
Township of Georgian Bay - Support AMCTO Updates to Municipal Elections Act

From Christine Dutton <cdutton@gbtownship.ca>

Date Thu 2024-11-07 01:07 PM

To premier@ontario.ca <premier@ontario.ca>; paul.calandra@pc.ola.org <paul.calandra@pc.ola.org>; resolutions@amo.on.ca <resolutions@amo.on.ca>; Graydon.Smith@pc.ola.org <graydon.smith@pc.ola.org>; Jill.Dunlop@pc.ola.org <Jill.Dunlop@pc.ola.org>; Todd.McCarthy@pc.ola.org <Todd.McCarthy@pc.ola.org>; Peter.Bethlenfalvy@pc.ola.org <Peter.Bethlenfalvy@pc.ola.org>; amcto@amcto.com <amcto@amcto.com>

📎 2 attachments (415 KB)

C-2024-354 - Support AMCTO Updates to Municipal Elections Act.pdf; 2024-10-15 AMCTO MEA Recommendations.pdf;

Good Afternoon,

At its Regular Meeting of Council held November 4, 2024, the Township of Georgian Bay passed the attached Resolution C-2024-354.



Christine Dutton she/her
Executive Assistant to the CAO, Clerk, and Mayor

Township of Georgian Bay

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We acknowledge that we are working on the lands traditionally occupied by the Indigenous peoples. Indigenous people continue to care for this land and continue to shape our Township. We show our respect, and will continually honour the treaties that were signed as we consider our decisions and actions.

All information about municipal services is collected in accordance with the Municipal Act, and may be used in Council deliberations, and disclosed in full, including email, names, opinions, and addresses to other persons requesting access to records, or as part of a public agenda. All information submitted to the municipality is subject to the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (MFIPPA).



The Township of Georgian Bay
Resolutions
Council - 04 Nov 2024

Item 11.(d)

Date: November 4, 2024

C-2024-354

Moved by Councillor Stephen Jarvis
Seconded by Councillor Peter Cooper

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council support the Bracebridge Resolution; and

THAT Council direct staff to draft a letter to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing; the Minister of Education; the Minister of Public and Business Service Delivery; Minister of Finance; the Premier of Ontario; the Local Member of Provincial Parliament; AMCTO; the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO); and all Ontario Municipalities.

Carried Defeated Recorded Vote Referred Deferred

Recorded Vote:

	For	Against	Absent
Councillor Brian Bochek			
Councillor Peter Cooper			
Councillor Kristian Graziano			
Councillor Allan Hazelton			
Councillor Stephen Jarvis			
Councillor Steven Predko			
Mayor Peter Koetsier			

Peter Koetsier, Mayor

October 15, 2024

Re: Item for Discussion – AMCTO Recommendations for Updates to the Municipal Elections Act

At its meeting of October 9, 2024, the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Bracebridge ratified motion #24-GC-184, regarding the AMCTO Recommendations for Updates to the Municipal Elections Act, as follows:

“WHEREAS elections rules need to be clear, supporting candidates and voters in their electoral participation and election administrators in running elections;

AND WHEREAS legislation needs to strike the right balance between providing clear rules and frameworks to ensure the integrity of the electoral process;

AND WHEREAS the legislation must also reduce administrative and operational burden for municipal staff ensuring that local election administrators can run elections in a way that responds to the unique circumstances of their local communities;

AND WHEREAS the Municipal Elections Act, 1996 (MEA) will be 30 years old by the next municipal and school board elections in 2026;

AND WHEREAS the MEA sets out the rules for local elections, the Assessment Act, 1990 and the Education Act, 1990 also contain provisions impacting local elections adding more places for voters, candidates, and administrators to look for the rules that bind the local democratic process in Ontario;

AND WHEREAS with rules across three pieces of legislation, and the MEA containing a patchwork of clauses, there are interpretation challenges, inconsistencies, and gaps to fill;

AND WHEREAS the Act can pose difficulties for voters, candidates, contributors and third-party advertisers to read, to interpret, to comply with and for election administrators to enforce;

AND WHEREAS while local elections are run as efficiently and effectively as can be within the current legislative framework, modernization and continuous improvement is needed to ensure the Act is responsive to today’s needs and tomorrow’s challenges;

AND WHEREAS to keep public trust and improve safeguards the Act should be reviewed considering the ever-changing landscape which impacts elections administration including privacy, the threats of foreign interference, increased spread of mis/disinformation and the increased use of technologies like artificial intelligence and use of digital identities;

AND WHEREAS the Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks, and Treasurers of Ontario (AMCTO) reviewed the Act and has provided several recommendations including modernizing the legislation, harmonizing rules, and streamlining and simplifying administration;

AND WHEREAS AMCTO put forward recommendations for amendments ahead of the 2026 elections and longer-term recommendations for amendments ahead of the 2030 elections;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Town of Bracebridge calls for the Province to update the MEA with priority amendments as outlined by AMCTO before Summer 2025 and commence work to review and re-write the MEA with longer-term recommendations ahead of the 2030 elections.

AND FURTHER THAT that this resolution will be forwarded to all municipalities in Ontario for support and that each endorsement be then forwarded to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing; the Minister of Education; the Minister of Public and Business Service Delivery; Minister of Finance; the Premier of Ontario; the Local Member of Provincial Parliament; AMCTO; the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO); and all Ontario Municipalities.”

In accordance with Council's direction, I am forwarding you a copy of the resolution for your 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 fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Lori McDonald
Director of Corporate Services/Clerk