



John Vanthof

MPP/député Timiskaming Cochrane



June 17, 2025

Dear Mayor and Council,

I'm reaching out today to request your support for improving the safety of highways 11 and 17. In June, I introduced a new Private Member's Bill, the *Northern Highways 11 and 17 Safety Act, 2025*, that proposes crucial, common-sense measures to improve northern highway safety. This bill will be debated when the legislative session resumes in the fall. To strengthen our efforts, I am requesting the support of your municipality in the form of a resolution, or letter of support, to bring these improvements into law.

The *Northern Highways 11 and 17 Safety Act, 2025* is co-sponsored by MPP Lise Vaugeois (Thunder Bay-Superior North) and MPP Guy Bourgouin (Mushkegowuk-James Bay) and was inspired by the Northern Highway Safety Plan we developed in consultation with Northern residents and stakeholders earlier this year. You will find the legislation included in this correspondence. It proposes four key measures:

- Mandating that scale and inspection stations operate at least 12 hours daily
- Ensuring the sufficient enforcement of the Highway Traffic Act
- Guaranteeing that testing of truck drivers for commercial licensing is conducted by examiners certified by the Ministry of Transportation
- Restoring management of winter highway maintenance on Highways 11 and 17 to the Ministry of Transportation

Unfortunately, accidents and highway closures have become the norm along highways 11 and 17. Some of these accidents are unavoidable, but many of the accidents currently happening in the North are preventable. As a community in the North, we know that your residents share these concerns for highway safety. I continue to communicate these concerns with the Minister of Transportation, during Question Period and through written correspondence. Our caucus has additionally proposed amendments to numerous transportation bills that would advance measures

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to improve the state of our highways. We are using every legislative tool available to pressure the government to take action, and we need your support.

I am requesting that you review this draft bill among your organization and offer your support to bring it into legislation. Several municipalities across the North have already passed council resolutions formally endorsing our Northern Highway Safety Plan, including the Township of Schreiber, Nipissing, Hearst, McGarry, Englehart, and Coleman Township.

Together, we can take action to address the dangerous state of our roads. Please let me know if you have any questions about the bill, or legislative process.

Yours sincerely,

John Vanthof, MPP
Timiskaming-Cochrane

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