Township of Oro-Medonte
Proud Heritage, Exciting Future

October 21, 2020

Via email: george.cornell@simcoe.ca

Warden George Cornell
1110 Highway 26
Midhurst ON L9X 1N6

Dear Warden Cornell and County Councillors:

**Re: Request for Support from Mount St. Louis Moonstone/Skyline Horseshoe Resort and Hardwood Ski & Bike for their efforts to Declare Snowsports, Skiing and Snowboarding, Alpine and Nordic Deemed Essential in Stage 2.**

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The Council of the Township of Oro-Medonte, at its October 14th Council meeting, passed the following motion with respect to the above-noted matter:

Be it resolved:

that the correspondence dated October 9, 2020 from Sarah Huter, Assistant General Manager, Mount St. Louise Moonstone Ski Resort re: Request for Support from Mount St. Louis Moonstone/Skyline Horseshoe Resort and Hardwood Ski & Bike for their efforts to Declare Snowsports, Skiing and Snowboarding, Alpine and Nordic Deemed Essential in Stage 2 be received.

And whereas on March 11, 2020 the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a global pandemic;

And whereas the Government of Ontario, County of Simcoe and Township of Oro-Medonte remain in declared state of emergency in response to the COVID-19 pandemic;

And whereas all levels of Government are effectively working collaboratively in response to the evolving COVID-19 situation;

And whereas the Government of Ontario has developed a comprehensive *Framework for Reopening our Province;*

And whereas many low risk outdoor activities were permitted to re-open in Stage 1 and 2 of the *Provincial re-opening framework;*

And whereas the timing of the release of *Stage 3 framework* and Ontario Regulation 364/20 made under *Reopening Ontario(A Flexible Response to COVID-19) Act, 2020* has not fully considered outdoor winter recreation and the operations of Ontario's ski industry;

And whereas Ontario's ski industry generates approximately $420 million annually to the provincial economy and supports over 14,000 jobs;

And whereas nordic skiing, alpine skiing, snowboarding and snowshoeing provide low risk opportunities and outlets for participation in outdoor based activities that improve physical and mental health and overall well-being;

And whereas the ski industry has developed comprehensive operating plans and established best practices through its *Ski Well, Be Well* program to ensure compliance with regulations and public health directives and reduce the risk of COVID 19 transmission;

And whereas the Township of Oro-Medonte is the proud home to three of Ontario's largest ski resorts, Hardwood Ski and Bike, Horseshoe Resort and Mount St Louis Moonstone which provide significant local, regional and provincial economic benefits.

*And whereas MPP Downey has advocated on behalf of these businesses.*

Now therefore

On behalf of Hardwood Ski and Bike, Horseshoe Resort and Mount St. Louis Moonstone, the Council of the Township of Oro-Medonte hereby respectfully requests that the Government of Ontario consult with the ski industry through the Ontario Snow Resorts Association to review re-opening policy considerations currently impacting the industry.

And Further that a copy of this resolution be sent, under the Mayor's signature, to the County of Simcoe and Ontario municipalities for their consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Harry Hughes
Mayor
/vc

Cc: MPP Doug Downey
MPP Jill Dunlop
MP Doug Shipley
MPP Jim Wilson
Lisa MacLeod, Minister of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries
Council
Shawn Binns, Director Operations & Community Services
Ontario Municipalities