



1565 Lanark Concession 12C
Almonte, Ontario, K0A 1A0

Dear Mayor/Reeve and Members of Council;

Nov. 26, 2023

Action 1 - The Ministry of Energy is specifically seeking input from rural municipalities on its [consultation on the future of natural gas expansion and home heating affordability](#). The Ministry is asking for comment 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.

CNL encourages you to **give voice to your constituents in this important consultation**, especially in the context of having recently passed the County's Climate Action Plan and the crisis of availability of affordable housing in the County and Smiths Falls. Your municipal perspective, interests and priorities could help shape the future of the program. Responses are due by December 15, 2023. You can learn more about the consultation process on the Ministry's [website](#) and from a document reflecting CNL's [outlook](#) on this.

Action 2 - Enbridge Gas has shared key messages with the County and with its Municipalities regarding out-of-date aspects of the Ontario Energy Board's Leave to Construct (LTC) process, entitled "reducing red tape for more cost-effective, timely energy connections in Ontario". Enbridge is asking for a Resolution of support.

CNL has composed the attached alternative Resolution which asks the Ontario Energy Board to determine, in gas expansion leave-to-construct applications, which option would result in the lowest energy bills - directing the subsidy to the lower, be it gas line expansion or to heat pump subsidies for homeowners. **Please give this alternate Resolution your consideration.**

CNL is working hard to lower both energy costs and emissions of homes in the County and Smiths Falls through our Climate Concierge program. We are bringing reliable affordable energy options to our communities, homes, and businesses in a cost-effective and timely manner – and promoting economic development and job creation locally – while addressing the climate crisis.

Thank you for acting on your commitment to protecting the citizens of Lanark County and Smiths Falls from a worsening climate crisis.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott Hortop".

Scott Hortop
Chair,
Board of Directors
Climate Network Lanark