



Staff Report

Report Title: Legislative Update – November 2020

Prepared By: Emily Dance, Clerk

Department: Clerk

Date: Nov. 16, 2020

**Report Number: CLK-2020-11-97
Update – November 2020 – Bill 218**

File Number: C11- Legislative

Attachments:

Recommendation:

THAT the Township of Huron-Kinloss Council hereby receives for information Report Number CLK-2020-11-97 prepared by Emily Dance, Clerk.

Background:

An update on key items from the Provincial Government regarding Bill 218 – Proposed Changes to the Municipal Elections Act, the Town of Collingwood Judicial Inquiry and the County of Bruce Declaration of Mutual Commitment and Friendship.

Discussion:

Province of Ontario

Bill 218 Supporting Ontario's Recovery and Municipal Election's Act

On October 20, 2020, the province introduced Bill 218 which proposes changes to the Municipal Elections Act:

- Removes the option for ranked ballots which were introduced for the 2018 Municipal Elections in Ontario.
- Reverts nomination day back to "second Friday in September" from the "fourth Friday in July."
- Changes the timeline for passing a bylaw authorizing the use of voting and vote-counting equipment or alternative voting method from "May 1st the year before an election" to "May 1st the year of an election."

- Changes to the timeline for clerks to establish procedures and forms for voting and vote-counting equipment and alternative voting methods from "December 31 in the year before the year of the election" to "before June 1 in the year of the election."

The City of London used ranked ballots in the 2018 election with the City of Kingston and the City of Cambridge holding referendums on the use of ranked balloting for the 2022 election with an overwhelming favour to use ranked ballots for their 2022 election.

The Township of Huron-Kinloss has not used the ranked ballot system previously; however, Council has not decided on the plan for the 2022 Municipal Election, this change would eliminate the opportunity for Council to consider the option.

The ranked ballot is a system that only allows someone to win a race if they have over 50% of the vote, if no candidate gets a majority on the first count, then the candidate with the least votes is dropped off the ballot and the voters get to choose again. This repeats until there is a winner. With a ranked ballot the entire process happens in a few minutes with no need for multiple voting.

Research has demonstrated that the use of ranked ballots in elections improves diversity in government and increasing satisfaction of voters in seeing their choices reflected in their elected officials.

On November 9, 2020 Bill 218 went through a clause by clause review at the Standing Committee on Justice Policy. As expected, there was attention given to the ranked ballot system; however, no amendments were made. The change to the nomination day change was discussed and amended to the 3rd Friday in August.

It is expected that the Bill will move to Legislature for Third Reading on November 16, 2020.

Town of Collingwood- Judicial Review

In 2018, the Council of the Town of Collingwood passed a resolution to request a judicial inquiry be conducted, into the process undertaken in 2012 which resulted in the sale of 50% of Collus, the Town's electric utility.

The Inquiry's mandate examined the sequence of events leading to the sale transaction, the Request for Proposal (RFP) process, fees and benefits paid to anyone associated with the sale and the contracts entered into among the parties; the allocations of proceeds of the transaction of recreational facilities at Central Park Area and Heritage Park and any fees or benefits paid to a person or entity involved in the creation of the recreational facilities; and the overall impact of these events on the Town of Collingwood.

On November 2, 2020, Associate Chief Justice Frank N. Marrocco, Commissioner delivered his report on the [Judicial Inquiry -Transparency and the Public Trust](#), Report of the Collinwood Judicial Inquiry can be accessed on the [Town of Collingwood website](#). Volume 1 being the Executive Summary, briefly describes Associate Chief Justice Frank N. Marrocco findings and sets out a series of 306 recommendations for the Town of Collingwood, which also includes some

recommendations for the Province under the Municipal Act, and the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act.

County of Bruce

At the November 5, 2020 Bruce County Council made a Declaration of Mutual Commitment and Friendship commitment to improve the quality of life of Indigenous People in urban centres across the Region.

This was inspired by the recent [Declaration of Mutual Commitment and Friendship](#) by the Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres (OFIFC) and the Association of Municipalities (AMO).

Financial Impacts:

There are no financial impacts related to this report.

Strategic Alignment / Link:

We are an accessible community by being open and transparent.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Emily Dance, Clerk

Approved By:

Mary Rose Walden, Chief Administrative Officer