

DRAFT STATEMENT FOR REVIEW/CONSIDERATION

Date: Jan 5, 2024

23-195B

DOC#: _____
APPROVED:  _____
DATE RECEIVED: _____ 5 Jan 24 _____
COPIES TO:
COUNCIL _____
PSC: _____
Sr. Mgmt: _____
Discussion Session: _____
Meeting Agenda: _____ 15 Jan 24 _____

At the December 11, 2023, meeting of Bridgewater Town Council, Council received a formal request from a delegation asking that the Town “write a letter to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to request the federal government call for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza, the release of all hostages, and the flow of humanitarian aid.”

Since that time, Town Council has received additional correspondence requesting a similar statement be issued.

On December 12, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand called for a “sustainable ceasefire,” the unconditional release of all remaining hostages, and that safe and unimpeded humanitarian access into Gaza must be increased and sustained.

The Town of Bridgewater supports the position of our federal government and hopes that peace, a lasting cessation of fighting along with the delivery of aid to the region materializes quickly.

The Town of Bridgewater does not have geopolitical or foreign policy information or expertise. Our community, like all municipal and provincial governments in Canada, relies on the federal government, their diplomats, data, and entire departments related to foreign policy matters to represent Canada and Canadian interests.

Recognizing this, the Town of Bridgewater’s position is that wherever there is conflict, we want peace and an end to needless loss of life and human suffering.

On the specific conflict happening right now in Gaza, the Town of Bridgewater supports the Canadian, Australian, and New Zealand statement of condemnation of Hamas’s October 7, 2023, attack on Israel; support for Palestine’s right to self-determination; and a permanent end to fighting on both sides so that aid can begin to safely flow, and partners working collaboratively toward a two-state solution where Israelis and Palestinians can live securely within internationally recognized borders.

Town Council also reiterates that our community is a welcoming, diverse place for all people, and that celebrating what makes us different is just as important as what makes us similar.

There is no place for any kind of hate or prejudice in Bridgewater, and we must continue to work in supporting and lifting each other up, not tearing anyone down.