

Type of Decision									
Meeting Date	Friday, May 31, 2013				Report Date	Tuesday, May-28-13			
Decision Required	X	Yes		No	Priority	X	High		Low
Direction	x	Information Only			Type of Meeting	X	Open		Closed
REPORT TITLE									
Small Business and Contraband Tobacco Report #31/05/13/1103									

Subject: Resolution for Support as per direction from May 10<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That Council pass the attached resolution providing support for local businesses.

**WHEREAS** Contraband tobacco has negative public consequences and impacts such as unrestricted youth access to tobacco products and an increase in criminal activity;

**AND WHEREAS** Contraband tobacco products are easily accessible in many local communities;

**AND WHEREAS** small businesses are negatively affected by this practise sometimes forced to close because of the sale of contraband tobacco and;

**AND WHEREAS** small business in our community and government in general stand to benefit from the institution of tougher restrictions on contraband tobacco;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Council of the United Townships of Head, Clara & Maria supports the Ontario Government's 2012 budget commitments to eradicate contraband tobacco through the implementation of additional regulatory, enforcement and other provisions in Bill 186 and amendments to the *Tobacco Tax Act.*, in support of measures such as:

- Increased fines for those convicted of offenses related to contraband tobacco;
- More authority for law enforcement officials with respect to forfeiture of items seized and impounding of vehicles;
- Drawing on the best practices of other jurisdictions and working collaboratively with the federal government and other jurisdictions to enhance contraband tobacco control through joint enforcement efforts;

**AND FURTHER THAT** the provincial government be encouraged to continue to strengthen their strategies to address the manufacture and supply of contraband tobacco and maintain their commitment to introduce amendments this fall to implement these measures.

**AND FURTHER THAT** surrounding municipalities be made aware of the actions taken by this Council to address the concerns presented by the continued sale and production of contraband tobacco.

BACKGROUND/EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: Self-explanatory. Resolution prepared at direction of Council following discussion with local business operators.

Options/Discussion:

Financial Considerations/Budget Impact:

Policy Impact: None

Other's consulted: Councillor Gibson consulted with Mr. Yates of Yates General Store about the influence of this practise on his business.

Resources:

Approved and Recommended by the Clerk

Melinda Reith,

Municipal Clerk

*Melinda Reith*