

February 9, 2022

Re: Item for Discussion – Joint and Several Liability Reform (Mayor, G. Smith)

At its meeting of February 2, 2022, the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Bracebridge ratified motions 22-PD-005, regarding the Item for Discussion – Joint and Several Liability Reform, as follows:

“WHEREAS municipal governments provide essential services to the residents and businesses in their communities;

AND WHEREAS the ability to provide those services is negatively impacted by exponentially rising insurance costs;

AND WHEREAS one driver of rising insurance costs is the legal principle of “joint and several liability”, which assigns disproportionate liability to municipalities for an incident relative to their responsibility for it;

AND WHEREAS the Government of Ontario has the authority and responsibility for the legal framework of “joint and several liability”;

AND WHEREAS the Premier of Ontario committed to review the issue in 2018 with a view to helping municipal governments manage their risks and costs;

AND WHEREAS the Provincial Review was conducted in 2019 with AMO and municipalities fully participating;

AND WHEREAS the results of the Provincial Review have not been released and municipalities are still awaiting news of how the Attorney General will address this important matter;

AND WHEREAS the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) on behalf of municipal governments has provided recommendations in their document “Towards a Reasonable Balance – Addressing Growing Municipal Liability and Insurance Costs” to align municipal liability with the proportionate responsibility for incidents and capping awards;

AND WHEREAS The Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario (AMCTO) has written to the Attorney General in support of the abovementioned recommendations provided by AMO;

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NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF BRACEBRIDGE RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

1. That the Town of Bracebridge calls on the Attorney General of Ontario to work with municipal governments to put forward a plan of action to address "joint and several liability" before the end of the government's current term.
2. That the Town of Bracebridge supports the seven (7) recommendations contained in the AMO submission "Towards a Reasonable Balance – Addressing Growing Municipal Liability and Insurance Costs" to re-establish the priority for provincial action on this issue.
3. That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Attorney General, the Honourable Doug Downey; the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Honourable Steve Clark; AMO President, Jamie McGarvey, AMCTO President, Sandra MacDonald; and all Municipalities in Ontario."

In accordance with Council's direction I am forwarding you a copy of the resolution for you reference.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can provide any additional clarification in this regard.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L McDonald', written in a cursive style.

Lori McDonald
Director of Corporate Services/Clerk