

DRAFT MOTION FOR CONSIDERATION AT SCCAC MEETING OF DEC 2, 2020

WHEREAS the Ontario Clean Air Alliance is asking the Town of Cobourg to request the Government of Ontario to place an interim cap of 2.5 megatonnes per year on the greenhouse gas pollution from our gas-fired power plants and to develop and implement a plan to phase-out all of our gas-fired electricity generation by 2030 to help Ontario and the Town of Cobourg meet their climate targets; and

WHEREAS Cobourg acknowledged in declaring a Climate Emergency on December 2, 2019 that we are facing an unprecedented climate crisis requiring unprecedented climate mitigation measures; and

WHEREAS if we are to reduce greenhouse gas emissions at the rate necessary to protect human civilization we cannot afford to invest in infrastructure supporting the use of GHG emitting fossil fuel but instead must direct these resources to maximizing energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy; and

WHEREAS the Provincial Auditor in her recent *2000 Value-for-Money Audit: Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Energy Use in Buildings* report states the Ontario risks not meeting its GHG emission reduction targets in part because it is not reducing the use of natural gas through better initiatives to increase energy efficiency in buildings, and through developing renewable energy. The auditor general notes that in the Province buildings are the third highest source of GHG emissions after transportation and industry; and

WHEREAS the Auditor in the same report states that “According to research from the University of Oxford, building energy retrofits are one of the most cost-effective measures to deliver both economic and climate goals during the post-COVID recovery. Research by a global management consulting company has found that, following the 2008 recession, three times as many jobs were created by stimulus investments in low-carbon projects, such as building retrofits, compared to fossil-fuel projects (on a per-dollar basis)”.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Sustainability and Climate Change Advisory Committee strongly recommends to the Committee of the Whole that they make such request of the Government of Ontario as proposed by the Ontario Clean Air Alliance.