

September 16, 2020

The Honourable Lisa Thompson
Minister of Government and Consumer Services
College Park, 5th Floor
777 Bay St, Toronto, ON M7A 2J3

Sent via email to LM.Thompson@ontario.ca

RE: AMO Conference and Modernization of Fees under MFIPPA

Dear Minister Thompson,

The City of Guelph appreciates your engagement with municipalities as part of the recent AMO Conference. In particular, we were pleased to hear your interest in working with municipalities to modernize the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, 1990 (MFIPPA).

The MFIPPA is an important tool in making local government open, accessible and transparent to the public. Modernizing the legislation to reflect digital realities and to make sure fees reflect the cost of service provision is critical in making sure the Freedom of Information (FOI) process remains user-friendly, revenue-neutral and up to date. In particular, the fee structure outlined in O.Reg. 823 requires updating to facilitate online transactions, digital disclosures and the collection of fees for these online services. I understand that the Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario (AMCTO) is engaging with you and your ministry on these issues. The City of Guelph's Clerks Office is also eager to contribute to these discussions, including through the AMCTO. We look forward to working together to make progress on MFIPPA modernization to ensure an improved process for the public and the local governments that provide this service.

The need to modernize the fee structure under the MFIPPA is also reflective of the need to assess and update existing municipal revenue sources more broadly so that fees reflect the cost of service provision. We encourage you to work with your cabinet colleagues to advance these discussions. Ensuring fiscal sustainability for the numerous services offered by municipal governments is critical for the communities we serve.

Thank you again for your time and consideration as it relates to this important initiative. If you have any questions or would like to discuss these matters in more detail, I encourage you to reach out to Leslie Muñoz, Manager, Policy and Intergovernmental Relations at leslie.munoz@guelph.ca.

Thank you,



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CC Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing the Hon. Steve Clark;
Trevor Lee, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, Corporate Services, City of Guelph;
Stephen O'Brien, City Clerk, City of Guelph

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