

June 8, 2015

Chair and Members
Corporate Services Committee

Re: Province of Ontario – Legislation Review – Municipal Elections Act, Municipal Conflict of Interest Act and Municipal Act

The Province of Ontario recently announced that they are undertaking a review of a number of pieces of legislation which have direct impact on municipalities. The reviews being undertaken are as follows:

Municipal Elections Act – public comment submission deadline – July 27, 2015

Municipal Act – public comment submission deadline – August 7, 2015

Municipal Conflict of Interest Act – public comment submission deadline – August 7, 2015

Attached you will find the “Municipal Legislation Review – Public Consultation Discussion Guide” with respect to the review being undertaken of the Municipal Act and the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act. The areas being reviewed are as follows:

- Accountability and Transparency
- Municipal Financial Sustainability
- Responsive and Flexible Municipal Government

Attached you will find the “Municipal Elections Act Review – Public Consultation Discussion Guide” outlining the areas within the legislation that are under review. The following areas of the legislation are being reviewed:

- Campaign finance
- Third party advertising
- Accessibility
- Enforcement
- Ranked Ballots

In these documents, the Province of Ontario notes: “We want to hear from municipalities, organizations, elected officials, experts, and Ontarians in every part of the province about how this legislation might be improved. We are interested in all suggestions.”

Page 20 of the **Strategic Plan for the City of London 2015-2019** includes the following: “Leading in Public Service: 1. Open, accountable, and responsible government: Section E: Explore opportunities for electoral reform: Explore moving to a ranked ballot voting system, signage, polling, campaign finance and donor rebates.”

This is the opportunity to have a significant say on important changes that are needed to the above-noted legislation to assist the municipality to be more efficient, timely and responsive to the needs of our community. Comments from both Municipal Council and the Civic Administration is an important step in making a difference in the legislative review.

It is also critically important that the public has a say. I believe that the Municipality should inform and encourage Londoners to provide feedback with respect to these legislative changes.

As a result, I would ask that the Civic Administration be directed to make the necessary arrangements to provide and communicate opportunities for the public to participate in the above-noted calls for public comment regarding the reviews currently being undertaken by the Province of Ontario, including the Municipal Elections Act, Municipal Conflict of Interest Act and the Municipal Act.

Further, given that the Ontario government is also asking for input from “municipalities” and “elected officials”, I would ask that the Civic Administration develop an appropriate process to solicit and submit suggestions from Councillors (individually) and the City of London as a municipality.

Respectfully submitted,

Josh Morgan
Councillor Ward 7