

COUNCIL INFORMATION PACKAGE

February 17, 2023

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**Ministry of
Municipal Affairs
and Housing**

Office of the Minister

777 Bay Street, 17th Floor
Toronto ON M7A 2J3
Tel.: 416 585-7000

**Ministère des
Affaires municipales
et du Logement**

Bureau du ministre

777, rue Bay, 17^e étage
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Ontario

234-2023-711

February 13, 2023

Your Worship
Mayor Jan Liggett
City of Cambridge
50 Dickson Street, P.O. Box 669
Cambridge ON N1R 5W8

mayor@cambridge.ca

**Subject: Municipal Housing Targets and Municipal Housing Pledges
City of Cambridge: 19,000**

Dear Mayor Liggett,

I would like to congratulate you on your election in the City of Cambridge last fall. With last year's municipal and provincial elections now behind us, Ontarians are counting on us to work together productively and build a relationship of trust that delivers for the people we represent.

The lack of housing supply has become one of the defining issues in Ontario today, and I know it was just as prevalent in last year's municipal elections as it was for those of us on the provincial level.

Our government is taking bold and transformative action to get 1.5 million homes built by 2031.

That's why, last October, our government introduced our More Homes Built Faster Plan. The plan contains practical measures that will have a real impact on our communities, reduce costs for homebuyers, and encourage the development of more housing supply.

These measures included municipal housing targets and pledges. While municipalities have taken significant steps in increasing the housing supply, our government requires a commitment from our municipal partners to take extra effort in providing housing for future population growth.

To implement the 1.5 million homes target, large and fast-growing municipalities, including yours, are being assigned a **Municipal Housing Target**. Via your municipal Clerk in last October, I asked the City of Cambridge to demonstrate your commitment to

accelerating housing supply by developing a **Municipal Housing Pledge** and taking the necessary steps to facilitate the construction of 19,000 new homes in your community by 2031.

I would like to inform you that the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing is extending the deadline for the submission of municipal housing pledges from March 1, 2023, to March 22, 2023, in response to requests from some of our municipal partners.

As I stated in my previous letter, pledges will provide important information that showcases the strategies and actions that municipalities choose to adopt in order to prioritize and accelerate housing. Our government intends to use your pledges to monitor and track progress so we can continue to play a role in supporting municipalities and removing barriers to housing development. Please see the information sheet attached again to this letter for information and considerations in developing a Municipal Housing Pledge.

We are committed to addressing the policy and implementation barriers you may encounter as you develop your pledges and I encourage you to reach out to Wendy Ren, Executive Lead, Municipal Policy/Program Collaboration, at Wendy.Ren@ontario.ca or 437-995-7094, if you have any questions, comments, or suggestions.

Please acknowledge receipt of the letter to Wendy Ren as well.

I look forward to working together to increase housing supply for all Ontarians.

Sincerely,



Steve Clark
Minister

Encl.

c: Kate Manson-Smith, Deputy Minister
Ryan Amato, Chief of Staff, Minister's Office
Michael Parsa, Associate Minister of Housing
Joshua Paul, Assistant Deputy Minister, Housing Division
Sean Fraser, Assistant Deputy Minister, Planning and Growth Division
Wendy Ren, Executive Lead, Municipal Policy/Program Collaboration
David Calder, CAO
Danielle Manton, Clerk

Info Sheet: Considerations in Developing Municipal Housing Pledge

The pledge is not intended to be a land-use planning document, and its development should not require external technical expertise. The format and language used in the pledge should be accessible to the general public. The pledge is intended to be approved by municipal councils and should help codify Council's commitment to meeting their municipal housing target.

Municipalities can leverage new and existing policy tools as they develop housing pledges and work towards their housing targets.

Below is a non-exhaustive list of potential strategies and actions that municipalities may include in developing their housing pledges. There may be additional opportunities based on local circumstances and the Province is interested in hearing about those ideas and creative solutions.

- Strategies to encourage and promote gentle intensification to enable and expedite additional residential units in existing residential areas
- Outline ways in which funding under provincial programs, such as the Streamline Development Approval Fund (SDAF) or Municipal Modernization Program (MMP), has been used to streamline existing municipal development approval processes
- Information on municipal development approval timelines and whether municipalities are being appealed for non-decisions
- Identify potential measures where current lack of infrastructure capacity (e.g., water/wastewater servicing) may limit future housing development
- Strategies to use municipal surplus lands
- Commitment to plan for, fund, and approve (where applicable) specific critical municipal infrastructure to support growth and new housing (e.g., water, wastewater, transit etc.), which may include expanded capacity as well as fully new facilities/assets
- Priorities for strategic and site-specific planning decisions to expedite housing in priority areas (e.g., around transit stations and in transit-served areas)
- Update zoning by-laws to permit a greater range of housing to be built without the need for costly and lengthy rezoning applications
- Municipalities may also consider existing tools such as the Community Infrastructure and Housing Accelerator, [Community Planning Permit System](#), Major Transit Station Areas, and Protected Major Transit Station Areas.

Below are some of the potential components of a municipal housing pledge. Municipalities are free to choose, alter, or add any new components that seem reasonable. Pledges can be represented in the form of plain text, tables, charts, maps, or a combination of them.

- Municipal Housing Target
- Planned and proposed Municipal Initiatives
- Initiative Owner and Additional Stakeholders
- Context and Description of How Initiative Accelerates Housing
- Number of units per initiative and housing type
- Considerations (Barriers, Implementation, Risks, etc.)
- Potential Mitigation Strategies and Proposal to Accelerate Housing
- Potential Reporting and Monitoring Measures

The deadline for municipalities to submit housing pledges to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing is March 1, 2023.

Municipal housing pledges are intended to be public documents and it's anticipated that municipalities will post them online.

Municipalities can contact Ministry staff with any questions and for clarification.

February 9, 2023

Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1A1

SENT VIA E-MAIL

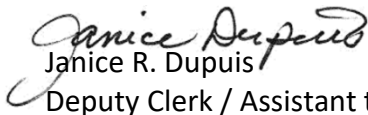
Honourable Premier Ford:

SUBJECT: BILL 23 – MORE HOMES BUILT FASTER ACT

At its meeting held on February 7, 2023, Council for the Municipality of West Nipissing passed resolution **2023/38**, a copy of which is attached hereto. The resolution supports the concerns expressed by municipalities throughout the province as it relates to the negative impacts of *Bill 23 – More Homes Built Faster Act*.

We trust the enclosed is self-explanatory.

Respectfully,


Janice R. Dupuis
Deputy Clerk / Assistant to the
Chief Administrative Officer

\Encl.

cc: Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
MPP for Nipissing Timiskaming
Association of Municipalities of Ontario
all Ontario municipalities

CORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF WEST NIPISSING

Council and Committee of the Whole Meeting

Resolution # 2023/38
Title: Support resolution for Bill 23
Date: February 7, 2023

Moved by: Councillor Jérôme Courchesne
Seconded by: Councillor Anne Tessier

WHEREAS the Government of Ontario recently passed Bill 23, More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022 without providing meaningful or adequate opportunity for municipalities to provide input on ways to increase the supply of housing and to improve housing affordability in Ontario while ensuring the financial capacity of municipalities to support growth and protection of the environment;

AND WHEREAS Bill 23 will have significant negative impact on, green standards, environmental protection of wetlands, conservation, social housing and other significant areas of concern;

AND WHEREAS Bill 23 will negatively impact municipalities' ability to manage growth, fund essential services and provide new infrastructure for the community resulting in fewer affordable housing units and putting pressure on the municipal tax rate by freezing, reducing, and exempting fees and development charges;

AND WHEREAS Bill 23 will have a negative environmental impact by removing the Conservation Authority's ability to review and consult on developments impacting natural heritage and conservation;

AND WHEREAS Bill 23 will result in reduced parkland for municipalities;

AND WHEREAS Bill 23 will open up the Greenbelt for development when the Greenbelt should remain an environmentally protected area so it can continue to help with flood control, provide clean air, and protect us from natural disasters;

AND WHEREAS a preliminary analysis of Bill 23 by the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) indicates the transfer of up to \$1 billion a year in costs from private sector developers to property taxpayers without any likelihood of improved housing affordability while also undermining environmental protection;

AND WHEREAS a growing number of municipalities have joined in expressing their concern with the negative impacts of Bill 23;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That the Municipality of West Nipissing formally express its opposition to Bill 23 in its current form and that this resolution be forwarded to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing Steve Clark, and MPP for Nipissing Timiskaming, John Vanthof;
2. That a copy of this resolution also be sent to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, and all Ontario municipalities.

CARRIED

CORPORATION DE LA MUNICIPALITÉ DE NIPISSING OUEST

Réunion du Conseil et Comité plénier

Résolution # 2023/38
Titre: Résolution d'appui au projet de la loi 23
Date: le 7 février 2023

Proposé par: Councillor Jérôme Courchesne

Appuyé par: Councillor Anne Tessier

ATTENDU QUE le gouvernement de l'Ontario a récemment adopté le projet de loi 23, Loi de 2022 pour plus de logements construits plus rapidement, sans offrir aux municipalités une occasion significative ou adéquate de donner leur avis sur les moyens d'accroître l'offre de logements et d'améliorer l'abordabilité des logements en Ontario tout en assurant la capacité financière des municipalités à soutenir la croissance et la protection de l'environnement;

ATTENDU QUE le projet de loi 23 aura des répercussions négatives importantes sur les normes vertes, la protection environnementale des terres humides, la conservation, le logement social et d'autres sujets de préoccupation importants;

ATTENDU QUE le projet de loi 23 aura une incidence négative sur la capacité des municipalités à gérer la croissance, à financer les services essentiels et à fournir de nouvelles infrastructures à la collectivité, ce qui entraînera une diminution du nombre de logements abordables et exercera des pressions sur le taux d'imposition municipal en gelant, en réduisant et en exonérant les frais et les redevances d'aménagement;

ATTENDU QUE le projet de loi 23 aura un impact négatif sur l'environnement en supprimant la capacité de l'office de protection de la nature d'examiner et de consulter les développements ayant une incidence sur le patrimoine naturel et la conservation;

ATTENDU QUE le projet de loi 23 entraînera une réduction des parcs pour les municipalités;

ATTENDU QUE le projet de loi 23 ouvrira la Ceinture de verdure au développement alors que la Ceinture de verdure devrait demeurer une zone protégée sur le plan environnemental afin qu'elle puisse continuer à contribuer à la lutte contre les inondations, à fournir de l'air pur et à nous protéger contre les catastrophes naturelles;

ATTENDU QU'une analyse préliminaire du projet de loi 23 par l'Association des municipalités de l'Ontario (AMO) indique le transfert de coûts pouvant atteindre 1 milliard de dollars par année des promoteurs du secteur privé aux contribuables fonciers sans aucune probabilité d'amélioration de l'abordabilité du logement tout en compromettant la protection de l'environnement;

ATTENDU QU'un nombre croissant de municipalités se sont jointes à eux pour exprimer leurs préoccupations face aux répercussions négatives du projet de loi 23;

PAR CONSÉQUENT, QU'IL SOIT RÉSOLU,

1. Que la Municipalité de Nipissing Ouest exprime officiellement son opposition au projet de loi 23 dans sa forme actuelle et que la présente résolution soit transmise au premier ministre de l'Ontario, au ministre des Affaires municipales et du Logement, Steve Clark, et au député provincial de Nipissing Timiskaming, John Vanthof;
2. Qu'une copie de la présente résolution soit également envoyée à l'Association des municipalités de l'Ontario et à toutes les municipalités de l'Ontario.

ADOPTÉ



AMANDA FUSCO

Director of Legislated Services & City Clerk

Corporate Services Department

Kitchener City Hall, 2nd Floor

200 King Street West, P.O. Box 1118

Kitchener, ON N2G 4G7

Phone: 519.741.2200 x 7809 Fax: 519.741.2705

amanda.fusco@kitchener.ca

TTY: 519-741-2385

February 16, 2023

Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1A1

Dear Premier Ford:

This is to advise that there was a clerical error in the memo that was sent out dated January 20, 2023 related to the following resolution that was passed by City Council, at a special meeting held on December 12, 2022, regarding Bill 23 Climate action and Community wellbeing. Please see the following revised resolution including correction, specifically to clause 9:

"WHEREAS the City of Kitchener acknowledges the affordable housing crisis and housing supply crisis, and has developed a Housing for All strategy to meet the needs of current and future residents and has established a fund to reduce development charges on affordable housing, and designated sufficient land to assist the province in reaching it's housing targets;

WHEREAS the City of Kitchener, along with other area municipalities, has both declared a climate emergency; committed in principle to a 50% reduction in absolute community GHG emissions by 2030; endorsed the TransformWR Climate Action Strategy and the Regional Official Plan; all as evidence of the City's commitment to striving towards development that prioritizes both community wellbeing and a safe climate future;

WHEREAS Bill 23, the More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022, is a significant piece of legislation that makes substantial changes to multiple pieces of existing legislation and supporting regulations as part of Ontario's Housing Supply Action Plan for 2022-2023;

WHEREAS the Province of Ontario through its MOU with the Associations of Municipalities of Ontario has committed to prior consultation to cooperate with municipal governments in considering new legislation or regulations that will have a municipal impact;

WHEREAS, the introduction of a bill during a period of transition with a short timeline for consultation may lead to unintended consequences and serious implications that could cause harm and work against the province's goal of 1.5 million homes in 10 years;

WHEREAS the City of Kitchener relies on groundwater to resource the needs of residents and businesses, which may potentially be jeopardized by the inability to protect land and natural ecosystems that replenish our groundwater due to legislative changes made by Bill 23, negatively impacting future generations;

WHEREAS Bill 23 will undermine these commitments to both climate action and community wellbeing that the City of Kitchener is striving to prioritize, affecting the overall wellbeing of Kitchener residents and communities; and,

WHEREAS Bill 23 will impact city finances leading to limitations on infrastructure investments to serve new homes, and reduce service provision negatively impacting resident well being or create an increased tax burden on rate payers in the City; as it moves away from our "growth pays for growth" approach;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Kitchener City Council requests to the Province of Ontario to immediately pause the implementation of Bill 23, as the process was not conducted in a manner respecting the commitment to prior consultation, transparency and cooperation;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Kitchener City Council requests the province to do a thorough analysis of the economic impact of climate disasters including flooding, heat related death, property damage and food shortages in order to put an accurate value on adaptation, the protection of farmland, wetlands, ecosystems and the Conservation Authorities who guide such protection and consider the results of that analysis in implementation of the regulations surrounding Bill 23 and any future housing related legislation; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Kitchener City Council requests that the Province of Ontario work with municipalities to explore efficiencies locally that may improve practices to address the housing supply; and,

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, the Honourable Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Honourable Parm Gill, Minister of Red Tape Reduction, Mike Schreiner, Leader of the Ontario Green Party and MPP Guelph, John Fraser, Interim Leader of the Ontario

Liberal Party and MPP Ottawa South, Peter Tabuns, Interim Leader Ontario NDP Party and MPP Toronto-Danforth, Region of Waterloo, City of Cambridge, City of Waterloo, Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Ontario Big City Mayors Caucus, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and local and area MPPs."

cc: Honourable Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Honourable Parm Gill, Minister of Red Tape Reduction
M. Schreiner, Leader, Ontario Green Party and Guelph MPP
J. Fraser, Interim Leader, Ontario Liberal Party and MPP Ottawa South
P. Tabuns, Interim Leader, Ontario NDP Party and MPP Toronto-Danforth
Jess Dixon, Kitchener-South Hespeler MPP
C. Fife, Waterloo MPP
M. Harris, Kitchener-Conestoga MPP
L. Lindo, Kitchener Centre MPP
B. Riddell, Cambridge MPP
W. Short, Region of Waterloo
D. Manton, Clerk, City of Cambridge
J. Finley-Swaren, Clerk, City of Waterloo
Association of Municipalities of Ontario
Ontario Big City Mayors Caucus
Federation of Canadian Municipalities

Yours truly,



A. Fusco
Director of Legislated Services & City Clerk



MOTION – OBCM RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE HEALTH AND HOMELESSNESS CRISIS

WHEREAS municipalities do not have the expertise, capacity, or resources to address increasingly complex health care issues that lead to homelessness or extend chronic homelessness; and are diverting municipal funds for other priorities like affordable housing, transit, social programs etc. to manage these complex health care issues we are seeing in our communities;

AND WHEREAS because traditional housing and shelter spaces are not equipped to serve people with severe mental health and addiction challenges, people often live in the rough in encampments in parks, public spaces or on streets.

AND WHEREAS this is an unprecedented health crisis – leading to unsupervised and dangerous substance use, overdoses, strain on the healthcare system, increased volatility and violence, public safety concerns, business, and downtown degradation;

AND WHEREAS OBCM municipalities have responded to this health care crisis with various housing-driven support programs with limited success and some of our municipalities have taken steps to initiate stronger community partnerships, break down care silos to facilitate better access to support with less barriers;

AND WHEREAS there is no coordinated system response and a lack of the wrap-around health care support services people need – the physical health, mental health, and addiction expertise the province is responsible to provide;

THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED THAT OBCM adopts the strategy created by the City of London and the City of Kingston in consultation with local health partners to address these challenges including five recommendations for the Ontario government to make an immediate impact on the mental health and addictions crisis we are experiencing. These include:

1. Centralized and integrated intake and dispatch process

- An intentionally designed and consistent triage, warm transfer, and dispatch process operating 24 hours a day, 7 days a week year-round by a multidisciplinary, multi agency team, that is well resourced, low/no barrier, trauma and violence informed, culturally aware and flexible to meet the needs of individuals across a range of circumstances and levels of acuity. Inputs to this process could include Community Outreach and Support Teams (COAST), local service providers, and businesses.

2. More provincial investment in low barrier hubs

- Residents need more options for 24/7 low barrier drop-in services with basic rules and a pathway into stabilization options with experienced staff with mental health and addictions expertise. The Hub model provides 24/7 low barrier and wrap around services to people with high acuity that have not been accessing the traditional shelter services.



— **OBCM** —
Ontario's Big City Mayors

The ICH (integrated care hub) can be combined with a Consumption Treatment Services site.

3. More stabilization and treatment beds with experienced staff to support those in their treatment journey

- Communities need a greater variety of options to support high acuity clients on their stabilization pathway. This includes provincial treatment and rehabilitation facilities and additional stabilization, rehab and detox beds.

4. More flexible and predictable funding for supportive housing

- There needs to be a range of supportive housing and options which could include small scale options (i.e., scattered housing), harm reduction housing solutions where municipalities can financially support with the property acquisition/development, but provincial funding is needed to finance ongoing support services as tenants are not capable of living fully independently. This service can prevent evictions and homelessness.

5. More provincial ministry and agency collaboration to reduce red tape and duplication

- Municipalities are increasingly forced to wade into provincial jurisdictions, navigating a siloed system, trying to break down health care silos to best support unhoused individuals suffering with mental health and addictions challenges. However, we need better provincial ministry collaboration to reduce red tape, duplication and financial resources and better coordinate wrap-around support for residents in need.

AND THAT Ontario's Big City Mayors will present this five point plan to the Deputy Premier and Minister of Health Sylvia Jones at the meeting/summit that we have requested to address the homelessness, mental health, safety and addictions crisis impacting our cities.



CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF ESSEX

33 Talbot Street South, Essex, Ontario, N8M 1A8
p: 519.776.7336 f: 519.776.8811 | essex.ca

February 14, 2023

Honourable Steven Lecce, Minister of Education

Ministry of Education
315 Front Street West, 14th Floor
Toronto, ON M7A 0B8

RE: Ontario School Board Elections

Dear Minister Lecce,

At its Regular Meeting on February 6, 2023, Council received correspondence from the Town of Petrolia regarding School Board Elections in Ontario. Through discussion, Council determined that organizing, hosting, and promoting School Board Elections requires an extensive use of municipal resources and co-ordination. It was further discussed that the act of conducting School Board Elections, without compensation or re-imbursement, places a significant financial burden on municipalities.

As a result of that discussion, Council passed the following resolution:

R23-02-034

Moved by: Deputy Mayor Shepley
Seconded by: Councillor Allard

That the correspondence dated January 23, 2023 from the Town of Petrolia regarding School Board Elections be received and supported; and

That a letter of support be sent to the Town of Petrolia, the Honourable Steven Lecce, Minister of Education, MPP Anthony Leardi, the County of Essex and all other municipalities.

Carried

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Shelley Brown".

Shelley Brown

Acting Clerk, Legal and Legislative Services
sbrown@essex.ca



CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF ESSEX

33 Talbot Street South, Essex, Ontario, N8M 1A8

p: 519.776.7336 f: 519.776.8811 | **essex.ca**

c.c. Mandi Pearson, Clerk/Operations Clerk, Town of Petrolia
mpearson@petrolia.ca

Anthony Leardi, MPP
Anthony.Leardi@pc.ola.org

Mary Birch, Acting CAO, County of Essex
m.birch@countyofessex.ca

All 444 Municipalities of Ontario

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF DEEP RIVER

P.O. BOX 400 • 100 DEEP RIVER ROAD • DEEP RIVER, ONTARIO K0J 1P0
Tel: (613) 584-2000 • www.deepriver.ca • Fax: (613) 584-3237



February 16, 2023

Via: Email

The Honourable Stephen Lecce, Minister of Education
Ministry of Education

Re: Ontario School Board Elections

Dear Honourable Stephen Lecce,

Please be advised that Council of the Town of Deep River, at the Regular Meeting of Council on February 1st, 2023, adopted the following Resolution:

6.1.1 School Board Elections Correspondence
Mandi Pearson, Clerk / Operations Clerk, Town of Petrolia

RESOLUTION 2023 29

MOVED BY: Councillor Fitton

SECONDED BY: Councillor Myers

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the correspondence from Ms. Mandi Pearson of the Town of Petrolia, regarding School Board Elections, be received,

THAT Council of the Town of Deep River supports the Resolution passed by the Town of Petrolia Council to request that School Boards become responsible for conducting their own Trustee elections, or at minimum municipalities be compensated by the School Boards for overseeing such Trustee elections; and

THAT staff forward this Resolution to the Honourable Stephen Lecce, Minister of Education, and to Ontario Municipal Councils.

CARRIED

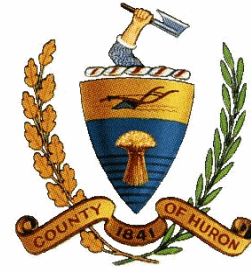
Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Mellon".
Jackie Mellon
Clerk
Town of Deep River

cc: Ontario Municipal Councils

OFFICE OF THE WARDEN

Corporation of the County of Huron
1 Courthouse Square
Goderich, Ontario N7A 1M2
www.HuronCounty.ca
Phone: 519.524.8394
Toll Free: 1.888.524.8394



February 1, 2023

Sent via email.

Re: Call to Action: Review of the Cannabis Act

Please note that on February 1, 2023 Huron County Council passed the following motion:

Moved by: Councillor G. Finch and Seconded by: Councillor M. Anderson

THAT:

The Council of the County of Huron approve the report by CAO Meighan Wark dated February 1, 2023 titled Report to Council: Cannabis Act Information as presented;

AND FURTHER THAT:

The Council of the County of Huron advocate for improvements to the Cannabis Act and current legislative framework for cannabis in Canada by sending the report titled *Report for Council: Cannabis Act Information*, including the correspondence found in the appendices, to the Western Ontario Warden's Caucus (WOWC) for discussion and consideration;

AND FURTHER THAT:

The Council of the County of Huron approve forwarding Call to Action Letters to the following for support:

- Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)
- All Municipalities in Ontario
- Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA)
- Premier of Ontario
- Provincial Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
- Provincial Minister of Agriculture
- Provincial Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
- Member of Parliament
- Federal Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food
- Federal Minister of Health

CARRIED

The County of Huron calls for a review and amendments to the Cannabis Act and the current legislative framework for cannabis in Canada.

To be clear, the County of Huron is not against or opposed to cannabis and we appreciate the role that both the federal and provincial governments provide in assisting municipalities. However, when new legislation is implemented, it is often at the municipal level that the impacts of change can be observed, and notations can be made for areas of improvement. It is vital that municipal governments pay attention and provide information and recommendations to higher levels of government so that continual improvements can be made over time.

It is in this spirit that we provide the following recommendation:

As a municipal government for one of Canada's most agriculturally productive regions and a popular tourism destination, we have been in the position to observe the last several years of legal cannabis production under the Cannabis Act as managed by Health Canada.

Under the current legislative and regulatory framework, we have observed, and continue to observe, serious odour impacts on local communities and residents from cannabis production facilities; including concerns from local medical practitioners about these impacts. Most often, these odour impacts arise from properties used for 'The Production of Cannabis for Own Medical Purposes by a Designated Person'.

In our local municipal experience, these facilities are often established without complying with local municipal zoning and nuisance by-laws, often contain hundreds of cannabis plants for each of the four assigned individuals, and usually do not include adequate odour controls to manage impacts on surrounding homes, public facilities, and the community at large.

To help manage public impacts of cannabis production facilities, we request that all production facilities, including facilities used by a designated person to produce cannabis for an individual's medical purposes, to require confirmation from the local municipality that the facility/site selected complies with all local municipal by-laws and regulations prior to an application being approved by Health Canada. We also request that Health Canada implement a system of minimum setbacks between cannabis production facilities and sensitive odour receptors, including homes and public facilities.

As an agricultural community, we have had extensive experience with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs' Minimum Distance Separation (MDS) Formula, an approach which has been used to successfully manage land use conflicts resulting from odour between livestock facilities and sensitive receptors for almost 50 years. We believe a system based on MDS would be appropriate to manage the

impacts of Health Canada's approved cannabis facilities, including both licensed commercial producers and designated growers for individuals.

In conclusion, we strongly recommend further notice and enhanced consultation with municipal governments when drafting and implementing legislation and regulations related to cannabis production, as there is a direct impact on local municipal operations, local residents, and in some cases, serious issues of non-compliance with local municipal by-laws.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Glen McNeil".

Glen McNeil
Warden, Huron County
On behalf of Huron County Council



Report for Council: Cannabis Act Information

Prepared: January 2023

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7	Correspondence to Council, January 2023: Bonnie Shackelton
7	Appendix A
7	Appendix B

Background

On January 18, 2023, Huron County Council passed the following motion:

THAT:

The Council of the County of Huron request staff to prepare a report for Council on the Federal Cannabis Legislation Review with recommendations on options for Huron County to address their concerns with this legislation.

Cannabis Act: Information For Municipalities

According to The Government of Canada's *Information for Municipalities - Medical Use of Cannabis* there are two approved ways medical cannabis can be grown: *Licensed Producers* and *Personal and Designate Production*

1. Licensed Producers

Licensed producers are individuals or companies licensed by Health Canada to produce and sell cannabis for medical purposes. Licensed producers must meet stringent health and safety security requirements before producing and selling cannabis.

When applying to be a licensed producer under the Access to Cannabis for Medical Purposes Regulations (ACMPR), or when applying to amend a licence, an applicant must notify:

- The municipality
- Local fire officials
- Local law enforcement

Licensed producers must also notify these local authorities, within 30 days, after the issuance of a licence or the renewal, amendment, suspension, reinstatement, or revocation of their licence. These notification requirements are intended to provide local authorities with information about activities with cannabis conducted in their jurisdiction to allow them to take appropriate measures, as applicable.

Licensed producers are expected to obey all relevant federal, provincial and municipal laws and by-laws, including municipal zoning by-laws.

2. Personal and Designated Production

If a person wants to produce a limited amount of cannabis for his/her own medical purposes, he/she needs to register with Health Canada. He/she can also choose to designate another person to produce a limited amount of cannabis for him/her. A person can produce a limited number of marijuana plants under a maximum of two registrations (for one other person and him/herself, or two other people). Marijuana plants may be produced under a maximum of four registrations at one address.

A registered or designated person is permitted to produce marijuana plants indoors and/or outdoors, but not both at the same time. If a person wishes to produce marijuana plants outdoors, the boundary of the land on which the production site is located cannot have any points in common with the boundary of the land on which a school, public playground, day care facility or other public place frequented mainly by persons under 18 years of age.

The number of plants a person can grow is determined by the daily amount recommended by their health care practitioner and a set of formulas in the regulations.

Health Canada also recommends that registered and designated persons be discreet with their production.

Individuals who are registered with Health Canada to produce a limited amount of cannabis for medical purposes are expected to obey all federal, provincial and municipal laws and by-laws.

Community Expressed Concerns

Recently, some concerns regarding the Cannabis Act and local growing practices have been expressed by community members. Some of the topics of concern expressed have included:

- Excessive noise produced by ventilation units
- Serious odour impacts from production
- Health concerns from neighbouring property owners
- Questions regarding zoning requirements for Cannabis operations, particularly in regards to areas zoned residential
- The current lack of a Minimum Distance Separation (MDS) between licensed facilities/designate growers, and homes, public facilities

Impact to the Municipality

Community concerns regarding the Cannabis Act have an impact on the municipality. These impacts include the costs associated with Council and staff time and legal fees. There is also a potential for community disruption pertaining to licenses issued under the Federal Medical Cannabis Registration process.

It is important to note that the municipality's concerns expressed in this report are not against or opposed to cannabis. The County of Huron appreciates the role that both the federal and provincial governments provide in assisting municipalities. However, when new legislation is implemented, it is often at the municipal level that the impacts of change can be observed and notations can be made for areas of improvement. It is vital that municipal governments pay attention and provide information and recommendations to other levels of government so that continual improvements can be made over time.

Advocacy Efforts to Date

On October 5, 2022 a letter was sent to the Cannabis Act Legislative Review Secretariat of Health Canada. The letter offered requested feedback on the Cannabis Act and a recommendation for a Minimum Distance Separation to protect residential areas.

See Appendix A.

Recommendations for Further Advocacy

Report for Council: Cannabis Act Information (this report)

Further advocacy could be accomplished by sending this report, including the correspondence found in the appendices, to the Western Ontario Warden's Caucus (WOWC) for discussion and consideration.

A Call to Action Letter could be sent on behalf of WOWC, and all WOWC member municipalities could be invited to send similar letters to the agencies and individuals outlined below.

Call to Action Letter

A sample Call to Action Letter for Huron County can be found in Appendix B. Once approved by Council, letters could be sent to:

Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)
All Municipalities in Ontario
Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA)
Premier of Ontario: Doug Ford
Provincial Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks: David Piccini
Provincial Minister of Agriculture: Lisa Thompson
Provincial Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing: Steve Clark
Member of Parliament: Ben Lobb
Federal Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food: Marie-Claude Bibeau
Federal Minister of Health: Jean-Yves Duclos

Further Resources

The Cannabis Act: The Facts

<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2018/06/backgrounder-the-cannabis-act-the-facts.html>

The Cannabis Act

https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/annualstatutes/2018_16/FullText.html#:~:text=The%20objectives%20of%20the%20Act,operating%20outside%20the%20legal%20framework

Cannabis Information for Municipalities

<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-medication/cannabis/information-municipalities.html>

Ontario: Cannabis Control Act

<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/17c26>

Correspondence Received by Council

Correspondence to Council, January 2023: Bonnie Shackelton

<https://agendas.huroncounty.ca/agendapublic/AttachmentViewer.ashx?AttachmentID=7134&ItemID=5394>

Appendix A

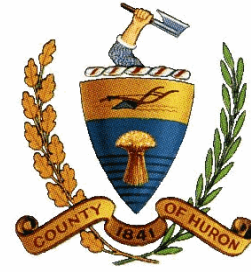
Copy of the letter sent to the Cannabis Act Legislative Review Secretariat of Health Canada on October 5, 2022

Appendix B

Sample Call to Action Letter

OFFICE OF THE WARDEN

Corporation of the County of Huron
1 Courthouse Square
Goderich, Ontario N7A 1M2
www.HuronCounty.ca
Phone: 519.524.8394
Toll Free: 1.888.524.8394



October, 5, 2022

To: Cannabis Act Legislative Review Secretariat
Health Canada
Address locator 03021
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0K9

On October 5, 2022, Huron County Council passed the following motion:

THAT:

The Council of the County of Huron send correspondence to Health Canada requesting consultation when implementing legislation on cannabis regulation as there is a direct impact on municipal operations and sometimes non compliancy to municipal by-laws;

AND FURTHER THAT:

The Council of the County of Huron recommends the inclusion of a system of Minimum Distance Separation to protect residential areas;

AND FURTHER THAT:

This correspondence be circulated to Huron County local municipalities for support.

Thank you for requesting feedback on the Cannabis Act and the current legislative framework for cannabis in Canada. As a municipal government for one of Canada's most agriculturally productive regions, and a popular tourism destination, we have been in the position to observe areas for improvement during the last several years of legal cannabis production under the Cannabis Act as managed by Health Canada.

Under the current legislative and regulatory framework, we have observed, and continue to observe, serious odour impacts on local communities and residents from cannabis production facilities; including concerns from local medical practitioners about these impacts. Most often, these odour impacts arise from properties used for 'The Production of Cannabis for Own Medical Purposes by a Designated Person'.

In our local municipal experience, these facilities are often established without complying with local municipal zoning and nuisance by-laws, often contain hundreds

of cannabis plants for each of the four assigned individuals, and usually do not include adequate odour controls to manage impacts on surrounding homes, public facilities, and the community at large.

To help manage public impacts of cannabis production facilities, we request that all production facilities, including facilities used by a designated person to produce cannabis for an individual's medical purposes, require confirmation from the local municipality that the facility/site selected complies with all local municipal by-laws and regulations prior to an application being approved by Health Canada. We also request that Health Canada implement a system of minimum setbacks between cannabis production facilities and sensitive odour receptors, including homes and public facilities.

As an agricultural community we have had extensive experience with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs Minimum Distance Separation (MDS) Formula, an approach which has been used to successfully manage land use conflicts resulting from odour between livestock facilities and sensitive receptors for almost fifty years. We believe a system based on MDS would be appropriate to manage the impacts of Health Canada's approved cannabis facilities, including both licensed commercial producers and designated growers for individuals.

In conclusion, we strongly recommend enhanced consultation with municipal governments and request further notice and consultation with the County of Huron when drafting and implementing legislation and regulations dealing with matters related to cannabis production, as there is a direct impact on local municipal operations, local residents, and in some cases serious issues of non-compliance with local municipal by-laws.

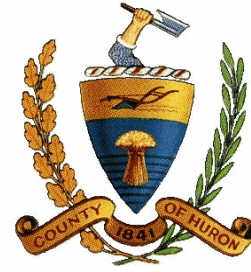
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Glen McNeil", written in a cursive style.

Glen McNeil
Warden, Huron County
On behalf of Huron County Council

OFFICE OF THE WARDEN

Corporation of the County of Huron
1 Courthouse Square
Goderich, Ontario N7A 1M2
www.HuronCounty.ca
Phone: 519.524.8394
Toll Free: 1.888.524.8394



{insert date}

To: {insert recipient}

Re: Call to Action: Review of the Cannabis Act

On {insert date}, Huron County Council passed the following motion:

THAT:

{insert motion}

AND FURTHER THAT:

{insert motion}

The County of Huron calls for a review and amendments to the Cannabis Act and the current legislative framework for cannabis in Canada.

To be clear, the County of Huron is not against or opposed to cannabis and we appreciate the role that both the federal and provincial governments provide in assisting municipalities. However, when new legislation is implemented, it is often at the municipal level that the impacts of change can be observed, and notations can be made for areas of improvement. It is vital that municipal governments pay attention and provide information and recommendations to higher levels of government so that continual improvements can be made over time.

It is in this spirit that we provide the following recommendation:

As a municipal government for one of Canada's most agriculturally productive regions and a popular tourism destination, we have been in the position to observe the last several years of legal cannabis production under the Cannabis Act as managed by Health Canada.

Under the current legislative and regulatory framework, we have observed, and continue to observe, serious odour impacts on local communities and residents from cannabis production facilities; including concerns from local medical practitioners about these impacts. Most often, these odour impacts arise from properties used for 'The Production of Cannabis for Own Medical Purposes by a Designated Person'.

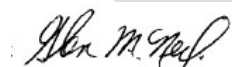
In our local municipal experience, these facilities are often established without complying with local municipal zoning and nuisance by-laws, often contain hundreds of cannabis plants for each of the four assigned individuals, and usually do not include adequate odour controls to manage impacts on surrounding homes, public facilities, and the community at large.

To help manage public impacts of cannabis production facilities, we request that all production facilities, including facilities used by a designated person to produce cannabis for an individual's medical purposes, to require confirmation from the local municipality that the facility/site selected complies with all local municipal by-laws and regulations prior to an application being approved by Health Canada. We also request that Health Canada implement a system of minimum setbacks between cannabis production facilities and sensitive odour receptors, including homes and public facilities.

As an agricultural community, we have had extensive experience with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs' Minimum Distance Separation (MDS) Formula, an approach which has been used to successfully manage land use conflicts resulting from odour between livestock facilities and sensitive receptors for almost 50 years. We believe a system based on MDS would be appropriate to manage the impacts of Health Canada's approved cannabis facilities, including both licensed commercial producers and designated growers for individuals.

In conclusion, we strongly recommend further notice and enhanced consultation with municipal governments when drafting and implementing legislation and regulations related to cannabis production, as there is a direct impact on local municipal operations, local residents, and in some cases, serious issues of non-compliance with local municipal by-laws.

Sincerely,



Glen McNeil
Warden, Huron County
On behalf of Huron County Council