



**26 April 2013**

## **City Council Committee Report**

**TO: Mayor and Council**

**FR: Joanne L. McMillin, City Clerk**

**RE: Endorsation of Resolution – Contraband Tobacco**

### **Recommendation:**

That the Council of the City of Kenora hereby supports and endorses the following resolution received from the Township of Killaloe-Hagarty-Richards with to Contraband tobacco:

Whereas Contraband tobacco has negative public consequences and impacts such as unrestricted youth access to tobacco products, and an increase in criminal activity; and

Whereas contraband tobacco products are easily accessible in our community; and

Whereas small businesses are sometimes forced to close because of the sale of contraband tobacco; and

Whereas small business in our community and government in general stand to benefit from the institution of tougher restrictions on contraband tobacco;

Therefore be it solved that this Council submit a letter to the Ontario Minister of Finance in support of the Ontario Government's 2012 Budget commitments to eradicate contraband tobacco through the implementation of additional regulatory, enforcement and other provisions in Bill 186 and amendments to the Tobacco Tax Act. Particularly, in support of measures such as:

- Increased fines for those convicted of offenses related to contraband tobacco
- More authority for law enforcement officials with respect to: forfeiture of items seized, and impounding of vehicles.
- Drawing on the best practices of other jurisdictions and working collaboratively with the federal government and other jurisdictions to enhance contraband tobacco control through joint enforcement efforts; and

Be it resolved that the provincial government be encouraged to continue to strengthen their strategies to address the manufacture and supply of contraband tobacco and maintain their commitment to introduce amendments this fall to implement these measures; and further

Be it resolved that a copy of this resolution be circulated to the Hon. Kathleen Wynne, Premier of Ontario, the Hon. Charles Sousa, Minister of Finance, Sarah Campbell, MPP, the Ontario Convenience Stores Association and the Township of Killaloe-Hagarty-Richards indicating the action taken by this Council to address the concerns presented by contraband tobacco.

**Background:**

The Township of Killaloe-Hagarty-Richards (in the Renfrew area) is requesting municipalities across the province to support its resolution regarding Contraband Tobacco in response to a request from the Ontario Convenience Stores Association (OCSA). That Association cites a serious problem impacting small businesses in Communities and the safety and security of residents. The Ontario government has taken the step of addressing contraband tobacco in their 2012 provincial budget with a view to increasing fines, including more authority for law enforcement to deal with offences, and working with other jurisdictions to help tackle the problem. As a result, municipalities are being asked to support the resolution as circulated.

**Budget:**

N/A

**Communication Plan/Notice By-law Requirements:**

N/A