

November 27, 2023

Re: Item for Discussion – Request for Amendment to Legislation Act, 2006

At its meeting of November 15, 2023, the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Bracebridge ratified motion #23-GC-229, regarding the Request for Amendment to Legislation Act, 2006, as follows:

“WHEREAS Metroland Media Group sought bankruptcy protection and ceased the print publication of more than seventy (70) of its weekly community newspapers across Ontario;

AND WHEREAS Metroland Media Group will offer a digital-only format for its customers in place of the more than seventy (70) weekly community newspapers;

AND WHEREAS the Legislation Act, 2006 provides a definition of “newspaper” that is applicable to every Provincial Act and Regulation, as a document that, (a) is printed in sheet form, published at regular intervals of a week or less and circulated to the general public, and (b) consists primarily of news of current events of general interest;

AND WHEREAS Ontario Municipalities are required to follow publication and notice requirements for Provincial Acts and Regulations;

AND WHEREAS communities such as the Town of Bracebridge cannot comply with publication requirements in Provincial Acts and Regulations as the Bracebridge Examiner news publication is no longer being printed in sheet form and there are no other local news publications fitting the definition of “newspaper”;

AND WHEREAS Bill 73, Supporting Ontario’s Community, Rural and Agricultural Newspapers Act, 2023, is an Act to amend various Acts with respect to the publication of notices in newspapers, however, it does not address the needs of communities that have no local news publications fitting the definition of “newspaper” being “(a) is printed in sheet form, published at regular intervals of a month or less and circulated to the general public, and (b) consists primarily of news of current events of general interest.”;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Bracebridge does hereby request the Provincial government to make an amendment to the Legislation Act, 2006 to include digital publications as an acceptable means of publication and notice requirements for Provincial Acts and Regulations;

AND FURTHER THAT this resolution be forwarded to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Paul Calandra; Parry Sound-Muskoka MPP, Graydon Smith; the Association of Ontario Municipalities (AMO); the Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario (AMCTO); and, all Ontario Municipalities.”

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In accordance with Council's direction, I am forwarding you a copy of the resolution for you reference.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can provide any additional clarification in this regard.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lori McDonald". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lori McDonald
Director of Corporate Services/Clerk