



Staff Report

Report Title: Legislative Update – May 2021

Prepared By: Emily Dance, Clerk

Department: Clerks

Date: May. 3, 2021

Report Number: CLK-2021-05-45

File Number:

C11 – Leg

Attachments:

Recommendation:

THAT the Township of Huron-Kinloss Committee of the Whole hereby receives for information Report No. CLK-2021-05-45 prepared by Emily Dance, Clerk

Background:

Legislative updates regarding accountability for Council Members, reducing red tape and the 2021 Federal Budget.

Discussion:

Provincial Government

Accountability for Members of Council

In March, 2021 the province launched its [consultation on strengthening accountability for municipal council members](#). The consultation is based on three guiding questions:

- What changes or mechanisms are needed to better hold Council members accountable for municipal code of conduct violations?
- How can codes of conduct be more effectively enforced?
- are a broader range of penalties for codes of conduct violations needed?

The [consultation process](#) will run until July 15, 2021 and includes an opportunity for everyone including the public, Council members and staff to respond.

Reducing Red Tape Bill

Bill 276, [Supporting Recovery and Competitiveness Act, 2021](#) was introduced for 1st reading on April 15th and contains 28 schedules impacting a wide range of matters. Of interest to the Township is Schedule 24 Changes to Consents and Subdivisions:

Planning Act. This schedule alters many elements of Section 50 to 57. This includes stopping merging of lots as a result of the death of one of the joint tenants; interests in land acquired for an energy line would be allowed to be disposed of but only to owners of abutting land, some administrative matters to clarify validation and issuing certificates, circulation, use of part lot control, leases for uses ancillary to a building, amending and cancelling consents, and applicant would be able to apply to the consent granting authority to request a one-time extension of up to one year (2 years total) in which to satisfy the conditions of approval for the consent.

Federal Government Canada Budget 2021:

On April 19, 2021 the federal government introduced its first budget since before the beginning of the pandemic. The Federal Budget includes significant new spending on policies of interest to municipalities including affordable childcare and housing; broadband internet expansion; support for the tourism sector; and climate change, greenhouse gas reduction and the circular economy. It also makes new commitments to extend sickness benefits through Employment Insurance and extension of rent supplements and hiring benefits, increasing Old Age Security for seniors over 75.

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