

Ministry of the
Attorney General

Office of the Associate
Deputy Minister

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February 20, 2015

Chris Murray
City Manager
City of Hamilton
Chris.murray@hamilton.ca

Dear Mr. Murray:

I am writing to inform you of the government's next steps in its plans for building a stronger and more accessible justice system.

As you know, Attorney General Madeleine Meilleur recently launched *Better Justice Together*, a four-year strategy aimed at making the justice system more accessible for all Ontarians.

Among the key components of this plan is a commitment to seek innovative, evidence-based ways to improve front-line services by modernizing and streamlining processes and improving efficiency in our courts. Given the complexity and expense of the current process for resolving Provincial Offences Act (POA) disputes, the ministry is now exploring opportunities to modernize that system as a way to help achieve our access to justice goals.

This exploration of the POA reform initiative has been guided in part by the findings of a 2011 report by the Law Commission of Ontario. The result of an in-depth consultation and extensive literature review, the report recommended that the government study shifting POA infractions from the courthouse to an administrative monetary penalty system.

According to the commission, an administrative monetary penalty system would allow infractions to be processed quickly while court resources would be reserved for the most complex, serious matters – where they can have the greatest impact.

Through the public consultation process, the ministry will seek input from justice sector partners and the public on the merits of introducing an online administrative monetary penalty system for regulatory infractions in Ontario.

The consultation period is expected to begin **the first week of March 2015 and last approximately six weeks**. A document outlining the issues the ministry wants to explore through this consultation and instructions for submitting comments will be available at ontario.ca/mag

I invite all of our municipal partners to participate in this consultation. Your perspectives and expertise will be essential to ensuring that any new system we develop is fair, effective, and meets your needs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'ML', written in a cursive style.

Mark Leach
Associate Deputy Minister
Ministry of the Attorney General