



Oct. 10/19  
C10

**Office of the Clerk**  
Township of Southgate  
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September 5, 2019

**The Honourable Doug Downey**  
Attorney General of Ontario  
Ministry of the Attorney General  
720 Bay Street, 11th Floor  
Toronto, ON M7A 2S9

Dear Minister:

**Re: Request to Minister Doug Downey for stronger enforcement to ensure the safety of Ontario's farm families, employees and animals**

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Please be advised that at the September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019 Regular Meeting of Council, the following resolution was passed:

**Whereas** agriculture is the second largest industry in Ontario, contributing \$13.7 billion annually to Ontario's GDP and is essential for putting food on the tables of millions of people here and around the world; and

**Whereas** in recent months there has been a steady increase in harassment of farmers and livestock transporters by activists opposed to animal agriculture and the consumption of animals; and

**Whereas** the protests have become blatantly illegal in nature with extremist groups trespassing onto private property, unlawfully entering into buildings and removing animals without fear of prosecution and even promoting and publishing their crimes on social media; and

**Whereas** maintaining proper biosecurity is essential to ensure the health and well-being of the animals cared for on these agricultural operations; and

**Whereas** the recent attacks on farmers homes and businesses have resulted in no criminal charges laid, leaving farmers feeling unprotected by the Ontario legal system and afraid for the welfare of themselves, their families, their employees and the animals they care for,

**Now therefore be it resolved that** the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Southgate requests that the Honourable Doug Downey work with his fellow MPP's and agricultural leaders to find a better way forward to ensure stronger enforcement of existing laws - or new legislation - to ensure the safety of Ontario's farm families, employees and animals; and

**That** this motion be circulated to the Honourable Doug Downey, Ministry of the Attorney General, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the County of Grey and Grey County area municipalities.

If you have any questions, please contact our office at (519) 923-2110.

Sincerely,



Joanne Hyde, MPA, Dipl.MA, AOMC  
Municipal Clerk

cc. Association of Municipalities of Ontario  
County of Grey  
City of Owen Sound  
Township of Chatsworth  
Municipality of West Grey  
Municipality of Grey Highlands  
Municipality of Meaford  
The Town of Blue Mountains  
Township of Georgian Bluffs