



October 31, 2025

Premier Doug Ford

Sent via email: premier@ontario.ca

Dear Premier Doug Ford:

Please be advised that Brantford City Council at its meeting held October 28, 2025 adopted the following:

12.1.1 Provincial Support of the Ontario Airport Capital Assistance Program

WHEREAS small and regional airports in Ontario serve as critical infrastructure—facilitating essential public services including air ambulance operations, forest firefighting, search & rescue, and law enforcement activities, while also driving local and regional economic development; and

WHEREAS many of these airports are ineligible for the federal Airports Capital Assistance Program (ACAP) due to eligibility constraints such as lacking year round scheduled service, yet still require capital funding for safety-related infrastructure; and

WHEREAS the Airport Management Council of Ontario (AMCO) has identified a persistent funding gap for non ACAP eligible community airports, estimating that approximately 85 such airports need \$5.5 million annually to address critical airside infrastructure needs; and

WHEREAS provinces including British Columbia, Alberta, and Saskatchewan have successfully managed permanent provincial capital-assistance programs—offering clear models for cost-sharing frameworks, eligible project criteria, and annual funding envelopes; and

WHEREAS AMCO's proposed Ontario Airport Capital Assistance Program (OACAP) envisions an annual operational budget of \$8.5–10 million, with a 75% provincial / 25% owner cost-share, a \$2 million per applicant cap, and bonuses for key community-benefiting projects; and

WHEREAS the 2025 Ontario Budget has already acknowledged "airports as cross country infrastructure" and signaled intent to include them in upcoming capital investments; and

WHEREAS the City of Brantford and the County of Brant benefit directly from airport-enabled services, and ensuring its continued operation is in the public interest of resident safety, economic resilience, and efficient connectivity.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT The Corporation of the City of Brantford formally urges the Government of Ontario to:

- i. Implement the Ontario Airport Capital Assistance Program (OACAP) managed by the Ministry of Transportation.
- ii. Adopt the recommended cost-sharing structure (75% provincial / 25% municipal or operator), and cap funds at \$2 million per project per applicant.
- iii. Expand eligibility to include public-use registered aerodromes and certified airports not currently eligible for ACAP.
- iv. Reinstate the Ontario Air Advisory Panel to advise on airport infrastructure and policy priorities.
- v. Designate community and regional airports as critical infrastructure under provincial policy.
- vi. Investigate stable funding mechanisms—such as a dedicated stream from the aviation fuel tax—to support OACAP sustainably.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Premier of Ontario, Minister of Transportation, local MPPs, Brant County, AMCO, and all Ontario municipalities operating public airports calling for provincial commitment to OACAP.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours truly,



Chris Gauthier City Clerk,
cgauthier@brantford.ca

CC Minister Of Transportation minister.mto@ontario.ca
 Member of Parliament Larry Brock larry.brock@parl.gc.ca
 Member of Provincial Parliament Will Bouma will.bouma@pc.ola.org
 Brant County clerks@brant.ca
 AMCO amco@amco.on.ca
 All Ontario municipalities operating public airports