

**Agenda Number:** 16.1.  
**Resolution No.** 54-03-2023  
**Date:** Monday, February 13, 2023



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**Moved by:** Councillor Dudgeon  
**Seconded by:** Councillor Nickason

WHEREAS installing tile drainage is a very common land improvement practice among farmers in Ontario and provides many benefits that allow for increased yields, improved soil conditions and reduces the risk of crop losses; and

WHEREAS the Municipality of Arran-Elderslie is proud of its strong agricultural heritage and continues to thrive as a growing agricultural leader; and

WHEREAS the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) provides landowners in a municipality in Ontario that are planning to install a tile drainage system on their agricultural land with the option for a tile loan under the OMAFRA Tile Loan Program; and

WHEREAS the cost of installing a tile drainage system has increased exponentially over the years with the average cost per acre reaching \$2000 and beyond, coupled with the rising cost per acre of farmland further strengthening the need to invest in the lands to maximize profit realizations; and

WHEREAS the OMAFRA Tile Drainage Loan Program allows for a loan of up to seventy-five percent of eligible costs to install a tile drainage system to a maximum of fifty-thousand dollars in any fiscal year, to an individual, as an individual, or in their role in a partnership or corporation; and

WHEREAS the fifty-thousand dollar maximum has not been increased since 2004 at which time it was increased from twenty-thousand dollars to the current fifty-thousand dollar maximum; and

WHEREAS the Ontario Federation of Agriculture requested an increase to the maximum annual loan amount to \$100,000 in 2021 and no changes to the program have been realized from that request; and

WHEREAS the Council of the Municipality of Arran-Elderslie urges the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs to review the provisions of the Tile Loan Program to consider the economic changes that have occurred since the last review was undertaken nineteen years ago in 2004 and consider increasing the maximum loan amount to \$125,000; and

WHEREAS the Council of the Municipality of Arran-Elderslie further urges the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs to commit to regular reviews of the program to ensure it remains in line with the current economic conditions;

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Honorable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, Honorable Lisa M. Thompson, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, Rick Byers, MPP Grey-Bruce- Owen Sound, the Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA), the



**Corporation of the  
Municipality of West Grey**

402813 Grey Road 4, RR 2 Durham, ON N0G 1R0  
519 369 2200

March 23, 2023


**RE: Resolution of Support – Municipality of Arran-Elderslie – Tile Drainage**

To whom it may concern:

Please be advised that at its meeting held on March 21, 2023, the council of the Municipality of West Grey considered the above-noted matter and passed Resolution No. R-230321-007 as follows:

**"THAT in consideration of correspondence received from the Township of Southgate respecting a resolution of support of the Municipality of Arran-Elderslie's request for a tile drainage loan program review, council directs staff to forward a letter of support to the Premier of Ontario, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, MPP for Grey-Bruce-Owen Sound, the Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA), the Association of Municipalities Ontario (AMO), the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA), and all municipalities in Grey and Bruce Counties."**

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

  
Jamie Eckenswiller, AMP (he/him)  
Director of Legislative Services/Clerk  
Municipality of West Grey

Attachment: Municipality of Arran-Elderslie – Tile Drainage Resolution

Cc. Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario  
Honourable Lisa M. Thompson, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs  
Rick Byers, MPP Grey-Bruce-Owen Sound  
Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA)  
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)  
Ontario Federation and Agricultural (OFA)  
All Municipalities in Grey and Bruce Counties