



August 3, 2021

**SUBJECT: *Main Street Recovery Act: Proclamation of Amendments to the  
Municipal Act and City of Toronto Act***

Dear Chief Administrative Officers and Clerks:

As you may know, in fall 2020, the government introduced amendments to the *Municipal Act, 2001* and *City of Toronto Act, 2006* through [Bill 215, \*Main Street Recovery Act, 2020\*](#). I am writing to update you that these legislative changes are scheduled to come into force on **September 19, 2021**.

As we collectively work to recover from the impacts of the pandemic, these legislative changes will help support economic recovery on main streets across Ontario and help ensure that important goods can continue to be delivered to businesses in our communities as efficiently as possible. Past pilot projects, which worked with municipal partners, have shown that the changes could also help reduce rush-hour traffic, lower fuel costs for businesses, and reduce greenhouse gas and other emissions.

From September 19, 2021 onwards, municipalities will not be able to regulate noise related to the delivery of goods to the following destinations:

1. Retail business establishments;
2. Restaurants, including cafes and bars;
3. Hotels and motels; and
4. Goods distribution facilities.

These changes will come into force on the same day as the expiry of temporary regulations (O. Reg. 70/20 and O. Reg. 71/20). These regulations, introduced at the outset of the pandemic, limit municipalities from regulating all noise related to the delivery of goods. From September 19, 2021 onwards, once the temporary regulations expire, municipalities will again have the authority to regulate delivery noise to destinations other than the four categories listed above.

Many municipalities, as well as business and logistics sector stakeholders, have expressed support for providing more flexibility for deliveries because of the benefits they offer Ontario's main street businesses and the local communities these businesses serve. Local businesses also have an interest in working to ensure that they continue to be good neighbours while planning for deliveries of goods to their businesses.

Prior to these amendments coming into force and for clarity for your stakeholders, your municipality may wish to review any applicable bylaws and consider whether any changes are necessary to align with the new framework. If your municipality has any questions on these changes, I would encourage you to contact your local [Municipal Services Office](#).

We will continue to monitor the implementation of this new framework. The Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing has regulation-making authority to authorize municipalities to regulate delivery noise to the businesses noted above. No regulations are proposed to be made at this time to minimize burden for municipalities and businesses but may be considered in the future if deemed necessary.

Thank you for your continued support and collaboration as we work to support economic recovery in Ontario's communities.

Yours truly,



Kate Manson-Smith

Deputy Minister

- c: Laurie LeBlanc, Deputy Minister, Transportation  
Giles Gherson, Deputy Minister, Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade  
Brian Rosborough, Executive Director, Association of Municipalities of Ontario  
Bill Bond, President, Municipal Law Enforcement Officers' Association  
Jonathan Lebi, Assistant Deputy Minister, Local Government and Planning Policy Division, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing  
Hannah Evans, Assistant Deputy Minister, Municipal Services Division, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing



John D. Elvidge  
City Clerk

City Clerk's Office

**Secretariat**  
Marilyn Toft  
Council Secretariat Support  
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web: www.toronto.ca

**In reply please quote:  
Ref.: 21-GL23.3**

June 24, 2021

**ONTARIO MUNICIPAL AND REGIONAL COUNCILS:**

**Subject: General Government and Licensing Committee Item 23.3  
Report on Bill 177 Stronger Fairer Ontario Act Changes to Provincial  
Offences Act (Ward All)**

City Council on June 8 and 9, 2021, adopted the following resolution and has circulated it to all Municipal City Councils and Regional Councils in Ontario for support:

1. City Council request the Attorney General of Ontario to halt the proclamation of the Early Resolution reforms included in Bill 177, Stronger, Fairer Ontario Act.
2. City Council request the Attorney General of Ontario to review the Early Resolution provisions of the Provincial Offences Act and take action to streamline and modernize this section with a view to making it easier for the public and prosecutors to engage in resolution discussions, and to administer early resolution proceedings in Provincial Offences Court.
3. City Council request the Attorney General of Ontario to enact changes to the Provincial Offences Act and any related regulations, to permit the prosecutor and defendant or legal representative to agree, at any stage of a proceeding, to a resolution in writing for proceedings commenced under Part I of the Provincial Offences Act and to permit the Clerk of the Court to register the court outcome immediately upon receipt of the written agreement without requiring an appearance before a Justice of the Peace.



for City Clerk

M. Toft/wg

Attachment

c. City Manager



## General Government and Licensing Committee

GL23.3		Adopted on Consent		Ward: All
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### Report on Bill 177 Stronger Fairer Ontario Act Changes to Provincial Offences Act

#### City Council Decision

City Council on June 8 and 9, 2021, adopted the following:

1. City Council request the Attorney General of Ontario to halt the proclamation of the Early Resolution reforms included in Bill 177, Stronger, Fairer Ontario Act.
2. City Council request the Attorney General of Ontario to review the Early Resolution provisions of the Provincial Offences Act and take action to streamline and modernize this section with a view to making it easier for the public and prosecutors to engage in resolution discussions, and to administer early resolution proceedings in Provincial Offences Court.
3. City Council request the Attorney General of Ontario to enact changes to the Provincial Offences Act and any related regulations, to permit the prosecutor and defendant or legal representative to agree, at any stage of a proceeding, to a resolution in writing for proceedings commenced under Part I of the Provincial Offences Act and to permit the Clerk of the Court to register the court outcome immediately upon receipt of the written agreement without requiring an appearance before a Justice of the Peace.
4. City Council direct that this resolution be circulated to the all Municipal City Councils and Regional Councils in Ontario for support.

#### Committee Recommendations

The General Government and Licensing Committee recommend that:

1. City Council request the Attorney General of Ontario to halt the proclamation of the Early Resolution reforms included in Bill 177, Stronger, Fairer Ontario Act.
2. City Council request the Attorney General of Ontario to review the Early Resolution provisions of the Provincial Offences Act and take action to streamline and modernize this section with a view to making it easier for the public and prosecutors to engage in resolution discussions, and to administer early resolution proceedings in Provincial Offences Court.
3. City Council request the Attorney General of Ontario to enact changes to the Provincial Offences Act and any related regulations, to permit the prosecutor and defendant or legal

representative to agree, at any stage of a proceeding, to a resolution in writing for proceedings commenced under Part I of the Provincial Offences Act and to permit the Clerk of the Court to register the court outcome immediately upon receipt of the written agreement without requiring an appearance before a Justice of the Peace.

4. City Council direct that this resolution be circulated to the all Municipal City Councils and Regional Councils in Ontario for support.

### **Origin**

(May 7, 2021) Report from the City Solicitor and the Director, Court Services

### **Summary**

This report responds to the changes to the Provincial Offences Act under Bill 177 Stronger, Fairer Ontario Act for City Council to review and consider taking action on the staff recommendations contained herein.

### **Background Information (Committee)**

(May 7, 2021) Report from the City Solicitor and the Director, Court Services on Report on Bill 177 Stronger Fairer Ontario Act Changes to Provincial Offences Act

(<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2021/gl/bqrd/backgroundfile-166871.pdf>)

Attachment 1 - Bill 177 Changes to section 5.1 of Provincial Offences Act as enacted and not proclaimed

(<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2021/gl/bqrd/backgroundfile-166872.pdf>)

City Clerk's Office

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web: www.toronto.ca

**In reply please quote:  
Ref.: 21-MM32.12**

## **ONTARIO MUNICIPALITIES:**

**Subject: Member Motion Item 32.12  
Building the Early Learning and Child Care System Toronto Needs (Ward All)**

City Council on May 5 and 6, 2021, adopted the following:

1. City Council reaffirm the City of Toronto's support for building a system of early learning and child care services that are high-quality, public and not-for profit, affordable, inclusive and accessible for all families.
2. City Council express its support for the Government of Canada's April 19, 2021 budget announcement to invest in building a Canada wide system of Early Learning and Child Care and Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care, that builds on City of Toronto policies and service plans, and has adequate and ongoing operating and capital funding.
3. City Council communicate to the Provincial and Federal Governments, the City of Toronto's interest in working collaboratively, and participating in tri-lateral discussions as soon as possible, with the goal of achieving intergovernmental agreements by Fall 2021, and City Council make these negotiations a priority in our intergovernmental strategies.
4. City Council direct the General Manager, Children's Services to include in the June 2021 Growth Strategy Update report to the Economic and Community Development Committee and City Council, the opportunities and funding the Federal announcement could provide to expedite the Growth Strategy in Toronto, and to report to the Budget Committee on the City's share of new committed funding for child care once it is known.
5. City Council direct the General Manager, Children's Services to work closely with, and leverage the expertise of partners including the Province, City divisions, school boards and service providers to expand existing and develop new licensed child care services.

6. City Council request the City Clerk to distribute City Council's decision to other municipalities in Ontario, the Ontario Municipal Social Services Association and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M. Toft', written over the text 'for City Clerk'.

for City Clerk

M. Toft/wg

Attachment

Sent to: Prime Minister of Canada  
Premier, Province of Ontario  
Executive Director, Ontario Municipal Social Services Association  
Executive Director, Association of Municipalities of Ontario  
Municipalities in Ontario

c. City Manager

## City Council

### Member Motions - Meeting 32

MM32.12	ACTION	Adopted		Ward: All
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### **Building the Early Learning and Child Care System Toronto Needs - by Councillor Mike Layton, seconded by Councillor Shelley Carroll**

#### **City Council Decision**

City Council on May 5 and 6, 2021, adopted the following:

1. City Council reaffirm the City of Toronto's support for building a system of early learning and child care services that are high-quality, public and not-for profit, affordable, inclusive and accessible for all families.
2. City Council express its support for the Government of Canada's April 19, 2021 budget announcement to invest in building a Canada wide system of Early Learning and Child Care and Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care, that builds on City of Toronto policies and service plans, and has adequate and ongoing operating and capital funding.
3. City Council communicate to the Provincial and Federal Governments, the City of Toronto's interest in working collaboratively, and participating in tri-lateral discussions as soon as possible, with the goal of achieving intergovernmental agreements by Fall 2021, and City Council make these negotiations a priority in our intergovernmental strategies.
4. City Council direct the General Manager, Children's Services to include in the June 2021 Growth Strategy Update report to the Economic and Community Development Committee and City Council, the opportunities and funding the Federal announcement could provide to expedite the Growth Strategy in Toronto, and to report to the Budget Committee on the City's share of new committed funding for child care once it is known.
5. City Council direct the General Manager, Children's Services to work closely with, and leverage the expertise of partners including the Province, City divisions, school boards and service providers to expand existing and develop new licensed child care services.
6. City Council request the City Clerk to distribute City Council's decision to other municipalities in Ontario, the Ontario Municipal Social Services Association and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario.

#### **Summary**

The lack of affordable, high-quality early learning and child care is one of the most significant challenges for families in our City. The pandemic has exacerbated the situation, and

accentuated the importance of child care for Toronto parents.

We have seen the gendered-impact of the pandemic on women. We have experienced the toll on parents, particularly mothers, because of the lack of access to child care. We know women will continue to face huge barriers to equitable participation in our economy if child care is not at the centre of COVID-19 recovery strategies. We also know that underserved communities, low-income and BIPOC families, people with disabilities, and those who are precariously-employed will not share in the benefits of economic renewal without access to affordable child care.

A broad consensus has emerged across all sectors, including business, academic, social service and feminist organizations, that a robust system of accessible, high-quality child care services is essential for Canada's economic renewal. The time is now to make long-awaited progress on child care for Toronto families.

The Government of Canada has recognized that investment in child care is urgently needed, and of national importance, for families and the economy. As part of the Budget 2021, it has committed to build a Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care system that is affordable, high-quality and accessible for all families. The plan calls for \$30 Billion over 5 years, with an ongoing annual expenditure of \$8.3 Billion. The goal is to reduce fees by 50 percent by 2022, and achieve an average cost of \$10.00 per day by 2026.

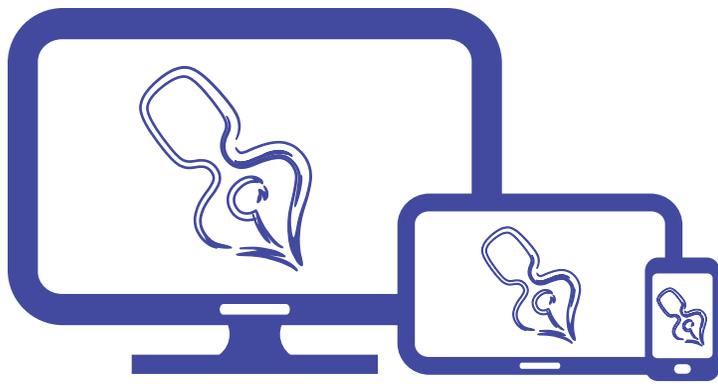
The announcement is welcome news for women, their families, and cities across the Country. Toronto manages the second largest system of child care services in the Country, and it is important for our City to show its support for building a strong system of Early Learning and Child Care in Toronto and across Ontario – and that we are ready to work with the Federal and Provincial governments to achieve it.

City Council must reinforce the urgency, and express our willingness to be partners with all levels of government, and to act now, with urgency, to ensure this promise becomes a reality for Toronto children and families.

### **Background Information (City Council)**

Member Motion MM32.12

(<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2021/mm/bgrd/backgroundfile-166359.pdf>)



# Fred Dean's Fall 2021 "User Friendly" Webinars

## 21-3: Don't be Crippled by a Lame Duck Council

Now is the time to begin thinking about what needs to be in place in the event Council becomes "lame duck" in 2022. Staff need 2021 to get ready for this eventuality. When does Council become "lame duck" and what are the strategies involved? Be prepared!

**Thursday September 30, October 7 & 14 from 11:00 to 11:45**

## 21-4: Preparing for Council Orientation: Avoiding the Pitfalls

It is a new world. New Council orientation must reflect the new realities. It is not good enough to provide members of council hundreds or even thousands of pages of information, documents and By-laws. That doesn't work. You need a plan to prepare members for the realities of council. In this webinar you will learn what information is most critical and important. How do members learn? What devices can staff use to prepare both new members and those returning members.

Your orientation plan is critical to the success of the new council and to developing and maintaining a strong, positive relationship between members and staff.

In this webinar you will learn when to first begin the orientation. What are the key elements? Who should provide the training? What is information overload and how do you avoid it? Don't forget about members of local boards and committees. This webinar will allow you to move into 2022 with a plan that will achieve maximum benefits for members as well as staff.

**Wednesday October 20, 27 and  
November 3 & 10 from 11:00 to 11:45 am**

## 21-5: Learning by Doing – Mock Council Meeting

How to make your message stick. The focus of this Webinar is to explore how staff can make their messages stick during council orientation. It follows up on the Council Orientation Webinar. Whether meeting by Zoom or in person, members and staff must be effective at meetings. This Webinar will examine the use of a mock council meeting and how to have council members participate in a play to enhance their learning experience. A sample play will be performed as part of the Webinar.

**Thursday, November 25, December 2 & 9  
from 11:00 to 11:45 am**

## Basics for New Members of Council

This is a unique opportunity to provide a member of council with training on the fundamentals of municipal government. It is also designed to assist committee chairs and local board members. Each session is two hours in length at a time mutually agreed upon. There will be a maximum of 5 participants. It will be interactive with the members being able to have their questions answered. Topics will include Roles & Responsibilities, Meeting procedures, Personal responsibilities and more...

Whether a member has recently been appointed or elected to council since the general election or is someone who is looking for assistance in fulfilling their role on council, this programme will enhance their knowledge base.

*"User Friendly" Webinars means: No hassles, Participate and learn from a location convenient to you, Short, concise, 45 minute sessions, Participate with your colleagues and learn together*

### In Case You Missed It...

#### Council Meeting Procedures, Parts 1 & 2

9 sessions.....\$350 + HST

#### The Art of Municipal Minute-Taking

3 sessions.....\$198 + HST

#### Taking the Mysteries out of Council Committees & Policies

4 sessions.....\$198 + HST



***Fred Dean is a municipal coach and former municipal solicitor with extensive experience. He has delivered numerous orientation and councillor training sessions across Ontario. He has presented workshops and webinars to municipal administrators across the province for years.***

### Register Today! Register by email - [webinar@citysolicitor.net](mailto:webinar@citysolicitor.net)

#### Webinar 21-3 Don't be Crippled by a Lame Duck Council

Thursday September 30, October 7 & 14 from 11:00 to 11:45:  
\$189 + \$24.57 HST = \$213.57

#### Webinar 21-4 Preparing for Council Orientation: Avoiding the Pitfalls

Wednesday October 20, 27 and November 3 & 10  
from 11:00 to 11:45 am: \$249 + \$32.37 HST = \$281.37

#### Webinar 21-5 Learning by Doing – Mock Council Meeting

Thursday, November 25, December 2 & 9 from 11:00 to 11:45 am:  
\$175 + \$22.75 = \$197.75

**Register for 21-4 & 21-5 and save \$75:**

\$349 + \$45.37 HST = \$394.37

Registration is payable 10 days prior to the Webinar. A full refund is available with cancellation before the due date. No refunds after the due date but a full credit will be given towards future webinars or workshops.

Forward a cheque payable to "FRED DEAN"  
7 Clarendon Ave., Unit B, Toronto, ON M4V 1H8

**Questions?** Call 416 553 8811 or email: [webinar@citysolicitor.net](mailto:webinar@citysolicitor.net)

**\*\*\* If you are unable to attend one of the sessions, a recording will be available to you. \*\*\***

*Watch for my announcement of the webinars planned for 2022.*



**Corporate Services Department**  
**Clerk's Office**  
CITY of STRATFORD  
City Hall, P.O. Box 818  
Stratford ON N5A 6W1

519-271-0250 Ext. 5237  
Fax: 519-273-5041  
www.stratford.ca

July 23, 2021

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

[premier@ontario.ca](mailto:premier@ontario.ca)

Dear Premier Ford:

Re: Resolution to Phase Out Ontario's Gas Plants

At their June 28, 2021 Regular Council meeting, Stratford City Council adopted a resolution petitioning the provincial government to immediately take steps to replace gas powered electrical generation with non-carbon-based sustainable alternatives.

A copy of the resolution is attached for your consideration. We kindly request your support and endorsement.

Sincerely,  
  
Tatiana Dafoe  
Clerk

Encl.  
/ja

cc: MPP Randy Pettapiece  
MP John Nater  
Association of Municipalities of Ontario  
Federation of Canadian Municipalities  
All Ontario municipalities



## THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF STRATFORD

### Resolution: Phase Out Ontario's Gas Plants

**WHEREAS** the Earth is on course toward a climate crisis, unless timely actions are taken to minimize the greenhouse effect;

**AND WHEREAS** the use of fossil fuels is a major contributor to the greenhouse effect because of the increasing amount of heat trapping Carbon Dioxide in the atmosphere;

**AND WHEREAS** Stratford, along with other municipalities has declared a "Climate Emergency" and is considering a Carbon Net Zero goal to be achieved by 2050;

**AND WHEREAS** the 2050 Carbon Net Zero goal has been, and is being adopted by countries and governments at all levels, as well as by industries, social and economic institutions;

**AND WHEREAS** the most effective way of achieving that goal is through initiatives in reducing carbon footprint, and greening;

**AND WHEREAS** in the Province of Ontario, Electricity generation fueled by Natural gas contributes substantially to the province's carbon footprint and provides an opportunity for rapid reduction of carbon dioxide emissions through the elimination of this form of generation;

**AND WHEREAS** in the interest of environmental and economic wellbeing for the province of Ontario, immediate action to replace the gas generators by sustainable zero carbon alternatives should be undertaken;

**NOW THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED** that the City of Stratford strongly appeal to the Government of Ontario to immediately take steps to replace gas powered electrical generation with non-carbon based sustainable alternatives;

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this resolution be circulated to Ontario municipalities and their organizations including AMO and OSUM for their consideration of support.

-----  
Adopted by City Council of The Corporation of the City of Stratford on June 28, 2021

The Corporation of the City of Stratford, P.O. Box 818, Stratford ON N5A 6W1  
Attention: City Clerk, 519-271-0250 ext 5329, [clerks@stratford.ca](mailto:clerks@stratford.ca)

## Finance & Audit Committee Resolution

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**Committee Meeting Date:** July 6, 2021  
**Agenda Item:** 9b  
**Resolution Number:** 2021-07-06-465  
**Moved by:** R. Crake  
**Seconded by:** W. Cane  
**Council Meeting Date:** July 21, 2021

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“That the Finance and Audit Committee, having considered Report 2021-115, ‘Municipal Court Managers’ Association / POA Advocacy’ recommend that County Council request the Attorney General of Ontario to halt the proclamation of the Early Resolution reforms included in Bill 177 Stronger Fairer Ontario Act and take immediate action to streamline and modernize this section of the legislation by making it easier and more convenient for the public and prosecutors to engage in resolution discussions, and by making it more effective and efficient to administer early resolution proceedings for Part I and Part II offences in the Provincial Offences Court; and

**Further That** the Committee recommend that County Council request the Attorney General of Ontario to enact changes to the Provincial Offences Act and any related regulations to permit the prosecutor and defendant or legal representative to agree, at any stage of a proceeding, to a resolution in writing for proceedings commenced under Part I or Part II of the POA, and to permit the Clerk of the Court to register the court outcome immediately upon receipt of the written agreement without requiring an appearance before a justice of the peace; and

**Further That** the Committee recommend that County Council request the Ministry of Transportation in consultation with Municipalities consider suspending (temporarily) the imposition of demerit points for persons who pay their ticket in cases where they have no previous relevant convictions; and

**Further That** the Committee recommend that County Council direct staff to forward a copy of this resolution to the Ministry of the Attorney General, MPP David Piccini (Northumberland – Peterborough South), and all Ontario municipalities.”

Carried   
Committee Chair's Signature

Defeated \_\_\_\_\_  
Committee Chair's Signature

Deferred \_\_\_\_\_  
Committee Chair's Signature

## Council Resolution

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Moved By J. Henderson

Agenda  
Item 10

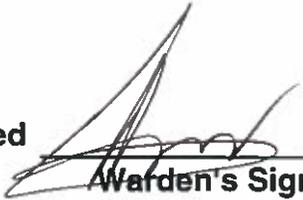
Resolution Number  
2021-07-21-491

Seconded By S. Arthur

Council Date: July 21, 2021

"That County Council adopt all recommendations from the five Standing Committees, as contained within the Committees' Minutes (July 5, 6, 7, 2021 meetings), with the exception of any items identified by Members, which Council has/will consider separately, including Item 9f of this agenda, the 'Thompson Bridge Closure'."

Recorded Vote  
Requested by \_\_\_\_\_  
Councillor's Name

Carried   
Warden's Signature

Deferred \_\_\_\_\_  
Warden's Signature

Defeated \_\_\_\_\_  
Warden's Signature

If you require this information in an alternate format, please contact the Accessibility Coordinator at [accessibility@northumberlandcounty.ca](mailto:accessibility@northumberlandcounty.ca) or 1-800-354-7050 ext. 2327



## Report 2021-115

<b>Report Title:</b>	Municipal Court Managers' Association / POA Advocacy
<b>Committee Name:</b>	Finance and Audit Committee
<b>Committee Meeting Date:</b>	July 3, 2021
<b>Prepared by:</b>	Randy Horne, Court Services Manager
<b>Reviewed by:</b>	Glenn Dees, Director of Finance/Treasurer
<b>Approved by:</b>	Jennifer Moore, CAO
<b>Council Meeting Date:</b>	July 21, 2021
<b>Strategic Plan Priorities:</b>	Leadership in Change

---

### Recommendation

**That** the Finance and Audit Committee, having considered Report 2021-115, 'Municipal Court Managers' Association / POA Advocacy' recommend that County Council request the Attorney General of Ontario to halt the proclamation of the Early Resolution reforms included in Bill 177 Stronger Fairer Ontario Act and take immediate action to streamline and modernize this section of the legislation by making it easier and more convenient for the public and prosecutors to engage in resolution discussions and by making it more effective and efficient to administer early resolution proceedings for Part I and Part II offences in the Provincial Offences Court; and

**Further That** the Committee recommend that County Council request the Attorney General of Ontario to enact changes to the Provincial Offences Act and any related regulations to permit the prosecutor and defendant or legal representative to agree, at any stage of a proceeding, to a resolution in writing for proceedings commenced under Part I or Part II of the POA and to permit the Clerk of the Court to register the court outcome immediately upon receipt of the written agreement without requiring an appearance before a justice of the peace; and

**Further That** the Committee recommend that County Council request the Ministry of Transportation in consultation with Municipalities consider suspending (temporarily) the imposition of demerit points for persons who pay their ticket in cases where they have no previous relevant convictions; and

**Further That** the Committee recommend that County Council direct staff to forward a copy of this resolution to the Ministry of the Attorney General, MPP David Piccini (Northumberland – Peterborough South), and all Ontario municipalities.”

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## **Purpose**

Immediate regulatory and legislative changes are critical to delivering services to the public by putting in place the most modern, efficient, and effective justice system attainable.

The proposed Early Resolution reforms in Bill 177 Stronger, Fairer Ontario Act do not fully support the objectives of the Ministry of the Attorney General pertaining to creating a modernized and efficient justice system. These changes create procedural barriers that prevent reasonable and effective access to court procedures by replacing a simplified process currently in place with a complex lengthy process.

## **Background**

Northumberland County is not currently opted into the formal Early Resolution process as provided for in the Provincial Offences Act (POA). Early Resolution discussions occur informally, scheduled with the Prosecution Team for all defendants (or their agents) who indicate option 3 (Trial) in response to a Part I (or Part II) charge.

The existing Early Resolution legislation (formal process) provides persons charged with minor offences under Part I (or Part II) of the POA with an option to meet with the prosecutor to resolve matters without the necessity of a trial proceeding. The informal early resolution regime has largely been successful in Northumberland County; providing timely access to justice and being the first POA proceedings to resume during the COVID -19 emergency. The number of Part I matters processed through the early resolution option is approximately 25% of all new charges filed annually and the resolution rate (pre-Trial) is approximately 90%. Approximately 20% of charges Fail to Respond and are convicted in absentia, while 55% of charge fines are paid without a Resolution Meeting or Trial.

The level of public participation in exercising an Early Resolution option in Northumberland County is a clear indication that whether opted into the formal Early Resolution process, or not, the rules under the existing Early Resolution section of the POA are easy for the public to understand and provides access to the justice system for minor offences.

## **Consultations**

The Municipal Court Managers Association (MCMA) has conducted a detailed review of the impact the proposed changes will have on administrative processes and resources. The Bill

177 changes to the formal Early Resolution section of the POA will increase processing steps from the existing 15 administrative processes to over 70 processes. This represents an increase in processes of over 400%. Although Northumberland County has digitized and modernized administrative processes to permit the defendant to file their request digitally, the POA court remains dependent upon the Province's antiquated adjudicative case management system (ICON). Given the lack of a modern adjudicative case management system, the impact of the additional and complex legislative processes under the proposed changes to the Early Resolution section of the POA would likely require additional full time Court Clerks to administer the proposed lengthy and complex early resolution process, should Northumberland County choose to opt into the formal Early Resolution process to take advantage of proposed efficiencies in the legislation.

Simplifying the POA to provide for a more efficient, effective justice system with more convenience and proportionate options to the public for minor offences under Part I of the POA, should not require an increase in processes. Permitting any (formal or informal) early resolution meeting to be held in writing and permitting the filing of written agreements between the prosecutor and defendant to be registered administratively as a court outcome by the Court Clerk immediately provides an accessible streamlined efficient and modern court system to the public.

## **Legislative Authority/Risk Considerations**

The current legislative framework for formal (opted-in) Early Resolution consists of one (1) section with 27 subsections or paragraphs supported by approximately 15 administrative processes. This legislative framework permits a defendant to request a meeting with the prosecutor, request a change to the appointment date once, attend a meeting with the prosecutor and have the outcome of the early resolution meeting recorded by the court on the same day as the meeting.

The proposed changes to the Early Resolution section of the POA under Bill 177 creates a more complex legislative framework for formal Early Resolution process, with five (5) sections and 43 subsections, paragraphs or subparagraphs. This represents an approximate 60% increase to the number of rules.

## **Discussion/Options**

### **Operational pressures that existed prior to the pandemic have become more pronounced and need to be met with legislative reforms to enable timely recovery of Provincial Offences Courts**

POA Courts has long advocated for legislative reforms streamlining and modernizing Provincial Offences Courts in support of equitable and timely access to justice. Immediate regulatory and legislative changes are critical to delivering services to the public by putting in place the most modern, efficient, and effective justice system attainable. The attached MCMA request seeks to align and validate the POA courts position on the following legislative barriers:

1. Halting the proclamation of the Early Resolution reforms included in Bill 177 and requesting to take immediate action to streamline and modernize this section of the

legislation. Under the proposed amendment, complex time periods and rules will be introduced including a redundant abandonment period, and delay in recoding of court outcomes which will result in multiple defendant appearances.

2. Enact changes to the *Provincial Offences Act* and any related regulations to permit the prosecutor and defendant or legal representative to agree, at any stage of a proceeding, to a resolution in writing. By so conserving court time and judicial resources.
3. Ministry of Transportation in consultation with municipalities consider suspending (temporarily) the imposition of demerit points for persons who pay their ticket in cases where they have no previous relevant convictions.

Throughout 2020, three separate orders were issued by the Ontario Court of Justice and the Province adjourning all court matters, suspending all *Provincial Offences Act* timelines and later extending these timelines into 2021.

The Chief Justice of Ontario and the Province of Ontario issued separate emergency orders in response to the pandemic throughout 2020 directly impacting Court Services operations.

A set of orders issued by the Chief Justice of Ontario and the Province built on each other and affected the legislative timelines under the *Provincial Offences Act*, meaning that the typical timeframe to respond to a ticket or other court matters governed by the *Provincial Offences Act* no longer applied. The orders extended timelines from March 16, 2020 through to and including February 26, 2021.

Simultaneously, the Chief Justice of Ontario also issued a set of orders that adjourned all court matters from March 16, 2020 until January 25, 2021. This resulted in postponing of over 2,000 trial matters until 2021, at the earliest. As part of court recovery, the Chief Justice advised Provincial Offence Courts that non-trial matters could go ahead by audio hearings by September 28, 2020 and that the resumption of remote trials could go forward as early as January 25, 2021, dependent on local judicial approval and court readiness. In-person trials would continue to be adjourned until the court schedule is approved by the Regional Senior Justice of the Peace, and all health and safety measures have been implemented.

The recovery of Provincial Offence courts was impeded by lack of timely direction from the Province concerning the resumption of services. While the provincial objective was to provide a consistent approach to the resumption of Provincial Offences Courts, priority was given to resuming Criminal Court operations. This often resulted in changing timelines and direction. Coupled with the existing issue of limited judicial resources which was intensified throughout the pandemic, Court Services could not effectively respond to the growing volume of pending cases which directly impacted the public's access to justice.

### **Bill 177 aims to modernize and streamline the Provincial Offences Courts**

Legislative amendments to the *Provincial Offences Act* were passed by the Ontario Legislature in December 2017 under Schedule 35 of Bill 177 *Stronger, Fairer Ontario Act*. These amendments include reforming of the Early Resolution process, improving the collection of default fines, and expanding the powers of the clerk of the court. However, the proposed Early

Resolution reforms came short as they do not fully support the objectives of the Ministry of the Attorney General pertaining to creating a modernized and efficient justice system.

In December 2019, the Ministry of the Attorney General advised that it intends to implement Bill 177 amendments through a phased approach. To date the Attorney General has only proclaimed and implemented section 48.1 allowing for use of certified evidence for all Part I proceedings. The rest of Bill 177 amendments are scheduled to be proclaimed later in 2021.

### **Bill 177 reforms to the legislated Early Resolution process will prevent reasonable and effective access to court procedures by creating a complex and lengthy process**

Early Resolution is an optional program Provincial Offences Courts can offer allowing defendants who opt to dispute their charges to request a meeting with a prosecutor to resolve the charges prior to a trial.

Under the proposed amendment, when a defendant attends a meeting with the prosecutor, the outcome is not recorded by the court immediately and there is a myriad of rules to navigate that result in a court outcome. For example, depending on the agreement, a defendant may have to appear before a Justice of the Peace to register the agreement and there are potential additional appearances required by the defendant and the prosecutor before an outcome is registered by the court. In addition, there are multiple complex time periods and myriad of rules including a redundant abandonment period before an outcome is registered. The inclusion of a proposed abandonment period is redundant as fairness and administrative of justice principles already exist in other sections of the *Provincial Offences Act* including the right to appeal a conviction or a sentence. The complexity of the numerous additional rules will not be easily understood by the public and will hinder access to justice.

Early Resolution process could aid in municipal Provincial Offences Court recovery if the section amendments were edited to make it easy and more convenient for the public and prosecutors to engage in resolution discussions. Northumberland County Court Services would reconsider offering a formal Early Resolution option if the Ministry of the Attorney General were to make it more effective and efficient to administer Early Resolution proceedings.

### **Closure of courts due to the pandemic resulted in a decrease in fine payments and increased pending caseload**

The extension of *Provincial Offences Act* timelines, along with the continued closure of court hearings impacted many of Court Services operational drivers. While court front counters were reopened in 2020 to provide essential administrative services, the ability to process charges and to address pending caseload was greatly impeded.

In turn, court revenue was impacted by operational instabilities such as, extension of the requirement to pay and defaulting of a fine. It is important to note that this is considered a deferred revenue as all outstanding fines are debt to the Crown owed in perpetuity and never forgiven. The ability to collect on debt diminishes the older a fine becomes.

There is an understanding that defendants request trials to seek resolutions that reduce demerit points. If demerit points were suspended for a period for those acknowledging their guilt and

paying the ticket, it may encourage defendants to pay their traffic ticket, thus reducing trial requests and pressures faced by trial courts. Details such as the time period for offences to which this would apply, what to do if a person receives multiple tickets, as well as determining whether a person without any convictions within 3 or 5 years of payment is to be treated as a first offender could be determined by the ministry.

## **Financial Impact**

The recommendations contained in this report have no financial impact.

## **Member Municipality Impacts**

Legislative change allowing any (formal or informal) early Resolution Meeting to be held in writing and permitting the filing of written agreements between the prosecutor and defendant to be registered administratively as a court outcome by the Court Clerk would benefit Member Municipalities in their Part II/Bi-Law proceedings in alignment with County Part I and II Early Resolution Proceedings.

## **Conclusion/Outcomes**

In response to a the MCMA request for Joint Advocacy on behalf of all Ontario Municipal POA Courts, staff request that the Committee recommends that County Council pass a resolution in support for the listed MCMA recommendations.

## **Attachments**

1. Letter: MCMA Request for Joint Advocacy



## Municipal Court Managers' Association of Ontario

c/o Seat of the President  
Regional Municipality of York  
17150 Yonge St  
Newmarket ON L3Y 8V3

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May 6, 2021

Dear Members,

Re: POA Streamlining and Modernization

In response to the increased pressures resulting from COVID 19, MCMA is seeking the support of POA Courts to actively lobby the Province for immediate regulatory and legislative changes. As you know, our ability to respond to Increasing caseload and declining fine revenue is limited. These proposed changes will enable flexibility for municipalities to respond to local pressures.

It is important that we leverage this opportunity to create a modern, efficient, and sustainable justice system that meets the needs of court users. The proposed changes include:

1. Halting the proclamation of the Early Resolution reforms included in Bill 177 Stronger Fairer Ontario Act and take immediate action to streamline and modernize this section of the legislation.
2. Enacting changes to the Provincial Offences Act and any related regulations to permit the prosecutor and defendant or legal representative to agree, at any stage of a proceeding, to a resolution in writing for proceedings.
3. Requesting the Ministry of Transportation in consultation with Municipalities, consider suspending the imposition of demerit points for persons who pay their ticket in cases where they have no previous relevant convictions.
4. Make regulatory changes to allow for camera-based offences to be administered through the administrative monetary penalties.

The MCMA board has prepared some templated documents to assist in your efforts. Attached you will find: Draft Council Resolution, draft council report for ER Courts and some key messages to support discussion. We understand that support for one or all may vary depending on individual priorities and appreciate your consideration.

Should you have any questions or would like to discuss further please feel free to reach out to any member of the MCMA board.

Lisa Brooks  
MCMA President

***“Excellence in Court Administration”***

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875 Gormanville Road  
North Bay, ON P1B 8G3  
Tel : 705-475-5551  
Fax : 705-475-5500

District de North Bay  
875 chemin Gormanville  
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July 28, 2021

**UPDATE: Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry, North Bay District Office – 875 Gormanville Road, North Bay, ON P1B 8G3**

Dear Client:

This letter is to inform you that as of July 23, 2021, the North Bay District Office relocated and has a new address. Please update your files to reflect the following change:

Former location

Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry  
North Bay District  
3301 Trout Lake Rd, North Bay ON, P1A 4L7

**\* New location \***

Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry  
North Bay District  
875 Gormanville Rd, North Bay ON, P1B 8G3

This office will remain closed to the public as we continue to follow recommendations of health professionals regarding the COVID-19 outbreak.

The majority of staff continue to work off-site. Please refer to [info.gov.on.ca](http://info.gov.on.ca) for staff email contact information. Alternatively, you can leave a message at 705-475-5501 and someone will return your call.

Our website [www.ontario.ca/ndmnr](http://www.ontario.ca/ndmnr) remains operational.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Heidi Etzel". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Heidi Etzel  
A/North Bay District Manager  
North Bay District