



February 1, 2018

Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
200 University Avenue, Suite 801
Toronto, Ontario M5H 3C6
Email: amo@amo.on.ca

Rural Ontario Municipal Association
200 University Avenue, Suite 800
Toronto, Ontario M5H 3C6
Email: roma@roma.on.ca

Ontario Municipalities

Re: Offering School Property to Municipalities

Dear Sir/Madam,

At its regular council meeting of January 15, 2018, Essex Town Council discussed the ongoing issue of school closures throughout Ontario. These school closures in many cases result in properties that are left as vacant and unused for substantial periods of time and this often results in properties that not only become eyesores for the affected communities but as well often have further negative impacts on the social and economic development of that community and its municipality.

Many municipalities might be interested in purchasing these properties for development and sustainment as a hub in their community. However the feasibility of this certainly becomes more daunting and for some municipalities even impossible when municipalities that are interested in purchasing must first (pursuant to current regulations) purchase these properties at fair market value with taxpayer dollars and then may need to spend further taxpayer monies in order to retrofit and/or remediate the building (s) on these properties.

Given the fact that these properties were already originally purchased and developed into schools using taxpayer dollars we ask that consideration be given to the fact that the taxpayers should not again have to purchase these properties at fair market value if the intent



is for the particular Municipality to develop and/or sustain these properties for the betterment of its community.

As a result of the discussion the following resolution was passed by Essex Town Council at its January 15, 2018 regular meeting:

Moved by Councillor Bondy

Seconded by Councillor Voakes

(R18-01-013) That the Town of Essex send a request to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), ROMA and all other municipalities in Ontario requesting that when schools boards make decisions to close schools, that they have to offer the building to the local municipality for a dollar.

Carried

Council believes that providing the opportunity to purchase the buildings for a dollar would give municipalities a meaningful opportunity to ensure that these properties remain a key hub for social and economic development in their respective communities.

Should you have any questions or comments regarding this matter, please feel free to contact the undersigned.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R Auger", written over a white background.

Robert Auger, L.L.B.
Clerk, Legal and Legislative Services
Town of Essex
Email: rauger@essex.ca

RA/Im