leardi@pc.ola.org)  
Township of Clearview [clerks@clearview.ca](mailto:clerks@clearview.ca)



CLEARVIEW  
TOWNSHIP

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June 2, 2026

Hon. Rob Flack  
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing  
777 Bay Street, 17<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3

**Sent by Email:** [rob.flack@pc.ola.org](mailto:rob.flack@pc.ola.org)

**RE: Clearview Council Support Resolution – Vacant Commercial Storefront Tax**

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Please be advised that at its meeting held on June 1, 2026, Council of the Township of Clearview passed the following resolution supporting a Vacant Commercial Storefront Tax:

Moved by Councillor Broderick, Seconded by Deputy Mayor Van Staveren, Whereas Council of the Township of Clearview understands the vitality of main streets across Ontario are essential to the economic, social and cultural health of the community; and,

Whereas numerous long-term vacant commercial storefronts, which detracts from the character of the community, reduces pedestrian traffic, discourages business investment, and negatively impacts the viability of surrounding small businesses; and,

Whereas the current Municipal Act, 2001 does not provide municipalities with the explicit legal authority to implement a "Vacant Commercial Storefront Tax," although other jurisdictions are actively advocating for such tools to address similar challenges;

Now Therefore Be It Resolved that Council of the Township of Clearview hereby support the resolution from Prince Edward County regarding the request to allow municipalities to institute a vacant commercial storefront tax; and,

That Council requests that the Government of Ontario amend the Municipal Act, 2001, to grant Ontario municipalities the permissive authority to implement a "Vacant Commercial Storefront Tax" or similar levy to encourage the productive use of long-term vacant retail properties; and,

That this support resolution be forwarded to the Minister Rob Flack of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Premier Doug Ford, Simcoe Grey MPP Brian Saunderson, and the 444 municipalities of Ontario for their consideration. Motion Carried.

If you have any questions regarding the above resolution, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sasha Helmkey-Playter', with a stylized, cursive script.

Sasha Helmkey-Playter, B.A., Dipl. M.A., AOMC  
Clerk/Director of Legislative Services

cc: Premier Doug Ford  
Brian Saunderson, Member of Provincial Parliament – Simcoe-Grey  
All Ontario Municipalities