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Town of Latchford
Best Little Town by a Dam Site

Chad Evans, Chief Executive Officer
Ontario Northland Transportation Commission
555 Oak Street East
North Bay, Ontario, P1B 8L3

Sent via email: pr@ontarionorthland.ca

August 26th, 2026

Re: Railway Bridge Maintenance and Painting – Highway 11, Town of Latchford

Dear Mr. Evans,

On behalf of the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Latchford, I am writing to provide you with a copy of Resolution No. 26/151, adopted by Council on August 18, 2026.

Ontario Northland's railway infrastructure is an important part of Northern Ontario's transportation network and has a significant presence in communities throughout the region. In Latchford, the railway bridge located along Highway 11 is highly visible to residents, businesses, visitors and the travelling public. Its current weathered and rusting condition affects the appearance of the Highway 11 corridor and the overall first impression of our community.

The Town continues to invest its resources in community beautification, economic development and tourism initiatives intended to create a welcoming and attractive community. The appearance of prominent infrastructure can either support or detract from these efforts, particularly in smaller northern communities where rail bridges and other structures are significant visual features.

Council is respectfully requesting that Ontario Northland undertake the necessary cleaning, surface preparation and painting of the railway bridge located along Highway 11 in Latchford. Council is also requesting that an appropriate schedule be established for the bridge's ongoing exterior maintenance.

We further encourage Ontario Northland to review its publicly visible infrastructure throughout Northeastern Ontario, particularly structures located along the Highway 11 corridor and within incorporated municipalities, to identify infrastructure requiring exterior maintenance.

The Town would appreciate an opportunity to discuss the condition of the Latchford railway bridge and Ontario Northland's anticipated plans and timelines for its maintenance. Thank you for Ontario Northland's continued service to Northern Ontario.

Kindest Regards,
MRobinson
Malorie Robinson
CAO/Clerk-Treasurer
Town of Latchford

Cc:
Minister of Transportation, Prabmeet Sarkaria minister.mto@ontario.ca
Minister of Northern Economic Development and Growth, George Pirie mnedg.minister@ontario.ca
MPP Timiskaming – Cochrane, John Vanthof jvanthof-qp@ndp.on.ca
Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) fonom.info@gmail.com
Municipalities within the Districts of Cochrane, Timiskaming and Nipissing

CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF LATCHFORD
RESOLUTION

Resolution No.: 26/151
Date: August 18th, 2026

MOVED BY: Councillor McDonald

SECONDED BY: Councillor Church

Whereas, Ontario Northland Railway (ONR) owns and maintains significant rail infrastructure throughout Northeastern Ontario, including bridges, overpasses and other structures that are highly visible from Highway 11 and within municipalities along the Highway 11 corridor;

And whereas, this infrastructure is an important component of Northern Ontario's transportation network and, due to its prominent location, also contributes to the overall appearance and first impression of the communities in which it is located;

And whereas, aging infrastructure that is visibly rusting, deteriorating or otherwise lacking routine exterior maintenance can negatively impact the aesthetic appearance of a community and the Highway 11 corridor, particularly where such infrastructure is located at or near community entrances and other highly travelled areas;

And whereas, municipalities throughout Northeastern Ontario invest considerable resources in community beautification, economic development, tourism, downtown revitalization and initiatives intended to create welcoming and attractive communities for residents, businesses and visitors;

And whereas, publicly visible transportation infrastructure should be maintained in a manner that reflects the importance of these investments and contributes positively to the communities through which it passes;

Now therefore be it resolved that, the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Latchford hereby requests that Ontario Northland Railway undertake the necessary preparation and painting of its railway bridge located along Highway 11 in the Town of Latchford and establish an appropriate schedule for the ongoing exterior maintenance of this structure;

And further that, Ontario Northland Railway be encouraged to review its publicly visible infrastructure throughout Northeastern Ontario, particularly infrastructure located along the Highway 11 corridor and within incorporated municipalities, and ensure that structures showing significant rust, deterioration or weathering receive appropriate exterior maintenance, including cleaning, surface preparation and painting where required;

And further that, Ontario Northland Railway recognize that the condition and appearance of its infrastructure can have an impact on community appearance, tourism, economic development and municipal beautification efforts, particularly in

smaller Northern Ontario communities where railway infrastructure may be a prominent feature of the community;

And further that, a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Ontario Northland Railway, the Minister of Transportation, the Minister of Northern Economic Development and Growth, local Members of Provincial Parliament, and municipalities throughout Northeastern Ontario requesting their support for this resolution.

CARRIED