

November 15, 2023

Dear Mayor and Members of Council,

Re: Consultation on the future of natural gas expansion and home heating affordability

Earlier this year, the Ministry of Energy launched its [consultation on the future of natural gas expansion and home heating affordability](#). The Ministry is specifically seeking input from stakeholders on the future of the program, which will be used to inform next steps to address home heating costs in rural and northern Ontario and Indigenous communities.

I encourage you to have your voices heard by contributing your feedback. Your municipal perspective, interests and priorities could help shape the future of the program. Responses are due by December 15, 2023, and you can learn more about the consultation process on the Ministry's [website](#).

Phase 1 and 2 of Ontario's Natural Gas Expansion Program were oversubscribed with more than 200 projects submitted for funding, indicating the overwhelming demand from municipalities and businesses for access to more cost-effective heating options. The natural gas expansion program can help businesses achieve annual cost savings of up to 30% each year on space and water heating, with homeowners realizing even greater savings. This affordability is vital for Ontario residents and businesses now more than ever.

Enbridge Gas will be contributing to this consultation and leveraging our experience planning and executing the projects that were selected in Phase 1 and Phase 2 of this program.

We continue to advocate for a modernized leave-to-construct application threshold and process for smaller pipeline projects to bring reliable affordable energy options to communities, homes, and businesses in a more cost-effective and timely manner – and to promote economic development and job creation across the province. I invite you to reach out to your local MPP, the Ministry of Energy and the Ontario Energy Board and add your support to this discussion. Attached to this correspondence is a draft resolution for your consideration.

While our work to expand access to natural gas continues so does our commitment to bringing alternative [energy solutions and fuels](#), such as renewable natural gas, hydrogen blending and energy conservation programs, as pathways to lower-cost, clean and reliable energy options for Ontarians. Enbridge Gas has been meeting Ontario's energy needs for more than 175 years; our customers rely on us to deliver clean, reliable, and cost-effective natural gas, and we are proud to deliver on this commitment.

Thank you for your consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact me, or your municipal advisor, if you have any questions or would like to discuss these topics further.

Sincerely,



Steve McGivern
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