

PROVINCE OF QUÉBEC
COUNTY OF GATINEAU

Minutes of a regular meeting of the Municipal Council of the Municipality of the Township of Low, held on Tuesday, October 2, 2025, at 7 p.m., in the Heritage room, located at 4C, chemin d'Amour, Township of Low (Quebec) J0X 2C0, under the Presidency of Deputy Mayor Joanne Mayer.

ALSO PRESENT WERE: Councillors Mrs. Joanne Mayer, Maureen Rice and Maureen McEvoy, and Mr. Luc Thivierge, Lee Angus (arrived at 7:23 p.m.) and Mr. Ghyslain Robert.

ALSO PRESENT: Mrs. Myrian Nadon, director general and clerk-treasurer.

Madam Mayor Carole Robert confirming that there is quorum declares the meeting open.

2025-10-158 TO ADOPT THE AGENDA FOR THE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL
COUNCIL OF OCTOBER 2, 2025

PROPOSED BY COUNCILLOR MRS. JOANNE MAYER
SUPPORTED BY COUNCILLOR MRS. MAUREEN RICE

FOR THESE REASONS, this Council adopts the agenda as presented.

Mrs. Mayor Carole Robert, president of the meeting, asks if the adoption of this resolution is unanimous.

Adopted unanimously.

--- FIRST QUESTION PERIOD

Questions on the topics on the agenda.

The question period begins at 7:04 p.m. and ends at 7:14 p.m.

2025-10-159 TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL
COUNCIL HELD ON SEPTEMBER 2, 2025
AND THE MINUTES OF THE
EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL HELD ON
SEPTEMBER 19, 2025

PROPOSED BY COUNCILLOR MRS. JOANNE MAYER
SUPPORTED BY COUNCILLOR MR. GHYSLAIN ROBERT

FOR THESE REASONS, this Council accepts, as presented, the minutes of the regular meeting of the Municipal Council of September 2, 2025 and the minutes of the extraordinary meeting of the Municipal Council of September 19, 2025, held in the Heritage room located at 4C, chemin d'Amour, Township of Low (Quebec) J0X 2C0.

Mrs. Mayor Carole Robert, president of the meeting, asks if the adoption of this resolution is unanimous.

Adopted unanimously.

ADMINISTRATION

MINUTES OF CORRECTION TO BY-LAW NUMBER 2025-003 TO DECREE AN EXPENSE OF \$500,000 AND A LOAN OF \$500,000 FOR THE PURCHASE OF A TRUCK FOR THE COLLECTION OF RESIDUAL MATERIALS

WHEREAS section 202.1 of the Municipal Code of Quebec authorizes the Director General and Clerk-Treasurer of the Municipality of the Township of Low to amend by-law bearing the number 2025 -003 to decree an expense of \$500,000 and a loan of \$500,000 for the acquisition of a truck for the collection of residual materials for the Municipality of the Township of Low, since an error in the date appears in Appendix A of the said by-law and is evident upon simple reading of the documents submitted in support of the decision taken;

FOR THESE REASONS, the following correction has been made to article 3 of by-law bearing number 2025 -003 to decree an expense of \$500,000 and a loan of \$500,000 for the acquisition of a truck for the collection of residual materials for the Municipality of the Township of Low, which was adopted at the regular meeting of June 2, 2025, namely:

Article 3 states that the Council is authorized to proceed with the acquisition of a truck for the collection of residual materials, as shown in the detailed estimate prepared by Mr. Rony Thélémaque, Deputy Director General and Deputy Clerk-Treasurer, dated May 23, 2025, and should read that the Council is authorized to proceed with the acquisition of a truck for the collection of residual materials, as per the detailed estimate prepared by Mr. Rony Thélémaque, Deputy Director General and Deputy Clerk-Treasurer, dated May 29, 2025.

These minutes of correction are attached to the minutes of the regular meeting of the Municipal Council held on June 2, 2025, and shall come into force upon signature.

In witness whereof, the undersigned has drawn up these minutes of correction on September 25, 2025, and by-law bearing number 2025-003 is amended accordingly.

These minutes of correction are filed at the regular meeting of the Municipal Council on October 2, 2025

(s)

Myrian Nadon
Director General and Clerk-Treasurer

2025-10-160 TO ACCEPT ACCOUNTING REPORT 2025-09 –
AUTHORIZE THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
GENERAL TO MAKE PAYMENTS – ACCOUNTS
PAYABLE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$245,855.20–
ACCOUNTS PAID IN THE AMOUNT OF
\$52,672.39

WHEREAS the Municipality of the Township of Low adopted, during a regular meeting of its Municipal Council, held on March 3, 2025, the resolution bearing the number 2025-03-050, for the purposes of adopting the by-law bearing the number 2025-002, for the purposes of repealing and replace the regulation bearing number 2024-004 and their annexes delegating to officials of the Municipality the power to authorize expenditures and contracts and rules for budgetary control and monitoring;

WHEREAS article 6.1 of the regulation bearing number 2025-002 stipulates the pre-authorized payments that delegates can make;

WHEREAS article 7.6 of by-law bearing number 2025-002 stipulates that a monthly report must be submitted to the Municipal Council.

PROPOSED BY COUNCILLOR MRS. MAUREEN MCEVOY
SUPPORTED BY COUNCILLOR MRS. JOANNE MAYER

FOR THESE REASONS, this Council:

1. States that the preamble is an integral part of this resolution.

2025-10-160

2. Accepts, on the approval of the Director General office, the accounting report for the month of September 2025, bearing the number 2025-09, totaling a sum of \$298,527.59 concerning the accounts paid and accounts payable of the Municipality.
3. Authorizes the Director General office to make payments in the amount of \$245,855.20.
4. Mentions that the Director General office has issued for this purpose, during the month of September 2025, sufficient credit certificates for a total amount of \$298,527.59.
5. Authorizes, hereby, Mrs. Mayor Carole Robert and/or the Director general and Clerk-Treasurer, Mrs., Myrian Nadon, or their replacements, to sign, for and on behalf of the Municipality of the Township of Low, all documents giving effect to this resolution.

Mrs. Mayor Carole Robert, president of the meeting, asks if the adoption of this resolution is unanimous.

Adopted unanimously.

2025-10-161 TO ESTABLISH SUBCATEGORIES OF
BUILDINGS WITHIN THE RESIDENTIAL
BUILDING CATEGORY

WHEREAS the adoption of Bill 39 by the Government of Quebec, which allows municipalities to establish subcategories of buildings in the property assessment roll;

WHEREAS the resolution no. 2025-04-075 adopted by the Municipal Council of the Township of Low on April 7, 2025, expressing its intention to proceed with the establishment of subcategories;

WHEREAS the desire of the Municipality of the Township of Low to move forward with the official establishment of subcategories in the property assessment roll;

WHEREAS the possibility of establishing residential subcategories in the residual category, which allows for the establishment of a tax rate for residential buildings that is separate from the general base rate;

WHEREAS the category of buildings with 6 or more dwellings was abolished with the coming into force of Bill 39 and that it is now possible to establish a residential subcategory for buildings with 6 or more dwellings;

WHEREAS the municipality's obligation to inform assessors of the subcategories and categories it intends to establish;

WHEREAS the resolution no. 2025-09-148 adopted by the Municipal Council of the Township of Low on September 2, 2025, establishing a non-residential subcategory, namely one for tourist residences, apartments, houses, or cottages (furnished and equipped for meals) (CUBF 5834);

WHEREAS the Municipal Council wishes to establish residential subcategory, one for the six dwellings and more.

PROPOSED BY COUNCILLOR MRS. JOANNE MAYER
SUPPORTED BY COUNCILLOR MRS. MAUREEN MCEVOY

FOR THESE REASONS, this Council:

1. States that the preamble is an integral part of this resolution.
2. Establishes a residential subcategory, namely one for the six dwellings and more

2025-10-161

3. To transmit a copy of this resolution to the MRC de la Vallée-de-la-Gatineau.
4. Authorizes, hereby, Mrs. Mayor Carole Robert and/or the Director general and Clerk-Treasurer, Mrs, Myrian Nadon, or their replacements, to sign, for and on behalf of the Municipality of the Township of Low, all documents giving effect to this resolution.

Mrs. Mayor Carole Robert, president of the meeting, asks if the adoption of this resolution is unanimous

Adopted unanimously.

2025-10-162 TO RATIFY THE OCTOBER 2025 RENEWAL
OFFER FOR THE GROUP INSURANCE PLAN
WITH DESJARDINS

WHEREAS the Municipality of the Township of Low has subscribed to the group insurance plan issued by Desjardins on June 1, 2023;

WHEREAS on September 15, 2025, the Municipality received the renewal offer submitted by the insurance broker Synex Solutions collectives with Desjardins and, after reviewing the renewal offer, deemed it satisfactory;

WHEREAS the Director General and Clerk-Treasurer recommends authorizing the renewal.

PROPOSED BY COUNCILLOR MRS. JOANNE MAYER
SUPPORTED BY COUNCILLOR MRS. MAUREEN RICE

FOR THESE REASONS, this Council:

1. States that the preamble is an integral part of this resolution.
2. Ratify, on the recommendation of the Director General and Clerk-Treasurer, the renewal offer issued by the insurer Desjardins dated September 15, 2025 for a period of one (1) year from October 1, 2025.
3. Authorizes, hereby, Mrs. Mayor Carole Robert and/or the Director general and Clerk-Treasurer, Mrs, Myrian Nadon, or their replacements, to sign, for and on behalf of the Municipality of the Township of Low, all documents giving effect to this resolution.

Mrs. Mayor Carole Robert, president of the meeting, asks if the adoption of this resolution is unanimous.

Adopted unanimously.

Note 1: Councillor Mr. Lee Angus takes his seat at 7:23 p.m.

2025-10-163 TO AUTHORIZE THE REPAYMENT OF LOAN
PR2 - TERM LOAN TO BUSINESSES -
ALLOCATE THE ACCUMULATED
UNALLOCATED SURPLUS OF
\$30,239

WHEREAS at the Municipal Council meeting held on May 3, 2021, the Municipality adopted resolution number 107-05-2021 authorizing the Director General to request short-term loan terms from three financial institutions for an amount of \$444,345;

WHEREAS at the municipal council meeting held on June 7, 2021, the Municipality adopted resolution number 129-06-2021 to authorize the Director General to take out a temporary loan from the Caisse populaire Desjardins to cover expenses related to the Government of Canada's contribution (TECQ 2019-2023) for work planned for 2021;

WHEREAS following the final report approved by the Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Municipality received the sum of \$419,761.00;

2025-10-163 WHEREAS this Council believes it is appropriate to allocate the sum of \$30,239 from the accumulated unallocated surplus to repay the entire loan.

PROPOSED AND SUPPORTED UNANIMOUSLY

FOR THESE REASONS, this Council:

1. States that the preamble is an integral part of this resolution.
2. Authorizes the repayment of loan PR2 – Term loan to businesses at Caisse populaire Desjardins, Gracefield branch, in the amount of \$450,000.
3. Authorizes the Director general and Clerk-treasurer to allocate the accumulated unappropriated surplus of \$30,239 to repay the aforementioned loan.
4. Decrees an expenditure in the amount of \$450,000 and authorizes the office of the Director General to make payments as they become due.
5. Authorizes, hereby, Mrs. Mayor Carole Robert and/or the Director general and Clerk-Treasurer, Mrs, Myrian Nadon, or their replacements, to sign, for and on behalf of the Municipality of the Township of Low, all documents giving effect to this resolution.

Adopted unanimously.

2025-10-164 TO AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASE OF THE
LOTS: 6 311 574, 6 311 575 AND 6 311 576
QUEBEC LAND REGISTRY BELONGING TO
HYDRO-QUÉBEC - ESTABLISHMENT OF
THE DESIGNATED EASEMENTS

WHEREAS the Municipality of the Township of Low adopted, at a regular meeting of its municipal council held on July 4, 2022, resolution number 2022-07-201 to authorize an offer to purchase three lots from Hydro-Québec;

WHEREAS the Municipality of the Township of Low signed an offer to purchase on August 19, 2022 and accepted by Hydro-Quebec on August 30, 2022 for \$25,719 plus taxes;

WHEREAS Hydro-Quebec requested that the municipality creates the following easements:

1. Establishment of a flood easement
2. Establishment of an easement for electrical power transmission lines
3. Establishment of an easement for electrical power distribution and telecommunications lines
4. Establishment of a right-of-way and parking easement
5. Establishment of a protection and work area easement

PROPOSED BY COUNCILLOR MRS. MAUREEN MCEVOY
SUPPORTED BY COUNCILLOR. MRS. JOANNE MAYER

FOR THESE REASONS, this Council:

1. States that the preamble is an integral part of this resolution.
2. Authorizes the acquisition of lots 6311574, 6311575 and 6311576 in the Quebec Land Registry from Hydro-Quebec for an amount of \$25,719 plus taxes.
3. Grants Hydro-Quebec and Bell Canada real and perpetual rights of easement for flooding, electric power transmission and distribution line and telecommunications transmission lines, access rights, parking and work area protection.
4. Mentions that the costs and fees of this transaction are at the expense of the Municipality.

2025-10-165

5. Authorizes, hereby, Mrs. Mayor Carole Robert and/or the Director general and Clerk-Treasurer, Mrs, Myrian Nadon, or their replacements, to sign, for and on behalf of the Municipality of the Township of Low, all documents giving effect to this resolution.

Mrs. Mayor Carole Robert, president of the meeting, asks if the adoption of this resolution is unanimous.

Adopted unanimously.

PUBLIC SAFETY

N/A

PUBLIC WORKS

Note 2: Councillor Mr. Ghyslain Robert declares his interest, at 7:44 p.m., in accordance with article 4.1.5 of by-law number 2022-008 "Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct for Elected Municipal Officers" and indicates that they he will abstain from voting due to a family relationship.

2025-10-165 TO RULE - CALL FOR TENDERS
NO. 2025-100-008 - PURCHASE OF ABRASIVE
FOR SEASON 2025-2026 WITH A RENEWAL
OPTION FOR SEASONS 2026-2027 AND
2027-2028

WHEREAS a call for tenders was issued on August 1st, 2025 for the purchase and delivery of abrasive on municipal roads;

WHEREAS one (1) contractor submitted a compliant bid;

WHEREAS there was a significant error in the quantity of sand requested in the tender;

WHEREAS the municipality does not have sufficient space to store the quantities requested;

WHEREAS the operational challenges and associated costs of collecting the sand and storing it at the municipal garage mean that the total costs will be considerably higher than the costs estimated by the municipality for the purchase of abrasives;

WHEREAS the formal notice received from Pierre McMartin, attorney, dated October 2,2025.

PROPOSED BY COUNCILLOR MRS. JOANNE MAYER
SUPPORTED BY COUNCILLOR MRS. MAUREEN MCEVOY

FOR THESE REASONS, this Council:

1. States that the preamble is an integral part of this resolution.
2. Grants on the recommendation of the Director General and Clerk-Treasurer, the contract for the purchase of abrasive for municipal roads for the 2025-2026 season from Ronald O'Connor Construction, under tender 2025-100-008.
3. Authorizes, hereby, Mrs. Mayor Carole Robert and/or the Director general and Clerk-Treasurer, Mrs. Myrian Nadon, or their replacements, to sign, for and on behalf of the Municipality of the Township of Low, all documents giving effect to this resolution.

Mrs. Mayor Carole Robert, president of the meeting, requests a vote on the main resolution.

2025-10-166

Voted FOR: Councillors Mrs. Joanne Mayer, Maureen McEvoy and Mrs. Mayor Carole Robert.

Voted AGAINST: Councillors Mrs. Maureen Rice, Mr. Luc Thivierge and Mr. Lee Angus.

FOR: 3
AGAINST: 3
ABSTAINED: 1

Rejected.

ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE

2025-10-166

TO RULE – CALL FOR TENDERS
2025-100-007 – PURCHASE OF A
GARBAGE TRUCK AND
EQUIPMENT

WHEREAS a call for tenders was issued on July 23, 2025, for the purchase and delivery of a 10-wheel garbage truck and equipment by the municipality;

WHEREAS at the end of the process, two compliant bids and one non-compliant bid were submitted;

WHEREAS this council believes it is appropriate to abandon the purchase of a garbage truck and equipment for the time being and to proceed with a lease for the first year of waste collection, which will be carried out under municipal control.

PROPOSED BY COUNCILLOR MRS. JOANNE MAYER
SUPPORTED BY COUNCILLOR MRS. MAUREEN RICE

For these reasons, this council:

1. States that the preamble is an integral part of this resolution.
2. Grants, on the recommendation of the Director General and Clerk-Treasurer, the contract to the lowest compliant bidder received for the purchase of a garbage truck and equipment, namely the bid from Centre du Camion Mont-Laurier in the amount of \$456,910.65, including taxes.
3. Authorizes, hereby, Mrs. Mayor Carole Robert and/or the Director general and Clerk-treasurer, Mrs. Myrian Nadon, or their replacements, to sign, for and on behalf of the municipality of the township of low, all documents giving effect to this resolution.

Mrs. Mayor Carole Robert, president of the meeting, requests a vote on the main resolution.

Voted FOR: Councillor Mrs. Joanne Mayer

Voted AGAINST: Councillors Mrs. Maureen Rice, Maureen McEvoy and Messrs. Luc Thivierge, Lee Angus and Ghyslain Robert.

FOR: 1
AGAINST: 5
ABSTAINED: 0

Rejected by the majority.

URBAN PLANNING

2025-10-167

TO SUPPORT THE FÉDÉRATION QUÉBÉCOISE DES
MUNICIPALITÉS (FQM) – CONSULTATION ON THE
GOVERNMENT OF CANADA'S BUILD CANADA
HOMES 2025 PROJECT

WHEREAS to address the housing crisis, the Carney government announced the creation of a new entity responsible for building affordable housing, providing financing to affordable housing developers, and catalyzing a more productive home construction industry, called Build Canada Homes;

2025-10-167 WHEREAS the objectives and guidelines that will structure the Build Canada Homes program, as presented in the Market Survey Guide document, are currently under consultation and are scheduled for implementation in 2026;

WHEREAS the two objectives of Build Canada Homes are to build affordable housing on a large scale and to build faster, better, and smarter;

WHEREAS it is clearly stated that the intention is to focus on supporting large-scale projects and that the main selection criteria for investments will be the number of housing units in the selected projects;

WHEREAS the shortage of rental housing, whether social, affordable, or regular, is not just an urban issue, but affects all regions of Quebec, too often with vacancy rates below 1%;

WHEREAS the impact of the housing shortage on efforts to attract people to areas outside major urban centers in order to meet the pressing labor needs of businesses and shops in the regions, as well as on the efforts of the Quebec government and local elected officials to regionalize immigration;

WHEREAS all communities, regardless of size, not just the largest urban areas, must have access to this potential program;

WHEREAS this program must contribute to local communities' efforts to revitalize and develop their territories, which are essential to the economic and social vitality of Quebec and Canada.

PROPOSED BY COUNCILLOR MR. GHYSLAIN ROBERT
SUPPORTED BY COUNCILLOR MR. LUC THIVIERGE

FOR THESE REASONS, this Council:

1. States that the preamble is an integral part of this resolution.
2. Supports the Fédération Québécoise des municipalités (FQM) in its efforts in recommending to the Minister of Housing, Infrastructure, and Communities, the Honorable Gregor Robertson, that Canada Housing support regional communities as much as large real estate development projects by adopting a tailored and flexible approach based on the importance of needs and the impact of projects on communities, rather than on the number of units in a project; that Canada Housing recognize the jurisdiction of local governments; that the Canada Housing program include a separate component for local communities, managed by those communities, to meet the housing needs of Quebec's regions; and that the negotiation and conclusion of federal-Quebec agreements be facilitated and accelerated so that communities can quickly benefit from these opportunities, accelerating the creation of housing.
3. Authorizes, hereby, Mrs. Mayor Carole Robert and/or the Director general and Clerk-Treasurer, Mrs. Myrian Nadon, or their replacements, to sign, for and on behalf of the Municipality of the Township of Low, all documents giving effect to this resolution.

Mrs. Mayor Carole Robert, president of the meeting, asks if the adoption of this resolution is unanimous.

Adopted unanimously

RECREATION, CULTURE AND COMMUNICATION

Note 3: Councillor Mr. Lee Angus declares his interest, at 7:49 p.m., in accordance with article 4.1.5 of by-law number 2022-008 "Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct for Elected Municipal Officers" and indicates that they will abstain from voting due to a family relationship.

2025-10-168 TO RETAIN THE SERVICES OF TWO ACTIVITY LEADERS - FACILITATORS SATURDAY MORNINGS IN LOW: FAMILY ACTIVITIES CLUB - MUNICIPAL FAMILY POLICY SUPPORT PROGRAM - FIXED-TERM EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT

WHEREAS the Municipality of the Township of Low's application for a grant under the municipal family policy support program;

WHEREAS acceptance of financial assistance in the amount of \$22,500;

WHEREAS this financial assistance will enable the recruitment of two facilitators for the period of October 2025 to May 2026, working four to five hours per week on Saturday mornings;

WHEREAS the municipality published the job offer on September 10, 2025;

WHEREAS the Selection Committee composed of the Director General and Clerk-Treasurer and Councillor Mrs. Maureen McEvoy interviewed the successful candidates during the pre-selection process on September 26, 30 and October 1st, 2025, and recommend that the Municipal Council hire Mrs. Eva Vianda and Mrs. Megan Angus as activity leaders/facilitators, on Saturday mornings for the period from October 2025 to May 2026.

PROPOSED BY COUNCILLOR MR. LUC THIVIERGE
SUPPORTED BY COUNCILLOR MRS. MAUREEN MCEVOY

FOR THESE REASONS, this Council:

1. States that the preamble is an integral part of this resolution.
2. Retains, on the recommendation of the Selection Committee, the services of Mrs. Eva Vianda and Mrs. Megan Angus as activity leaders/facilitators for Saturday mornings from October 2025 to May 2026, starting October 6, 2025.
3. Authorizes, hereby, Mrs. Mayor Carole Robert and/or the Director general and Clerk-Treasurer, Mrs. Myrian Nadon, or their replacements, to sign, for and on behalf of the Municipality of the Township of Low, all documents giving effect to this resolution.

Mrs. Mayor Carole Robert, president of the meeting, asks if the adoption of this resolution is unanimous.

Adopted unanimously.

2025-10-169 TO SUPPORT THE MRC DE LA VALLÉE-DE-LA-GATINEAU - LAC-BARRIÈRE COMMUNITY BIOMASS PROJECT

WHEREAS the desire of the Lac Barrière community to take advantage of a 2.2 MW biomass power plant to ensure the community's energy self-sufficiency;

WHEREAS the deadline for implementing the biomass project is five years from 2025, without which the community risks becoming vulnerable in terms of energy supply, which ensures a certain degree of autonomy and security;

WHEREAS the raw material currently available is the biomass required to produce the energy used;

WHEREAS the environmental benefits of using biomass as an energy source, particularly due to the absence of net greenhouse gas emissions (carbon neutrality of biomass) and the use of a local resource as part of sound forest management

2025-10-169 WHEREAS the shared desire of the MRC and the Lac-Barrière community to strengthen ties and promote collaboration while respecting each other's cultures and customs;

WHEREAS the use of a future biomass power plant remains compatible with the provisions of the current Land Use and Development Plan, as well as the MRC's zoning regulations for unorganized territories (TNO) with regard to compliance of use

WHEREAS the opportunities offered in terms of assistance and support by the MRCVG's economic development department.

PROPOSED BY COUNCILLOR MRS. JOANNE MAYER
SUPPORTED BY COUNCILLOR MRS. MAUREEN MCEVOY

FOR THESE REASONS, this Council:

1. States that the preamble is an integral part of this resolution.
2. Supports the MRC de la Vallée-de-la-Gatineau in its efforts to support the implementation and rollout of the biomass project initiated by the Lac Barrière Community, thereby ensuring energy independence for the community's residents.
3. Transmits a copy of this resolution to the MRC de la Vallée-de-la-Gatineau.
4. Authorizes, hereby, Mrs. Mayor Carole Robert and/or the Director general and Clerk-Treasurer, Mrs, Myrian Nadon, or their replacements, to sign, for and on behalf of the Municipality of the Township of Low, all documents giving effect to this resolution.

Mrs. Mayor Carole Robert, president of the meeting, asks if the adoption of this resolution is unanimous.

Adopted unanimously by the members present.

2025-10-170 TO SUPPORT THE MRC DE LA VALLÉE-DE-LA-GATINEAU - DENUNCIATION - REQUEST TO THE MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE, WILDLIFE AND PARKS - INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF WILDLIFE PROTECTION AGENTS AND MAINTENANCE OF THE WILDLIFE PROTECTION OFFICE IN MANIWAKI

WHEREAS the number of wildlife protection officers is becoming increasingly scarce in Quebec, and the MRC de la Vallée-de-la-Gatineau is no exception, with staffing levels at the Maniwaki office having deteriorated significantly in recent years;

WHEREAS previously, there were about ten wildlife protection officers assigned to the Maniwaki office, but today there are only three, and in 2023 there will be only one officer left on duty;

WHEREAS the consequences of this lack of personnel in the field are reflected in a deterioration of services to citizens;

WHEREAS that a continued decline in the population within the MRCVG territory will inevitably lead to the closure of the office located in Maniwaki;

WHEREAS the Ministry of the environment, Climate Change, Wildfire and Parks is planning to close offices in 2025 and that these closures would be motivated primarily by budgetary and logistical considerations;

WHEREAS the concrete impact of this decline on the protection of wildlife, habitats, and public safety, mainly in a region particularly rich in lakes and rivers, which makes it a popular destination for outdoor activities, fishing, and hunting;

WHEREAS in a context where issues related to coexistence with wildlife, such as in a region like ours, constitute an environmental, social, and safety risk;

2025-10-170 WHEREAS this withdrawal by the government translates into additional pressure on the officers still on duty, who will have more territory to cover, fewer reinforcements available, and more urgent interventions to manage on their own;

WHEREAS wildlife officers are protectors of the natural balance, at a time when environmental issues are becoming increasingly pressing, Quebec cannot afford to lose sight of them;

PROPOSED BY COUNCILLOR MR. LUC THIVIERGE
SUPPORTED BY COUNCILLOR MR. GHYSLAIN ROBERT

FOR THESE REASONS, this Council:

1. States that the preamble is an integral part of this resolution.
2. Supports the MRC de la Vallée-de-la-Gatineau in its efforts to ask the Quebec government to increase the number of wildlife protection officers in the MRC de la Vallée-de-la-Gatineau, to maintain and protect the permanence of those already in place, and to secure and ensure the continued operation of the wildlife protection office located in Maniwaki.
3. Transmits a copy of this resolution to the MRC de la Vallée-de-la-Gatineau, to the Minister of the Environment, Climate Change, Wildfire and Parks as well as member of Quebec parliament, Mr. Robert Bussière.
4. Authorizes, hereby, Mrs. Mayor Carole Robert and/or the Director general and Clerk-Treasurer, Mrs. Myrian Nadon, or their replacements, to sign, for and on behalf of the Municipality of the Township of Low, all documents giving effect to this resolution.

Mrs. Mayor Carole Robert, president of the meeting, asks if the adoption of this resolution is unanimous.

Adopted unanimously.

2025-10-171 TO SUPPORT THE MRC DE LA VALLÉE-DE-LA-GATINEAU – DENUNCIATION – POSTPONEMENT OF FINANCIAL AID UNDER THE MUNICIPAL INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT AND CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM

WHEREAS the MRC de La Vallée-de-la-Gatineau(MRCVG) has submitted an application for financial assistance under Component 1 of the Municipal Infrastructure Improvement and Construction Program for the expansion of its head office;

WHEREAS this project has been deemed a priority and was the subject of an official pre-selection letter from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MAMH) dated May 3, 2023;

WHEREAS the MRCVG has complied with all the requirements of the Municipal Infrastructure Improvement and Construction Program, including the development of professional plans and specifications, the production of technical and regulatory documents, and the adoption of a borrowing bylaw to finance professional services;

WHEREAS nearly \$200,000 in direct costs were incurred by the MRCVG for studies and the preparation of plans and specifications, not including significant indirect costs and the many hours of work by internal resources;

WHEREAS the announcement of this project has created some organizational instability in the MRCVG's human resources due to the relocation of several employees' workplaces, in addition to being an issue during union negotiations;

WHEREAS the correspondence received from the MAMH on June 18, 2025, informing the MRCVG that the project had not been qualified as a priority for the 2025-2026 fiscal year, but rather for the 2027-2028 fiscal year;

2025-10-171 WHEREAS this announcement implies the suspension of the project for a minimum period of two years, due to the priority ranking established by the MAMH, which stems from an imbalance between the amounts allocated to the Municipal Infrastructure Improvement and Construction Program and the volume of preselected applications, thus revealing poor management of the budget envelope by the Ministry;

WHEREAS at no time, either upon receipt of the pre-selection letter or during subsequent exchanges with the Ministry, was any mention made of the possibility of a delay in the granting of financial assistance;

WHEREAS with the 2025 municipal elections and upcoming provincial elections approaching, coupled with a possible increase in construction costs, the future of the project remains uncertain and may never materialize, even though the costs have already been incurred by the MRCVG;

WHEREAS in the absence of confirmed funding, taxpayers will have to absorb the repayment of the loan by-law contracted for professional services related to a project that may be abandoned;

WHEREAS for these reasons, the MRC de la Vallée-de-la-Gatineau requests that, should the project be maintained for the 2027-2028 fiscal year, the amount of the grant be increased to cover inflation, rising construction costs, and the costs of updating plans and specifications;

WHEREAS this situation affects many municipalities and MRCs in Quebec and hinders the ability of smaller communities to acquire adequate infrastructure to provide local services;

WHEREAS the General Administration Committee made a recommendation to this effect at its meeting on September 3, 2025

PROPOSED AND SUPPORTED UNANIMOUSLY

FOR THESE REASONS, this Council:

1. States that the preamble is an integral part of this resolution.
2. Supports the MRC de la Vallée-de-la-Gatineau in its efforts to denounce the postponement of funding for the MRC headquarters expansion project under the Municipal Infrastructure Improvement and Construction Program, as well as any other project postponed under the same circumstances, to ask the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing to reinstate the project for the 2025-2026 fiscal year and to request an increase in the grant amount if the project is carried out at a later date, in order to reflect the cost increases resulting from this postponement.
3. Transmits a copy of this resolution to the MRC de la Vallée-de-la-Gatineau, to the minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Mrs. Geneviève Guilbault and member of parliament for Gatineau, Mr. Robert Bussière.
4. Authorizes, hereby, Mrs. Mayor Carole Robert and/or the Director general and Clerk-Treasurer, Mrs. Myrian Nadon, or their replacements, to sign, for and on behalf of the Municipality of the Township of Low, all documents giving effect to this resolution.

Adopted unanimously.

2025-10-172 TO SUPPORT THE MRC DE LA VALLÉE-DE-LA-GATINEAU – OPPOSITION TO BILL 106, WHICH IS HARMFUL TO THE RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS PRACTICING IN THE OUTAOUAIS REGION

WHEREAS the introduction of Bill 106 (PL 106) aimed at establishing collective responsibility among physicians for improving access to medical services;

2025-10-172 WHEREAS the importance of the work done by family doctors in the Gatineau Valley region who, in addition to their front-line activities, are responsible for covering emergency room shifts, hospitalizing the sickest patients, including those in intensive care, providing medical care in CHSLDs and in the new seniors' home, providing home care, palliative care, medical assistance in dying, pregnancy follow-ups and deliveries, child follow-ups and social pediatrics, mental health and addiction and dependency care, and much more;

WHEREAS family physicians in the Outaouais region, particularly in outlying areas, must cover a much broader scope of practice given the low number of physicians in other specialties per capita;

WHEREAS the aging population and the increasing complexity of health issues and the healthcare system, and the added value of having a family doctor in this context to provide continuous, comprehensive care and support, and a trusted ally to navigate the healthcare system;

WHEREAS the Outaouais region, particularly in the Gatineau Valley, is already facing a shortage of family physicians, which is leading to significant delays in access to primary care, jeopardizing the secondary care provided by family physicians, and exacerbating inequalities in health services;

WHEREAS the long-standing difficulties in recruiting and retaining physicians in outlying (rural) areas such as the Gatineau Valley, and that this challenge will remain in the years and decades to come;

WHEREAS in recent years, the net balance (additions vs. departures) of family physicians in the Outaouais region has been negative;

WHEREAS a physician who had chosen to practice in the Gatineau Valley after two years of intensive recruitment efforts and was scheduled to start in the summer of 2025 decided at the last minute to accept an offer in rural Ontario because the climate there seemed more favorable for starting a practice;

WHEREAS 22% of family doctors are over 60 years old, and it is essential to create favorable conditions to keep them practicing for as long as possible;

WHEREAS the unique situation in the Outaouais region, where it is very easy for a physician with many years of practice remaining to leave Quebec and set up practice in Ontario;

WHEREAS Bill 106 (PL106), which aims to establish collective responsibility among physicians for improving access to medical services, creates instability and leads not only to recruitment difficulties, but also to a significant risk of losing physicians already established in the region in the coming months;

WHEREAS in this regard, a survey was conducted among 222 members of the Association of General Practitioners of the Outaouais, which revealed that:

- 15% of respondents had already decided to change their practice or profession;
- 59% of respondents were considering changing their practice or profession;
- Among those who responded that they were considering changing their practice or profession:
 - 58% plan to practice in another province;
 - 15% are considering early retirement;
 - the rest are considering leaving front-line practice, working in a parapublic organization, working in the private sector, or even leaving medicine altogether;

WHEREAS the uniform application of performance targets does not take into account the specific realities of border regions, such as the Outaouais, where a significant proportion of the population turns to Ontario for health care services;

WHEREAS given the current shortage of family doctors and the negative net balance in recent years, it could take years for the Outaouais region to recover from a significant loss of doctors during the months of discussions surrounding Bill no. 106 by our elected officials in Quebec City. The situation is similar in all regions of Quebec, but the geographical location of the Outaouais region puts it at greater risk;

WHEREAS Bill no. 106 imposes targets focused on the number of medical appointments to be achieved, an approach that prioritizes the quantity of consultations over the quality of care, to the detriment of personalized patient follow-up;

2025-10-172 WHEREAS the approach favored in Ontario, which essentially consists of offering physicians the option of arbitration, has made it possible to avoid a public debate that would cause anxiety among patients, a perception of devaluation among physicians, and a climate that is not conducive to recruitment and retention;

WHEREAS this approach, which is favored in Ontario, makes the province very attractive for practicing medicine;

WHEREAS Quebec's current approach risks further compromising access to care for Outaouais residents who are already disadvantaged in terms of access to medical care;

WHEREAS instead of imposing coercive measures, it appears necessary to implement negotiated solutions that offer incentives and are tailored to regional needs in order to promote stability and attract and retain family physicians.

PROPOSED AND SUPPORTED UNANIMOUSLY

FOR THESE REASONS, this Council:

1. States that the preamble is an integral part of this resolution.
2. Supports the MRC de la Vallée-de-la-Gatineau in its efforts to express its opposition to Bill 106, which hinders the retention and recruitment of family physicians, particularly in outlying regions such as the Outaouais and especially in the Gatineau Valley, to ask the Quebec government to withdraw Bill 106 and change its approach to physicians, to prioritize negotiation and, if necessary, arbitration to avoid unnecessarily losing physicians in the short term, and to implement incentives tailored to regional realities, and to reiterate the importance of ensuring equitable and quality access to primary health care for the entire population of the Outaouais, while respecting the region's geographical and demographic characteristics.
3. Transmits a copy of this resolution to the MRC de la Vallée-de-la-Gatineau, the minister of Health and Human Services, and the member of parliament for Gatineau, Mr. Robert Bussière.
4. Authorizes, hereby, Mrs. Mayor Carole Robert and/or the Director general and Clerk-Treasurer, Mrs. Myrian Nadon, or their replacements, to sign, for and on behalf of the Municipality of the Township of Low, all documents giving effect to this resolution.

Adopted unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE, DOCUMENTS AND INFORMATION

N/A

SECOND QUESTION PERIOD

The question period begins at 7:52 p.m. and ends at 7:58 p.m.

2025-10-173 TO ACCEPT THE CLOSING OF THE SESSION

PROPOSED BY COUNCILLOR MRS. MAUREEN MCEVOY
SUPPORTED BY COUNCILLOR MRS. JOANNE MAYER

FOR THESE REASONS, this meeting is adjourned at 8 p.m.

Adopted.

Myrian Nadon
Director General
and Clerk-Treasurer

Carole Robert
Mayor