



From: Ontario Energy Board <webmaster@oeb.ca>
Sent: Friday, April 17, 2026 12:49 PM
To: Office of the Registrar <Registrar@oeb.ca>
Cc: Kent <kent@elsonadvocacy.ca>
Subject: Intervention Form: EB-2026-0009 - Community Coalition

Intervention Form

Case Number:

EB-2026-0009

Requesting information on behalf:

Of an organization

Intervenor Name:

Community Coalition

Mandate and Objectives:

The Community Coalition represents the interests of local residents and community groups with respect to the rules that govern the use of municipal lands by gas pipelines, including both financial and environmental interests. The Community Coalition is currently made up of eMerge Guelph Sustainability, Environmental Defence Canada, and the Climate Network Lanark – each of which have been involved in OEB proceedings regarding or relating to municipal franchise agreements. The Coalition will also seek input from and participation by other interested local community groups where possible. Environmental Defence Canada is a leading Canadian environmental advocacy organization that works with government, industry and individuals to defend clean water, a safe climate and healthy communities. For over 35 years, Environmental Defence has worked at the municipal, provincial and federal level to safeguard our freshwater, create livable communities, decrease Canadians’ exposure to toxic chemicals, end plastic pollution, tackle climate change and build a clean economy. eMERGE Guelph Sustainability (eMERGE Guelph) has operated in Guelph to fight climate change through advocacy, programs and policy development. This includes supporting and advocating on behalf of residents interested in increasing their energy efficiency and gaining access to renewable energy. Climate Network Lanark works to connect, coordinate, facilitate, initiate

and support collaborative efforts and actions by and for the community to address the impacts of climate change through both mitigation and adaptation.

Membership of the Intervenor and Constituency Represented:

Together, the Community Coalition represents hundreds of thousands of individual supporters, volunteers, and members, including many residents of communities with upcoming franchise agreement renewals. These supporters include residents, ratepayers and other community members concerned with fairness in the rules that govern the use of public lands for gas infrastructure. Although the Coalition's intervention in this proceeding will be led by the three named organizations, it will also seek input from and coordinate with other interested local community groups where possible.

Programs or Activities Carried Out by the Intervenor:

eMERGE Guelph conducts educational campaigns aimed at assisting local residents of Guelph and surrounding areas to reduce their energy, water use and carbon footprint. They also advocate towards local policy changes and host environmental events. The Climate Network Lanark brings people together to act on climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs). They focus on practical strategies like promoting the use of renewable energy instead of fossil fuels; using natural systems to absorb carbon emissions; improving energy efficiency; and expanding organic waste composting. They also help the local community prepare for the impacts of climate change by advocating for measures to mitigate the social, psychological, and economic risks of extreme weather and the loss of nature. Environmental Defence has been highly successful in its public interest advocacy on energy issues. Environmental Defence's environmental work, on issues ranging from toxic chemicals to clean beaches, has led to concrete improvements in the lives of Canadians. Environmental Defence also publishes reports and guides in the area of energy conservation, energy efficiency, and energy policy. Its reports and guides on these and other topics can be found at <https://environmentaldefence.ca/reports-guides/>. Environmental Defence has been granted intervenor status, participant status, and costs eligibility in over 60 proceedings before the Ontario Energy Board over the past decade.

Governance Structure:

The Coalition brings together three non-profit organizations. They will jointly instruct counsel for the Coalition via designated representatives. The Coalition will also seek input from and coordinate with other interested local community groups where possible.

Representatives:

Kent Elson
kent@elsonadvocacy.ca
416-906-7305

Kate Siemiatycki

kate@elsonadvocacy.ca
4169363965

Cost Claim Filing contact:

Kate Siemiatycki
kate@elsonadvocacy.ca
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Other Contacts:

Frequent Intervenor Form:

Add all individuals listed on our Frequent Intervenor Form as contacts for this proceeding:

N/A

Names and email addresses of individuals to be added as contacts for this proceeding:

N/A

OEB Proceedings:

Item Description	Category	Status
EB-2025-0058	Natural Gas – Leave to Construct	Granted
EB-2024-0342	Natural Gas – Leave to Construct	Granted
EB-2025-0306	Natural Gas – Leave to Construct	Granted
EB-2025-0327	Natural Gas – Leave to Construct	Granted

Issues:

The Community Coalition seeks to intervene on all subjects within the scope of the proceeding. The interests of the supporters of the non-profits that make up the Community Coalition are impacted because franchise agreement terms have important implications for municipal residents, including from financial, environmental, and fairness perspectives. See section 4 below for some examples.

Policy Interests:

The OEB has recognized in previous procedural orders that the non-profits that constitute the Community Coalition represent policy interests that are relevant to franchise agreements. eMerge Guelph is an approved intervenor in the franchise agreement proceeding for the City of Guelph (EB-2025-0058). Environmental Defence is an approved intervenor in the OEB franchise agreement proceeding for Waterloo Region (EB-2025-0327). The Climate Network Lanark was an approved intervenor in the certificate of public convenience and necessity proceeding for Tay Valley Township (EB-2024-0342), which is a municipality within Lanark County. The Climate Network Lanark may also seek intervenor status in any future OEB proceedings relating to the renewal of the Tay Valley Township franchise agreement. The Coalition has a strong policy interest in the issues raised as part of the generic hearing. This includes opposition to rules that require municipal ratepayers to subsidize the gas system by contributing to the cost of pipeline relocations and by removing pipelines that have been abandoned under public lands. This proceeding is also relevant to the local interests of eMerge Guelph and Climate Network Lanark in robust municipal planning. Both organizations have worked for years advocating for the adoption of a variety of environmental policies at the municipal level. As such they strongly believe that municipalities and municipal electors should be able to decide, of their own accord, whether municipal taxpayers will provide a subsidy to fossil fuel pipelines.

Hearings:

Given the wide ranging and potentially long-lasting impacts of the Board's determination in this proceeding, the Coalition believes that an oral hearing is likely warranted to ensure that all relevant evidence and information is before the Board. However, at this time, the Coalition requests an opportunity to provide submissions on the hearing format before a decision is made.

Evidence:

The proposed intervenor will likely seek to file evidence and requests an opportunity to provide an evidence proposal and budget at a later date.

Coordination with Other Intervenors:

The Coalition itself brings together parties with shared interests in an attempt to achieve increased coordination and efficiency. It will further endeavour to work closely with other parties where shared interests exist.

Cost Awards:

The proposed intervenors are applying for costs award eligibility. They are eligible for costs under s. 3.03(a) and (b) of the OEB Practice Direction on Cost Awards, including as follows. Section 3.03(b) refers to “an interest or policy perspective relevant to the Board’s mandate and to the proceeding for which cost award eligibility is sought.” The connection between the interest and policy perspective of the Community Coalition and the issues in this proceeding are discussed above under heading 4 (Policy Interests). Section 3.03(a) refers to “the direct interests of consumers (e.g. ratepayers) in relation to services that are regulated by the Board.” The groups that form the Community Coalition advocate for the interests of their supporters, who are ratepayers seeking both clean and affordable energy. This includes both gas ratepayers, electricity ratepayers, and municipal ratepayers. Electricity ratepayers and municipal ratepayers have a strong interest in avoiding paying subsidies for fossil fuel infrastructure (including costs for relocating fossil fuel pipelines and removing abandoned pipelines from the ground).

Language Preference:

No