



Township of Perry

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November 20, 2023

Via Email

Hon. Doug Downey
Attorney General
McMurtry-Scott Building, 11th Floor, 720 Bay St.
Toronto, ON M7A 2S9

Dear Honourable Downey,

**RE: Letter of Support - Amendments to Legislation Act, 2006 –
Corporation of the Township of Perry**

Please be advised that at their last regular meeting on Wednesday November 15, 2023, the Council of the Township of Perry supported the following resolution:

"Resolution #2023-378

Moved by: Margaret Ann MacPhail

Seconded by: Joe Lumley

Whereas *Metroland Media Group has sought bankruptcy protection and will cease to print publication of its weekly community newspapers across Ontario, moving to an online-only model; and*

Whereas *Neil Oliver, Chief Executive Officer and President of Metroland Media Group, said the 71 Metroland community publications will be digital only going forward; and*

Whereas *the Legislation Act, 2006, provides a definition of 'newspaper' which applies to every Ontario Act and Regulation, as in a provision requiring publication, means 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; ('journal'); and*

Whereas *Ontario Municipalities are required to follow publication and notice requirements for Provincial Acts and Regulations; and*

Whereas communities such as the East Parry Sound Area cannot comply with publication requirements in Provincial Acts and Regulations as the Almaguin News and Muskoka Region publications are no longer being printed in sheet form and there are no other local news publications fitting the definition of 'newspaper'; and

Whereas some small, rural, Ontario Municipalities may not have the means to bring an application to the Court to ask for directions and approval of an alternate manner of providing notice;

Be it resolved that the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Perry 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 Honourable Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing Paul Calandra, the Honourable Parry Sound Muskoka MPP Graydon Smith, The Association of Ontario Municipalities (AMO), CEO and President of Metroland Media Group, Neil Oliver, and all Ontario Municipalities.

Carried."

Your immediate attention to this matter is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



Erica Cole, Dipl.M.A.
Deputy Clerk

CC: Honourable Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Paul Calandara
Honourable Parry Sound Muskoka MPP Graydon Smith
The Association of Ontario Municipalities (AMO)
CEO and President, Metroland Media Group, Neil Oliver
All Ontario municipalities