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By EMAIL
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The Honourable Chief Justice Geoffrey B. Morawetz
Chief Justice of the Superior Court of Justice
130 Queen Street West
Toronto, Ontario, M5H 2N5

Dear Chief Justice Morawetz:

Re: The Corporation of the Township of Springwater ("Springwater") – Judicial Inquiry Request

We write further to the letter sent to Your Honour by Loopstra Nixon LLP on November 14. Springwater does not acknowledge that Loopstra Nixon acts for it.

The part of the by-law on which Loopstra Nixon relied in its last letter was also vetoed by Mayor Coughlin the day before, on November 13 (see attached, "Mayoral Decision 2025-007 to Veto By-law 2025-094, in part, as it applies to resolution C458-2025"). It too is of no force and effect.

We do not believe it is appropriate to litigate this issue by correspondence. Nothing prevents any interested individual from instituting court proceedings for what is, in essence, a challenge to Mayor Coughlin's use of her powers under the *Municipal Act, 2001*.

Finally, I apologize to counsel at Loopstra Nixon LLP (and the Court) for not providing them with a courtesy copy of our previous correspondence. This was through my inadvertence alone.

Sincerely,
Affleck Greene McMurtry LLP

[redacted]

Michael I. Binetti

Encl.

cc. Stacey Forfar, Chief Administrative Officer for the Township of Springwater
Renee Ainsworth, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer for the Township of Springwater
William McLennan, Affleck Greene McMurtry LLP
Christopher Lee, Loopstra Nixon LLP
Quinto Annibale, Loopstra Nixon LLP

Township of Springwater

Office of the Mayor

Mayoral Decision

MD-2025-007

A decision to Veto a by-law passed by Council – By-law 2025-094, in part as it applies to Resolution C458-2025

Whereas the Mayor has the authority to exercise certain powers under Part VI.1 (Special Powers and Duties of Head of Council) of the Municipal Act, 2001 ("Act"); and

Whereas section 284.11 of the Act provides that if the head of council is of the opinion that all or part of a by-law could potentially interfere with a prescribed provincial priority, the head of council may veto the by-law; and

Whereas the Province has prescribed provincial priorities by making O. Reg. 580/22: Provincial Priorities pursuant to section 284.9 of the Act; and

Whereas the Mayor of the Township of Springwater deems it desirable to exercise decision-making power under the Act; and

Whereas on November 5, 2025, the Mayor exercised their authority under section 284.11.1 of the Act to propose a by-law to Council to authorize the execution and delivery of an agreement related to the boundary adjustment/restructuring proposal between the Township and the City of Barrie based on their opinion that the by-law could potentially advance a provincial priority, and Council enacted By-law 2025-093 in accordance with subsection 284.11.1(4) of the Act and to take primacy over any other resolutions; and

Whereas on November 7, 2025, the Mayor issued Mayoral Decision 2025-005 to Veto By-law 2025-091, in part, as it applies to resolution C446-2025 that purported to direct Loopstra Nixon LLP to commence legal proceedings challenging the use of the Mayor's exercise of powers under Part VI.1 of the Act in relation to the boundary adjustment/restructuring proposal, which in the opinion of the Mayor could potentially interfere with the provincial priorities set out section 1 of O. Reg. 580/22; and,

Whereas on November 12, 2025, the Mayor issued Mayoral Decision 2025-006 to Veto By-law 2025-095, in part, as it applies to resolution C452-2025 that purported to direct Loopstra Nixon LLP to commence legal proceedings challenging the use of the Mayor's exercise of powers under Part VI.1 of the Act in relation to the boundary adjustment/restructuring proposal, which in the opinion of the Mayor could potentially interfere with the provincial priorities set out section 1 of O. Reg. 580/22; and,

Whereas the Mayor reaffirms their opinion on the matter.

Now therefore the Mayor of the Township of Springwater hereby exercises the authority pursuant to subsection 284.11(5) of the Act to veto the following by-law passed by Council on November 12, 2025 as follows:

1. That By-law 2025-094, being a by-law to confirm the proceedings of the Township of Springwater at its meeting held on November 12, 2025 be vetoed, in part, as it applies to resolution C458-2025 to oppose the City of Barrie Boundary Adjustment proposal and to direct Loopstra Nixon LLP to proceed with legal proceedings, despite previous Mayoral Directions (hereinafter referred to as the "**By-law**").

2. That all other aspects of By-law 2025-094 shall be deemed to have been approved in writing pursuant to subclause 284.11(4)(a)(i) of the Act on November 13, 2025.

The reasons for the veto are as follows:

> I, Jennifer Coughlin, Mayor of the Township of Springwater am of the opinion that the By-law could potentially interfere with the provincial priorities set out in section 1 of O. Reg. 580/22.
>
> In particular, Council's decision to continue to challenge the exercise of powers under Part VI.1 of the Act seeking to potentially advance provincial priorities, to obtain injunctive relief in relation thereto and to request a judicial inquiry respecting the lawful and good faith exercise of said powers constitutes a potential interference with prescribed provincial priorities.

This mayoral decision shall come into effect this 13th day of November, 2025.



Jennifer Coughlin,
Mayor