

September 22, 2026

Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario

Delivered via email: premier@ontario.ca

Re: Vacant Commercial Storefront Tax

Dear Premier Ford,

Please be advised that at their Regular Meeting on September 16, 2026, Council of the Town of Aylmer adopted the following resolution:

Resolution No. 200-26

Moved by Councillor Desrosiers and seconded by Councillor Rauhe:

That the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Aylmer receive the correspondence from the Town of Ingersoll, Town of Plympton-Wyoming, and Prince Edward County regarding Vacant Commercial Storefront Tax; and,

That Council support the resolution regarding Vacant Commercial Storefront Tax; and,

That the resolution be forwarded to other municipalities in Ontario, Elgin-Middlesex-London MPP and Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Hon. Rob Flack, all relevant ministries and the provincial government.

CARRIED

Regards,

Owen Jaggard
Director of Legislative Services/Clerk

Cc: Hon. Rob Flack, Ontario Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Andrew Lawton, Member of Parliament for Elgin-St. Thomas-London South
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
All municipalities in Ontario

May 18, 2026

Please be advised that during the regular Council meeting of May 12, 2026 the following resolution regarding exploring the feasibility of a Vacant Commercial Storefront Tax was carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-207

DATE: May 12, 2026

MOVED BY: Councillor Braney

SECONDED BY: Councillor Engelsdorfer

WHEREAS the vitality of Prince Edward County's main streets is essential to the economic, social, and cultural health of our community;

WHEREAS there are 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;

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 The Council of the Corporation of the County of Prince Edward:

1. **THAT** staff be directed to report back to Council on the feasibility of implementing a Vacant Commercial Storefront Tax, including an analysis of the necessary provincial legislative changes required, recommendations for stakeholder consultation, and to concurrently explore potential enforceable mechanisms available under current legislation;
2. **THAT** the Council of the Corporation of the County of Prince Edward hereby 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;
3. **THAT** this resolution be forwarded to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Premier of Ontario, and the Member of Provincial Parliament representing the Corporation of the County of Prince Edward for their immediate consideration; and

4. **THAT** this resolution be forwarded to all 444 Municipalities in Ontario, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) for their endorsement and advocacy.

CARRIED

Yours truly,

Catalina Blumenberg, **CLERK**

cc: Mayor Steve Ferguson, Councillor Braney, Councillor Engelsdorfer

