



Jim Watson
Mayor Maire

CITY OF OTTAWA
110 Laurier Avenue West
Ottawa ON K1P 1J1
Tel: 613-580-2496 Fax: 613-580-2509
Jim.Watson@ottawa.ca
www.ottawa.ca

VILLE D'OTTAWA
110, avenue Laurier Ouest
Ottawa ON K1P 1J1
Tél : 613-580-2496 Téléc : 613-580-2509
Jim.Watson@ottawa.ca
www.ottawa.ca

June 9, 2022

The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1A1
doug.fordco@pc.ola.org

By e-mail

Re: **Disaster Recovery Assistance**

Premier,

I would like to begin with congratulating you on the outcome of the recent provincial election. I look forward to working with you in my final months in office. I know you will continue to work hard for the residents of Ontario in the years to come.

On behalf of Ottawa City Council, I am writing to formally request that the City of Ottawa be designated as an area specifically affected by a natural disaster so that residents can access the Provincial Disaster Recovery Assistance for Ontarians program. As you know, the property devastation, loss of trees and impacts to our Hydro network has been unprecedented.

I would like to draw to your attention that Ottawa City Council approved the following Motion at the City Council meeting of June 8, 2022:

MOTION

Moved by: Councillor C. Kitts

Seconded by: Councillor G. Gower

That the Rules of Procedure be suspended to consider the following motion to seek immediate action from the Province in response to the recent storm event

WHEREAS on May 21, 2022 an unexpected and powerful derecho and impactful thunderstorms hit the Ottawa region at approximately 3:50 pm; and

WHEREAS sustained high winds, extraordinary wind gusts of up to 190 km/h and heavy rains, caused massive tree displacement, destruction of hydro



infrastructure resulting in extensive power outages, widespread and costly damage to properties, displacement of residents, and the forced extended closures of businesses and services; and

WHEREAS the provincial Disaster Recovery Assistance for Ontarians (DRAO) program allows homeowners, residential tenants, small owner-operated businesses, not-for profit organizations, small owner-operated farms to submit claims for financial help; and

WHEREAS this program permits residents to claim clean up expenses, costs to repair or replace essential property and basic emergency expenses like evacuation travel costs; and

WHEREAS the Province of Ontario needs to activate the Disaster Recovery Assistance for Ontarians (DRAO) program for the specific area affected by a natural disaster to enable aid to flow to affected victims;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Mayor Watson write to Premier Ford and the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing to formally request that the City of Ottawa be designated as an area specifically affected by a natural disaster.

I would like to thank you for your efforts and support to date as Ottawa works to recover from the impacts of this unexpected and powerful derecho. Should you have any questions regarding this motion, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Jim Watson
Mayor
City of Ottawa

CC. The Honourable Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing