



City Council Committee Report

Date: 12 November 2010
To: Mayor & Council
Fr: Warren F. Brinkman, Emergency Service Manager
Re: Township of Alberton Resolution No. 2010-210

Recommendation:

That Council endorse and support The Corporation of The Township of Alberton's Resolution No. 2010-210 (please find copy attached) that requests the Ontario Government replace the Amethyst Sector Field Officer after the position is vacated in January of 2011.

AND FURTHER THAT this resolution be circulated for support and endorsement to: All municipalities in Northwestern Ontario, Rainy River District Municipal Association, Kenora District Municipal Association, Thunder Bay District Municipal League, Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association, Michael Gravelle in his capacity as Minister for Ministry of Northern Development Mines and Forestry (responsible for emergency management in unincorporated areas) and as MPP for Thunder Bay-Superior North, Howard Hampton MPP for Kenora-Rainy River, Bill Mauro MPP for Thunder Bay-Atikokan, Rick Bartolucci, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Jim Bradley, Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services, Premier Dalton McGuinty, Rainy River First Nations, Couchiching First Nation and Grand Council Treaty #3.

Background: The Amethyst Sector designated by Emergency Management Ontario includes all of Northwestern Ontario, including the Districts of Rainy River, Kenora and Thunder Bay. Emergency Management Ontario's Field Officer serving this Sector is retiring in January of 2011. Emergency Management Ontario has reported that the Amethyst Sector's Field Officer position will not be replaced. Northwestern Ontario is the largest and most diverse region in Ontario, with a total area of 526,371.87 square kilometers and includes 34 municipalities and 66 First Nations as well as unincorporated areas. The Amethyst Sector Field Officer provides continuous and ongoing support, resources and assistance to communities that enable them to achieve annual compliance with the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act, R.S.U. 1990. The Amethyst Sector Field Officer is integral to the delivery of emergency management training and development to First Nations throughout Northwestern Ontario. Emergency Management Ontario's alternate proposal to combine the Amethyst Sector Field Officer position with that of the Albany Sector (which encompasses most of Northeastern Ontario) is logistically impractical since the number of communities in the two Sectors combined with the size of geographical area required to be traveled is far too large for one EMO Field Officer to effectively manage. The elimination of the Amethyst Sector Field Officer position is considered a service reduction to the residents of Northwestern Ontario. The Province of Ontario has regulated mandatory compliance with criteria as prescribed by the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act and therefore should provide adequate resources to enable communities throughout Northwestern Ontario to achieve compliance.

Budget: N/A

Communication Plan/Notice By-law Requirements: City portal/media