



Staff Report

Report Title: Legislative Update – May 2022

Prepared By: Emily Dance

Department: Clerk

Date: May. 2, 2022

Report Number: CLK-2022-05-41

File Number: C11 – Clk 2022

Attachments: MMAH Technical Overview Bill 109, County of Bruce Committee Report April 21, 2021, Proposed Changes to Planning Act, County of Bruce correspondence to Minister Clark regarding Bill 109; Solicitor General April 22, 2022 PAWS Act; MECP April 22, 2022 Conservation Authorities Act

Recommendation:

THAT the Township of Huron-Kinloss Committee of the Whole hereby receives for information Report CLK-2022-05-41 prepared by Emily Dance, Clerk

Background:

Bill 109 More Homes for Everyone Act

On March 30, 2022, the Province announced the “More Homes for Everyone Plan” (Bill 109 and other matters) which outlines how Ontario will increase housing supply faster. Noting “Less red tape, more homes”, “Making it easier to Build Community Housing”, “Protect home buyers, homeowners and renters.”

Schedules 1, 2 and 5 of [Bill 109](#) make changes to the Planning Act, City of Toronto Act, 2006 and the Development Charges Act, 1997 to:

- Make changes related to zoning, plan of subdivision and site plan application processes to expedite approval and incent timely decisions
- Ensure provincial housing policies are implemented and priority projects are expedited by making changes to provide the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing with new tools to address dispute resolution, and
- Enhance transparency and increase certainty of development costs through changes to development related charges.

The More Homes for Everyone Act, 2022 received Royal Assent on April 14, 2022. The legislation passed with no amendments and is now in place. Among the changes

enabled by the Act is the deadline of July 1, 2022, for municipalities to delegate site plan approval to staff. Consultations related to the More Homes for Everyone Plan are still underway until April 29, 2022.

Employment Standards Act (ESA) - Disconnecting from Work Policy

Under the Employment Standards Act, Employers that employ 25 or more employees are required to have a [written policy on disconnecting from work](#) in place for all employees and that a copy of the written policy to all employees.

These requirements were added to the Employment Standards Act, 2000 (ESA) on December 2, 2021. There is a special rule that applies in the first year of the requirement. Employers that employ 25 or more employees on January 1, 2022 have until June 2, 2022 to have a written policy on disconnecting from work in place.

Beginning in 2023, and in the years that follow, employers that employ 25 or more employees on January 1 of any year must have a written policy on disconnecting from work in place before March 1 of that year.

Provincial Animal Welfare Services Act, 2019 (PAWS Act)

As part of the province's commitment to review and update regulations under the Provincial Animal Welfare Services Act, 2019 (PAWS Act) to keep animals safe, Ontario has been reviewing the existing standards of care for dogs that live outdoors under the PAWS Act.

On January 21, 2022, the Ministry of the Solicitor General posted a consultation summary of the proposed updated standards on the Ontario Regulatory Registry. The posting was open for public comment until March 7, 2022.

On April 19, 2022, the updated standards of care for outdoor dogs were filed as an amendment to [Ontario Regulation 444/19](#) (Standards of Care and Administrative Requirements). The updated standards will come into force on July 1, 2022 and include provisions for:

- Shade, shelter and protection from the elements
- Food and water
- Health and Grooming
- Tethers, collars and harnesses
- Housing Pens
- Housing Pen and Tether Area

Amendments to the Conservation Authorities Act

On April 22, 2022, the Township received notice from the Ministry of the Environment Conservation and Parks noting they are moving forward with Phase 2 regulations of the [Conservation Authorities Act](#) to improve the governance, oversight, transparency and accountability of Conservation Authority (CA) operations.

These new regulations and provincial policy build on the first phase of regulations put in place in October 2021 and support amendments to the Conservation Authorities Act that focus CAs on their core mandate.

Staff continues to work with the Conservation Authorities on the new regulations.

O. Reg. 406/19: On-Site and Excess Soil Regulation ("Excess Soil Regulation")

The Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) is proposing to pause the implementation of the excess soil requirements under [O. Reg. 406/19: On-Site and Excess Soil Regulation](#) ("Excess Soil Regulation") that came into effect on January 1, 2022, until January 1, 2023.

The proposed pause would provide more time for gradual implementation and understanding of responsibilities for developers and municipal governments under the regulation. The Ministry's regulatory framework as it was in effect before January 1, 2022, continues to apply.

Discussion:

Bill 109 More Homes for Everyone Act

On April 14, 2022, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing hosted a Technical Overview of Bill 109. The reference materials are attached.

On April 7, 2022, Township staff participated in a virtual meeting hosted by the County of Bruce with Development Officials across the region to review impacts that relate to local municipalities including changes to the Planning Act, and housing needs including barriers, required flexibility and suggestions for ways to improve housing supply in rural Ontario.

On April 21, 2022, Mark Paoli, Director of Planning and Development for the County of Bruce presented a report on the Proposed Changes to the Planning Act (Bill 109) to County Council. The report is attached and outlines in detail the changes and comments which were endorsed by County Council and will be forwarded to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs.

In addition, attached is a letter to Minister Clark from Warden Jackson noting an objection to having Bill 109 adopted less than halfway through the consultation period and requests the province review the comments it receives and reconsider or amend the legislation.

Employment Standards Act (ESA) - Disconnecting from Work Policy

The term "disconnecting from work" is defined in the ESA to mean not engaging in work-related communications, including emails, telephone calls, video calls or sending or reviewing other messages, to be free from the performance of work.

The employer must include the date the policy was prepared and the date any changes were made to the policy. Other than these requirements, the ESA does not specify the information the employer must include in the policy nor does it specify that the policy must be a particular length. The employer determines the content of the policy itself.

Staff are currently working on a Disconnecting from Work Policy which will be brought forward for Council prior to June 2, 2022.

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