



## Township of McKellar

701 Hwy #124, P.O. Box 69, McKellar, Ontario POG 1C0

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October 19, 2023

Hon. Doug Downey  
Attorney General  
McMurtry-Scott Bldg 11th Flr, 720 Bay St.  
Toronto, ON M7A 2S9

Sent via email: [Doug.Downey@ontario.ca](mailto:Doug.Downey@ontario.ca)

### **RE: Call for an Amendment to the *Legislation Act, 2006***

Dear Mr. Downey,

At the Regular Meeting of Council held on October 17, 2023, the Council of the Corporation of the Township of McKellar carried the following resolution:

#### **Resolution No. 23-671**

Moved by: Councillor Kekkonen

Seconded by: Councillor Zulak

**WHEREAS** Metroland Media Group has sought bankruptcy protection and will cease the print publication of its weekly community newspapers across Ontario, moving to an online-only model; and

**WHEREAS** Neil Oliver, Chief Executive Officer and President of Metroland Media Group, said the 71 Metroland community publications will be digital only going forward; and

**WHEREAS** the *Legislation Act, 2006* provides a definition of “newspaper” which applies to every Ontario Act and Regulation, as in a provision requiring publication, means a document that, (a) **is printed in sheet form**, published at regular intervals of a week or less and circulated to the general public, and (b) consists primarily of news of current events of general interest; (“journal”); and

**WHEREAS** Ontario Municipalities are required to follow publication and notice requirements for Provincial Acts and Regulations; and

**WHEREAS** communities such as the West Parry Sound Area cannot comply with publication requirements in Provincial Acts and Regulations as the Parry Sound North Star news publication is no longer being printed in sheet form and there are no other local news publications fitting the definition of “newspaper”; and

**WHEREAS** some small, rural, Ontario Municipalities may not have the means to bring an application to the Court to ask for directions and approval of an alternate manner of providing notice;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Council of the Corporation of the Township of McKellar does hereby request the Provincial government to make an amendment to the *Legislation Act, 2006* to include digital publications as an acceptable means of publication and notice requirements for Provincial Acts and Regulations; and

**FURTHER** request the support of all Ontario Municipalities; and

**FURTHER THAT** this resolution be forwarded to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Paul Calandra; Parry Sound-Muskoka MPP, Graydon Smith; The Association of Ontario Municipalities (AMO); CEO and President of Metroland Media Group, Neil Oliver and all Ontario Municipalities.

**Carried**

Regards,



Karlee Britton  
Deputy Clerk  
Township of McKellar  
[deputyclerk@mckellar.ca](mailto:deputyclerk@mckellar.ca)  
(705) 389-2842 x5

cc:

Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing  
Graydon Smith, MPP Parry Sound-Muskoka  
The Association of Ontario Municipalities (AMO)  
Neil Oliver, CEO & President, Metroland Media Group  
All Ontario Municipalities