



Memorandum

Office of the Chief Administrative Officer

To: Mayor and Members of Council

From: Andy Taylor, Chief Administrative Officer

Date: June 9, 2015

Re: Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing – Municipal Legislation Review

1. Background

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) is undertaking a municipal legislation review of the following four Acts: 1) the Municipal Elections Act (MEA); 2) the Municipal Act; 3) the City of Toronto Act; and 4) the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act.

On May 28, 2015 the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing's Office invited Municipal CAOs, Clerks and Treasurers to attend one of the three scheduled public consultation sessions regarding the above Acts. Three in-person consultation sessions are scheduled: June 5, June 16 and July 7. Markham hosted the first session on June 5, which only dealt with the MEA review. The June 16 and July 7 sessions will cover all four pieces of legislation noted above (see Attachment "A").

Ontario municipalities have the opportunity to help shape provincial legislation by submitting comments on the four Acts noted above. Citizens of Ontario have also been encouraged to participate in the consultation process and links to the MMAH's website have been included under "Attachments".

- **MEA Review:**

The Ontario government will focus on the following five themes with respect to the MEA: 1) campaign finances; 2) third party advertising; 3) accessibility; 4) enforcement; and 5) ranked ballots.

Comments and feedback regarding the MEA must be submitted by **July 27, 2015**.

- **The Municipal Act, the City of Toronto Act and the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act Review:**

The province will focus on three key areas of review regarding the above Acts: 1) Accountability and Transparency; 2) Municipal Financial Sustainability; and 3) Responsive and Flexible Municipal Government.

Comments and feedback regarding the Municipal Act, the City of Toronto Act and the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act must be submitted by **August 7, 2015**.

2. Issue

The last scheduled Council meeting before the summer recess is June 23, 2015, which does not provide staff an opportunity to review the Acts to present Council with comprehensive recommendations for endorsement. For that reason, it is recommended that Council delegate its authority to the CAO to submit comments on behalf of the City of Markham.

3. Staff Recommendation

- 1) That the Chief Administrative Officer be delegated the authority to submit comments to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing regarding the Municipal Legislation Review on behalf of Markham City Council; and
- 2) That Staff be authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to this resolution.

4. Next Steps

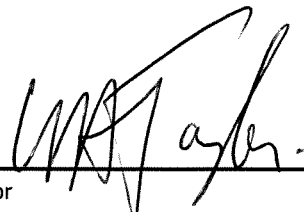
Upon receiving and assessing the feedback regarding the MEA, the Ministry will develop recommendations for the government on how to improve the Act. It is expected that the results of the consultation process will be communicated later this year.

5. Attachments

Attachment "A" - Letter from MMAH Regional Director, Marcia Wallace

Attachment "B" - Municipal Legislation Review (Municipal Act, the City of Toronto Act & the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act)

Attachment "C" - Municipal Elections Act Review

X

Andy Taylor
Chief Administrative Officer