

Good morning,

At their regular Council meeting held on July 14, 2025, the Council for the Township of Otonabee-South Monaghan passed the following resolution:

R191-2025

Moved by Councillor Terry Holmes

Seconded by Councillor Mark Allen

WHEREAS Bill C-2 proposes to amend the Proceeds of Crime (Money Laundering) and Terrorist Financing Act by adding section 77.5 (1), making it a criminal offense for any business, profession, or charitable entity to accept cash payments, donations, or deposits of \$10,000 or more in a single transaction or related transactions, regardless of their lawful nature;

WHEREAS this blanket ban criminalizes legitimate business transactions using legal tender, punishing businesses and law-abiding citizens solely for choosing to use cash, a fundamental right in Canada;

WHEREAS small businesses, charities, and individuals in Otonabee-South Monaghan and across Canada, including farmers, car dealers, and community organizations, rely on cash for lawful high-value transactions, and this restriction will impose unnecessary hardship, stifle economic activity, and deter charitable giving;

WHEREAS the \$10,000 threshold is arbitrarily low, capturing routine legal transactions while creating compliance burdens that disproportionately harm small businesses, rural communities, and those without digital banking access;

WHEREAS municipalities must stand up for the economic freedom and financial inclusion of their residents;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of Otonabee-South Monaghan:

- Condemns Bill C-2, section 77.5, as an unacceptable overreach that criminalizes lawful cash transactions and undermines the use of Canadians' right to use legal tender;
- Demands the federal government to withdraw this amendment and engage in meaningful consultation with municipalities, businesses, and charities to develop targeted anti-crime policies that do not penalize legitimate cash transactions;

- Instructs the Municipal Clerk to send this resolution to all Canadian municipalities, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), the Ontario Municipal Association, the Minister of Finance, Emma Harrison, our local MP, the Ontario Chamber of Commerce, and First Nations, calling for unified opposition;
- Urges other municipalities to pass similar resolutions to protect the rights of their residents and businesses

CARRIED.

Sincerely,

Liz Ross, Deputy Clerk

Township of Otonabee-South Monaghan

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