

# **Tell Your Mayor Salonen and Council: Wilmot Is NOT A Willing Host For Proposed Industrial Project on Farmland**

Wilmot Township Council CAN pass a resolution saying on behalf of the community that they are not a willing host for this proposed mega-industrial site on prime farmland. This motion is within their power and respects the will of the community. There are other actions they can take too.

This guideline provides you with key messages you can use in communicating with your councillor. You can communicate with your councillor in any of the following ways

- **Have a personal conversation,**
- **Send an email,**
- **Write a letter,**
- **Write a letter to the editor of newspapers**

This guideline suggests four key messages for you to include in communication with your councillor:

Core Message (a version of which everyone should include),

The one or two most important concerns you have about the proposed expropriation,

The consequences that will follow the decision the councillor makes,

The action you would like your councillor to take.

## **Core Message to Councillors**

The community is overwhelmingly opposed to the proposed expropriation of 770 acres of farmland in Wilmot. We are not a willing host. The failure of Wilmot Council to oppose the proposed expropriation is eroding public confidence in your leadership. The decision you make on this issue will be the difference between a short-lived career and a lasting legacy. Now is the time to say 'No' to the proposed expropriation of the 770 acres of farmland in Wilmot.

## **Reasons why expropriating 770 acres of farmland in Wilmot is wrong for our community**

1. Expropriation of productive prime farmland without any end user sets a dangerous precedent that destabilizes the Ontario agricultural sector.
2. Expropriation is an extreme measure that should be reserved for public projects with a clear purpose and benefits the public.
3. Expropriation should not be an option when the site selection process and evidence to support the public benefit for the end use of the land has not been transparent.

### **The Decision the Councillor Makes Will Have Consequences**

The voters of Wilmot Township will remember the actions you take today when they head to the polls in the future. We want to support leaders who put their community first.

If you don't speak out against the proposed expropriation, it will be seen as a failure to represent the will of the community, and will undermine trust in your leadership. Aligning yourself with the community's values on this issue demonstrates moral strength and leadership on your part. Reconsidering the project isn't a sign of weakness—it's a hallmark of leadership. It shows you are willing to listen, learn, and act in the best interests of our community. It will demonstrate moral strength and leadership.

### **Tell Your Councillor What You Want Them to Do**

Vote in support of a motion declaring that Wilmot is NOT a willing host for a proposed industrial project on farmland.

## **Spread the Word: Invite Your Friends to Contact their Councillor**

This is an opportunity to ask your friends, families, coworkers, and community members to influence decision makers by sharing your story.

1. Ask people you know if they have heard about the proposed expropriation of farmland in Wilmot Township.
2. If not, tell them your concerns.
3. Let them know it is not a 'done deal' and there is still time to stop this.
4. Ask them to write an email or letter to the mayor and their councillor.

**See the 4 easy steps to write your own letter to your councillor on the next page.**

# 4 Easy Steps to Compose Your Letter to Your Councillor Opposing the Proposed Expropriation of Farmland in Wilmot!

- 1** First paragraph: Introduce yourself. Say if you're a resident, or work here or have family here. For example, how long you and your family have lived in Wilmot or Waterloo region.
- 2** Second paragraph – Reinforce the core message. You oppose the proposed expropriation, and Wilmot should not be a willing host. You will not support a councillor who supports the proposed expropriation.
- 3** Third Paragraph – Describe how you feel about the proposed expropriation. Say why you think it is wrong for the community. Choose one or two issues that are important to you. Remind the mayor/council of their responsibility to listen to the residents.
- 4** Final paragraph: Tell the mayor/councillor what you want them to do. (See Calls to Action). Be sure to ask for a reply and include your contact information.

## Things to keep in mind:

- Be respectful
- Keep it short
- Personalize your letter/email (personal stories have better impact)
- Tell them what you would like them to do. Make sure your 'ask' is clear.
- Avoid including too many facts.
- Stay organized. Keep a copy of the letter so that you can easily refer back to them if needed.



**Contact [letters@wilmotcan.com](mailto:letters@wilmotcan.com) to let them know you contacted the mayor and/or your councillor and share any response you receive from them.**

# Contact Information for Mayor and Councillors

## Wilmot Township Council

Natasha Salonen, Mayor, Wilmot, natasha.salonen@wilmot.ca

519-634-8519 x 9351

Stewart Cressman, Councillor Ward 1, Wilmot, stewart.cressman@wilmot.ca

519-807-1496

Kris Wilkinson, Councillor Ward 2, Wilmot, kris.wilkinson@wilmot.ca

519-807-4173

Harvir Sidhu, Councillor Ward 3, Wilmot, harvir.sidhu@wilmot.ca

519-807-2521

Lillianne Dunstall, Councillor Ward 4, Wilmot, lillianne.dunstall@wilmot.ca

519-807-4975

Steven Martin, Councillor Ward 4, Wilmot, steven.martin@wilmot.ca

519-807-5214

**Make sure to send/c.c. a copy of your letter to the Township Clerk at [kaitlin.bos@wilmot.ca](mailto:kaitlin.bos@wilmot.ca) and [clerks@wilmot.ca](mailto:clerks@wilmot.ca)**

**Important Note:** Communications shared through informal channels are NOT a matter of public record and not referred to during Council's decision-making process. Informal channels of communication include direct email, letter or phone call. **To have correspondence included as part of the public record it should be sent to the Clerk.** The letter should include the request to share the letter with all members of Council and that you would like it to be part of the public record.



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