LOOPSTRA NIXON LLP
BARRISTERS AND SOLICITORS

CONFIDENTIAL

Quinto M. Annibale*
***Quinto M. Annibale Professional Corporation**
Direct Line: (416) 748-4757
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VIA EMAIL (clerks@springwater.ca)

January 12, 2026

Township of Springwater
2231 Nursery Road
Minesing, ON L9X 1A8

Attention: Stacey Forfar, Chief Administrative Officer

Dear Mayor Coughlin and Members of Council:

RE: Invoice No. 185609
Matter No. 33222-0002

Thank you for your correspondence of December 18, 2025.

We acknowledge Springwater Council's Closed Session Resolution C524-2025 directing staff to seek a possible resolution of the November statement of account (Invoice No. 185609) and to request further particulars for Council's review in a subsequent in-camera meeting of Council.

There is no formally executed retainer agreement for the assignments given to us by Council. Generally, instructions were issued by Council through resolutions communicated to us by either the Clerk or the CAO (or sometimes both), most often by telephone. This approach was necessary due to the very short lead times for delivering opinions or attending Council meetings. The first such retainer was on May 21, 2025, by Resolution C245-2025, then Resolution C446-2025 was passed on November 5, 2025, authorizing Loopstra Nixon LLP to file a Notice of Application to Quash By-laws 2025-042, 2025-068 and 2025-093 ("Strong Mayor By-laws"), and the most recent was Resolution C458-2025 authorizing Loopstra Nixon LLP to continue the Court action to quash the Strong Mayor By-laws and to proceed with the judicial inquiry. It also confirmed that Loopstra Nixon LLP continued to be counsel for the Township of Springwater. Accordingly, Council retained Loopstra Nixon LLP; staff did not. The subsequent Mayoral Direction MDIR-2025-005 to staff purporting to terminate our services on November 7, 2025, was therefore ineffective. As we were retained by Council, only Council could terminate our services.

For over forty-five years, our firm has consistently understood a municipal retainer to include the ability to communicate freely and openly with individual officers and employees of the

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municipality, including councillors, for purposes including providing updates, answering questions, and offering legal advice within the scope of Council's instructions. That protocol was followed in this matter.

Our accounts reproduce, word-for-word, the contemporaneous docket entries recorded by our professionals at or about the time services were performed. With respect to the specific docket entries you have inquired about, I can advise that they pertain to correspondences regarding the Notice of Application, as well as background work and drafting of the Notice of Application itself.

I think the most efficient and fair approach to settling our account is for you to identify any specific docket entry of concern (whether on the basis of time spent, personnel involved, scope relative to the retainer, or suspected error, etc.). If Council (or staff at Council's direction) can identify the entry in question, we will promptly review it and, where appropriate, determine whether a reduction or adjustment is warranted. For ease of reference, we have enclosed a chart setting out our current hourly rates applicable to this matter as Appendix 'A'. Please note that these rates are reduced rates, which we are prepared to honour provided the account can be settled amicably. Our full rates are higher than these.

To assist Council's review, we have also attached the correspondences sent to the Chief Justice of the Superior Court of Justice on November 10 and November 14, 2025, and a copy of the Notice of Application to Quash filed with the Superior Court of Justice on November 10, 2025, attached as Appendix 'B'.

The Application to Quash has not yet been accepted by the Court and thus has not been formally issued. Certain procedural steps need to be completed for it to be issued. We have not completed those procedural steps since the Township is not proceeding with the Application. Nonetheless, it would be prudent to pass a Council resolution which authorizes Loopstra Nixon LLP to withdraw the Application, in the event this is necessary (a draft dated December 12, 2025 is enclosed). We respectfully request that Council pass this resolution at its earliest opportunity so that we may terminate the court proceedings without further delay.

Since we ceased working on the file on December 12, 2025 a final account will issue shortly. Please note that Christopher Lee's time was not transferred from the time keeping system to the billing system at the time Invoice No. 185609 was prepared and as a result will be reflected on the December invoice.

Should Council require any additional information or wish to discuss any item in this letter, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Yours truly,

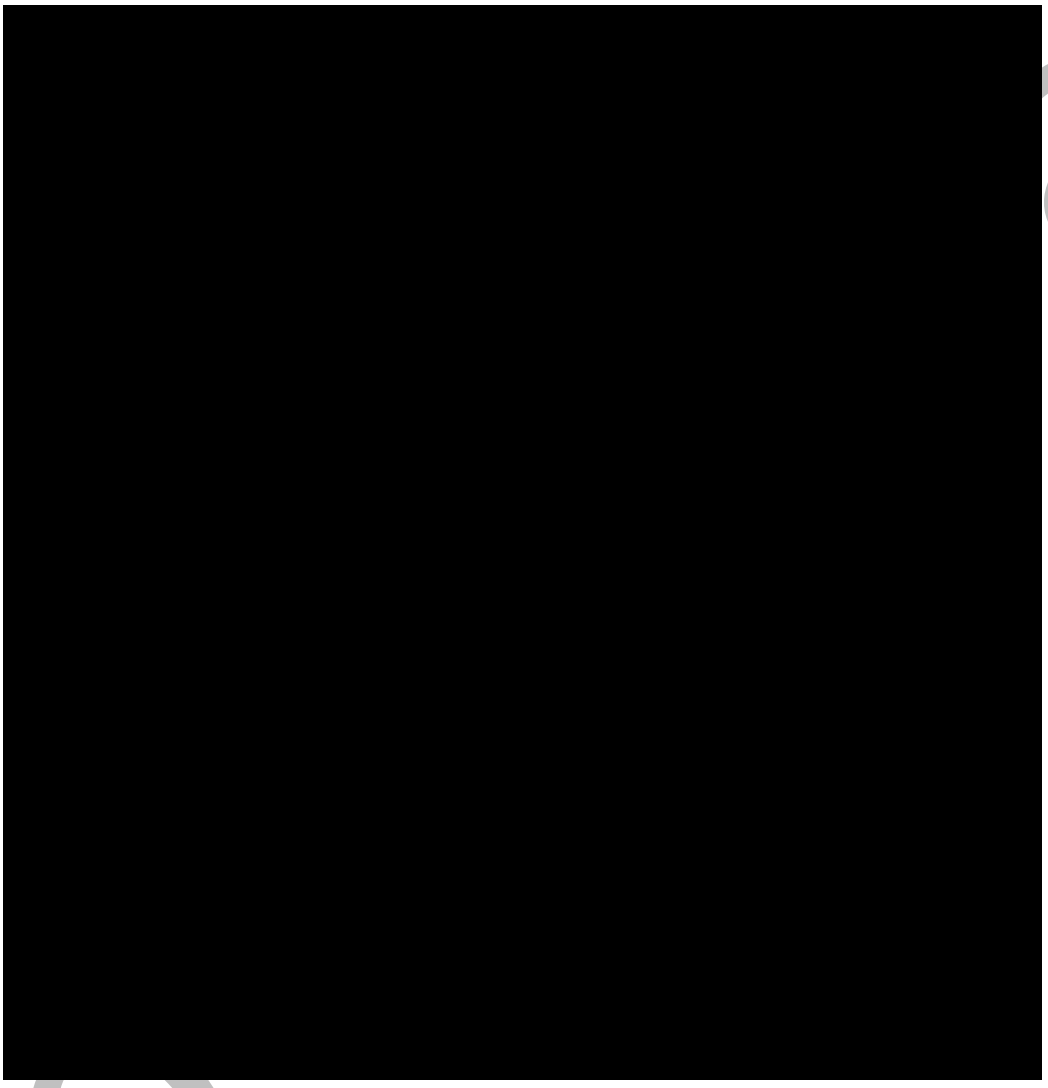
LOOPSTRA NIXON LLP

[redacted]

Per: Quinto M. Annibale

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Appendix 'A' – Hourly Rates



Co

Appendix 'B' – Filed Court Materials

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LOOPSTRA NIXON LLP
BARRISTERS AND SOLICITORS

Christopher Lee
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Email: CLee@LN.Law

SENT BY EMAIL (michele.livingston@ontario.ca)

November 10, 2025

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

Dear Chief Justice Morawetz,

RE: Corporation of the Township of Springwater – Request to Appoint a Judicial Inquiry

We are writing to you in our capacity as counsel to the Corporation of the Township of Springwater.

At a meeting held on November 10, 2025, Council of the Township of Springwater passed a resolution requesting a judge of the Superior Court of Justice to investigate matters relating to the Mayor's purported use of her Strong Mayor Powers under Part VI. 1 of the *Municipal Act, 2001*, S.O. 2001, c. 25 ("*Municipal Act*") to adopt a boundary adjustment proposal advanced by the Mayor of the City of Barrie at a Council meeting held on November 5, 2025.

You will find enclosed a true copy of the resolution of the Township requesting that a judge conduct an investigation or inquiry pursuant to section 274 of the *Municipal Act*.

We would be grateful to be advised when a judge has been appointed pursuant to the terms of the Resolution.

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We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours very truly,

LOOPSTRA NIXON LLP
Per:

[redacted]

Christopher Lee

Encl./ls

c. Stacey Forfar, *Chief Administrative Officer for the Township of Springwater*
Quinto Annibale, *Loopstra Nixon LLP*

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Tel: 416.746.4710 **Fax:** 416.746.8319 **loopstranixon.com**

LawExchange INTERNATIONAL

RESOLUTION OF
THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SPRINGWATER

WHEREAS on May 7, 2025, the Mayor of the Township of Springwater exercised the Strong Mayor Powers and By-law 2025-042 was passed authorizing the Mayor to engage in discussions with the City of Barrie and the Province of Ontario with respect to the City of Barrie's Boundary Proposal;

AND WHEREAS on September 3, 2025, the Mayor of the Township of Springwater exercised the Strong Mayor Powers and By-law 2025-068 was passed authorizing the Mayor to include cross-border servicing for the Bayfield Street corridor in the discussions with the City of Barrie and the Province of Ontario regarding the City of Barrie's Boundary Proposal;

AND WHEREAS the Township of Springwater Council authorized the retainer of Loopstra Nixon LLP at the Regular Meeting of Council on May 21, 2025 by Resolution C245-2025 in respect of the City of Barrie Boundary Proposal;

AND WHEREAS the Township of Springwater Council authorized Loopstra Nixon LLP to challenge the validity of By-law 2025-093, a By-law to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to execute the boundary adjustment/restructuring proposal between the Township of Springwater and the City of Barrie (the "Impugned By-law"), by Resolution dated November 5, 2025, and provided a broad range of authority to the solicitor to take any and all courses of legal action that, in the opinion of the solicitor, are required to have the matter resolved, including for example an application to the courts to quash the Impugned By-law on the basis of illegality or an application for judicial review;

AND WHEREAS the Township of Springwater Council further authorized Loopstra Nixon LLP to seek an injunction to restrain the municipality, and any other party, from acting upon the Impugned By-law unless and until the matter is determined by the Courts and/or to take any and all courses of legal action that, in the opinion of the solicitor, are required to prevent any further action taken upon the Impugned By-law unless and until the matter is determined by the Courts;

AND WHEREAS the Mayor of the Township of Springwater purported to veto Confirmatory By-law 2025-091, in an attempt to veto Resolution dated November 5, 2025;

AND WHEREAS the veto is of no force or effect because the direction of Council was by Resolution dated November 5, 2025, and the Mayor can only veto by-laws in accordance with section 284.11 of the *Municipal Act, 2001,* S.O. 2001 c. 25;

AND WHEREAS the Mayor issued Mayoral Direction MDIR-2025-005 on November 8, 2025, purporting to direct Staff to issue written notice to Loopstra Nixon LLP confirming cessation of its engagement effective 12:15p.m. on November 7, 2025, directing the firm to cease all work immediately, and clarifying that the Township of Springwater will not be responsible for any costs incurred by Loopstra Nixon LLP on or after that time;

AND WHEREAS Mayor Direction MDIR-2025-005 is of no force or effect because Loopstra Nixon LLP was retained by Council, and not the Mayor;

AND WHEREAS the Mayor is acting to completely stop Council from taking any actions, including getting legal advice or having matters in dispute determined by the Court;

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AND WHEREAS there is a dispute about the legality and validity of the Mayor's acts and whose acts are valid, the Mayor's or Council's;

AND WHEREAS the underlying acts the Mayor and Council are in dispute about are material and fundamental and go to the essence of the Township, the very composition of the Township and what lands are in the Township;

AND WHEREAS the Mayor is taking all steps possible to not have any of these issues determined by the Court, or any independent body;

AND WHEREAS the determination of who can validly and legally act on behalf of the Township, in issues fundamental to the Township, where there is a dispute about who can act, is a matter connected to the good government of the municipality;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. Council of the Township of Springwater hereby confirms that Loopstra Nixon LLP was retained on May 21, 2025, and remains retained to represent the Township of Springwater in all matters relating to the City of Barrie Boundary Proposal and associated proceedings, including the judicial inquiry provided for in paragraph 6. Council further confirms and, to the extent necessary, reappoints Loopstra Nixon LLP to continue carrying out the directions set out in all Council resolutions, notwithstanding any purported Mayoral Directions to the contrary;

2. The Mayor's Strong Mayor By-laws are of no effect because they do not carry out the provincial priorities and because the inclusion of employment lands and the absence of a direct connection to residential development in the Township renders the proposal outside the scope of these priorities.

3. The veto of Confirmatory By-law 2025-091 and Mayoral Direction MDIR-2025-005 are of no force and effect, because:

    a. Resolution dated November 5 2025, which authorized the engagement of Loopstra Nixon LLP and the scope of legal action to be undertaken, was passed by Council and does not constitute a by-law subject to veto under section 284.11 of the Municipal Act, 2001.

    b. The Mayor's authority to veto is limited to by-laws that, in the Mayor's opinion, interfere with prescribed provincial priorities, and does not extend to resolutions or decisions regarding the retention of external legal counsel.

    c. The issuance of Mayoral Direction MDIR-2025-005 purporting to terminate the engagement of Loopstra Nixon LLP is ultra vires the Mayor's authority under Part VI.1 of the *Municipal Act, 2001*, S.O. 2001, c. 25, as the power to retain and direct external legal counsel resides with Council and not the Mayor.

4. Council's previous directions to Loopstra Nixon LLP with respect to challenging the validity of the Impugned By-law and providing a broad range of authority to the lawyer to take any and all courses of legal action that, in the opinion of the lawyer, are required to have the matter resolved, including for example an application to the courts to quash the Impugned By-law on the basis of illegality or an application for judicial review, and to seek an injunction to restrain the municipality, and any other party, from acting upon the

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Impugned By-law unless and until the matter is determined by the Courts and/or to take any and all courses of legal action that, in the opinion of the lawyer, are required to prevent any further action taken upon the Impugned By-law unless and until the matter above is determined by the Courts, stands, and for further clarification, the direction includes that the Township do the following, unless the lawyer determines that only one or none shall occur:

a. Bringing an application to quash the Impugned By-law forthwith pursuant to section 273(1) of the *Municipal Act, 2001,* S.O. 2001, c. 25;

b. Seeking a statutory injunction pursuant to section 273(4) of the *Municipal Act, 2001,* S.O. 2001, c. 25 to prevent anything being done under the Impugned By-law until the application is disposed of.

5. That a judge of the Superior Court of Justice is hereby requested to conduct an inquiry pursuant to section 274(1) of the *Municipal Act, 2001,* S.O. 2001, c. 25, into a matter connected with the good government of the municipality, and in particular the following questions related to the proper exercise of powers by the head of Council under Part VI.1 of the *Municipal Act, 2001,* S.O. 2001, c. 25:

   a. What practices and procedures should the Township adopt to resolve disputes between a majority of Council and the Mayor about the appropriate use of the Mayor's powers under Part VI.1 of the *Municipal Act, 2001,* S.O. 2001, c. 25?

   b. What process should the Township follow to resolve the following specific questions related to the good government of the municipality:

      i. Was the Mayor's exercise of her powers under Part VI.1 of the *Municipal Act, 2001,* S.O. 2001, c. 25 to facilitate the passage of By-laws 2025-042, 2025-068, and 2025-093 valid?

      ii. Was the Mayor's exercise of her powers under Part VI.1 of the *Municipal Act, 2001*, S.O. 2001, c. 25 to attempt to veto Resolution dated November 5, 2025 valid? Does the Mayor's veto of Confirmatory By-law 2025-091 have any legal effect on Resolution dated November 5, 2025?

      iii. Was Mayoral direction MDIR-2024-005 issued pursuant to section 284.3 of Part VI.1 of the *Municipal Act, 2001,* S.O. 2001, c. 25 to attempt to end the retainer of the Township's external legal counsel, Loopstra Nixon LLP, and prevent it from carrying out Council's direction given through Resolution dated November 5, 2025 valid?

   c. If the Justice is of the opinion that the following questions are properly within the scope of the inquiry:

      i. Was the Mayor's exercise of her powers under Part VI.1 of the *Municipal Act, 2001,* S.O. 2001, c. 25 to facilitate the passage of By-laws 2025-042, 2025-068, and 2025-093 valid?

      ii. Was the Mayor's exercise of her powers under Part VI.1 of the *Municipal Act, 2001,* S.O. 2001, c. 25 to attempt to veto Resolution dated November

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5, 2025 valid? Does the Mayor's veto of Confirmatory By-law 2025-091 have any legal effect on Resolution dated November 5, 2025?

iii. Was Mayoral direction MDIR-2024-005 issued pursuant to section 284.3 of Part VI.1 of the *Municipal Act, 2001,* S.O. 2001, c. 25 to attempt to end the retainer of the Township's external legal counsel, Loopstra Nixon LLP, and prevent it from carrying out Council's direction given through Resolution dated November 5, 2025 valid?

iv. Was it appropriate for the Mayor to attempt to shield use of her powers under Part VI.1 of the *Municipal Act, 2001,* S.O. 2001, c. 25 from judicial review and oversight by a majority of Council?

v. If the Justice determines that these questions are not properly within the scope of the inquiry, how can they be judicially determined, including the procedural route for doing so both at the Township and in the courts?

d. How should municipalities act in the future when similar issues arise in connection with the use or alleged misuse of powers under Part VI.1 of the *Municipal Act, 2001,* S.O. 2001, c. 25?

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LOOPSTRA NIXON LLP
BARRISTERS AND SOLICITORS

Christopher Lee
Tel: (416) 748-5117
Email: CLee@LN.Law

SENT BY EMAIL (michele.livingston@ontario.ca)

November 14, 2025

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

Dear Chief Justice Morawetz,

RE: Corporation of the Township of Springwater – Request to Appoint a Judicial Inquiry

We are writing to you further to our letter dated November 10, 2025, and with respect to the letter written to you by Affleck Greene McMurtry LLP ("AGM"), dated November 12, 2025 ("AGM Letter").

Our office just became aware of the existence of the AGM Letter as of today's date, as we were not copied on, nor did AGM separately provide us with a copy of the AGM Letter, despite Rule 1.09 to the *Rules of Civil Procedure*, R.R.O. 1990, Reg. 194 providing that no party's lawyer shall communicate about pending proceedings with a judge out-of-court, unless: (1) all the parties consent to the out-of-court communication; or (2) the court directs otherwise. While, in circumstances like this, communications by letter are unavoidable, the other parties should at least be copied.

Nonetheless, we strongly disagree with the conclusions of AGM contained in the AGM Letter. The fact is that Resolution C452-2025 was validly passed by majority vote of the Township of Springwater's Council members. To be clear, Section 284.11 of the *Municipal Act, 2001*, S.O. 2001, c. 25 ("*Act*") grants Mayor Coughlin the authority to veto By-laws, or parts thereof, if she is of the opinion that such By-law could potentially interfere with a prescribed provincial priority, however, it does not extend such authority to vetoing freestanding Resolutions.

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Thus, while Mayor Coughlin purported to exercise her veto power to veto confirmatory By-law 2025-095 ("Confirming By-law"), this does not affect the validity of Resolution C452-2025, which is freestanding, does not rely on the Confirming By-law for its validity and which separately and correctly requests that a judge of the Superior Court of Justice conduct a judicial inquiry.

Further, any purported veto by Mayor Coughlin is not valid because in the circumstances, it does not advance any prescribed provincial priority, as required by the *Act*. Resolution C452-2025 concerns the good government of the Township of Springwater, and not the building of 1.5 million new residential units by December 31, 2031 or infrastructure to support housing.

Even if Mayor Coughlin's veto of Resolution C452-2025 is valid, which is strongly contested, these very actions form the basis of and demonstrate the need for a judicial inquiry for the purposes articulated in Section 274(1)(b) of the *Act*, (i.e., a matter connected with the good government of the municipality).

In fact, at a Council meeting on November 12, 2025, another Resolution was passed confirming Council's position that, among other things: (1) it rejects Mayor Coughlin's use of her Strong Mayor Powers to veto Resolution C452-2025; (2) it requests that a judge of the Superior Court of Justice conduct a judicial inquiry; and, (3) that Loopstra Nixon LLP continues to be counsel for the Township of Springwater ("November 12 Resolution").

In our view, the Resolutions passed by the Township, that a judge shall conduct an inquiry, are valid. However, if that needs to be determined, it is clear that question must be answered. Mayor Coughlin has taken every act possible to prevent this Court from considering the questions contained in Resolution C452-2025 answered, however, the facts demonstrate that they must be answered for the good government of the municipality, and that not answering them goes against it.

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We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours very truly,

LOOPSTRA NIXON LLP
Per:
[redacted]
Christopher Lee

Encl./ls

c. Stacey Forfar, *Chief Administrative Officer for the Township of Springwater*
Renee Ainsworth, *Deputy Chief Administrative Officer for the Township of Springwater*
Quinto Annibale, *Loopstra Nixon LLP*
Michael I. Binetti, *Affleck Greene McMurtry LLP Barristers*

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SCHEDULE 1 – Statutes and Regulations:

Rules of Civil Procedure, R.R.O. 1990, Reg. 194

Communications out of Court

1.09 When a proceeding is pending before the court, no party to the proceeding and no party's lawyer shall communicate about the proceeding with a judge or associate judge out of court, directly or indirectly, unless,

(a) all the parties consent, in advance, to the out-of-court communication; or

(b) the court directs otherwise.

Municipal Act, 2001, S.O. 2001, c. 25

Investigation by judge

274 (1) If a municipality so requests by resolution, a judge of the Superior Court of Justice shall,

(a) investigate any supposed breach of trust or other misconduct of a member of council, an employee of the municipality or a person having a contract with the municipality in relation to the duties or obligations of that person to the municipality;

(b) inquire into any matter connected with the good government of the municipality; or

(c) inquire into the conduct of any part of the public business of the municipality, including business conducted by a commission appointed by the council or elected by the electors. 2001, c. 25, s. 274 (1).

Veto powers

Application

284.11 (1) This section applies with respect to by-laws under,

(a) this Act and the regulations, other than under any prescribed section;

(b) the *Planning Act* and its regulations, other than any prescribed section; and

(c) any other prescribed Act or regulation or prescribed section of an Act or regulation. 2022, c. 18, Sched. 2, s. 1.

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By-law for consideration

(2) Despite any procedure by-law passed by the municipality under subsection 238 (2) and subject to subsection (3) of this section, if the head of council is of the opinion that all or part of a by-law that is subject to this section could potentially interfere with a prescribed provincial priority, the head of council may provide written notice to the council of the intent to consider vetoing the by-law.

O. Reg. 580/22: PROVINCIAL PRIORITIES

Provincial priorities

1. The following are provincial priorities prescribed for the purposes of sections 284.10, 284.11 and 284.11.1 of the Act:

1. Building 1.5 million new residential units by December 31, 2031.
2. Constructing and maintaining infrastructure to support housing, including,
   i. transit,
   ii. roads,
   iii. utilities, and
   iv. servicing.

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RESOLUTION OF
THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SPRINGWATER

WHEREAS on May 7, 2025, the Mayor of the Township of Springwater exercised the Strong Mayor Powers and By-law 2025-042 was passed authorizing the Mayor to engage in discussions with the City of Barrie and the Province of Ontario with respect to the City of Barrie's Boundary Proposal;

AND WHEREAS on September 3, 2025, the Mayor of the Township of Springwater exercised the Strong Mayor Powers and By-law 2025-068 was passed authorizing the Mayor to include cross-border servicing for the Bayfield Street corridor in the discussions with the City of Barrie and the Province of Ontario regarding the City of Barrie's Boundary Proposal;

AND WHEREAS the Township of Springwater Council authorized the retainer of Loopstra Nixon LLP at the Regular Meeting of Council on May 21, 2025 by Resolution C245-2025 in respect of the City of Barrie Boundary Proposal;

AND WHEREAS the Township of Springwater Council authorized Loopstra Nixon LLP to challenge the validity of By-law 2025-093, a By-law to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to execute the boundary adjustment/restructuring proposal between the Township of Springwater and the City of Barrie (the "Impugned By-law"), by Resolution dated November 5, 2025, and provided a broad range of authority to the solicitor to take any and all courses of legal action that, in the opinion of the solicitor, are required to have the matter resolved, including for example an application to the courts to quash the Impugned By-law on the basis of illegality or an application for judicial review;

AND WHEREAS the Township of Springwater Council further authorized Loopstra Nixon LLP to seek an injunction to restrain the municipality, and any other party, from acting upon the Impugned By-law unless and until the matter is determined by the Courts and/or to take any and all courses of legal action that, in the opinion of the solicitor, are required to prevent any further action taken upon the Impugned By-law unless and until the matter is determined by the Courts;

AND WHEREAS the Mayor of the Township of Springwater purported to veto Confirmatory By-law 2025-091, in an attempt to veto Resolution dated November 5, 2025;

AND WHEREAS the veto is of no force or effect because the direction of Council was by Resolution dated November 5, 2025, and the Mayor can only veto by-laws in accordance with section 284.11 of the *Municipal Act, 2001,* S.O. 2001 c. 25;

AND WHEREAS the Mayor issued Mayoral Direction MDIR-2025-005 on November 8, 2025, purporting to direct Staff to issue written notice to Loopstra Nixon LLP confirming cessation of its engagement effective 12:15p.m. on November 7, 2025, directing the firm to cease all work immediately, and clarifying that the Township of Springwater will not be responsible for any costs incurred by Loopstra Nixon LLP on or after that time;

AND WHEREAS Mayor Direction MDIR-2025-005 is of no force or effect because Loopstra Nixon LLP was retained by Council, and not the Mayor;

AND WHEREAS the Mayor is acting to completely stop Council from taking any actions, including getting legal advice or having matters in dispute determined by the Court;

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AND WHEREAS there is a dispute about the legality and validity of the Mayor's acts and whose acts are valid, the Mayor's or Council's;

AND WHEREAS the underlying acts the Mayor and Council are in dispute about are material and fundamental and go to the essence of the Township, the very composition of the Township and what lands are in the Township;

AND WHEREAS the Mayor is taking all steps possible to not have any of these issues determined by the Court, or any independent body;

AND WHEREAS the determination of who can validly and legally act on behalf of the Township, in issues fundamental to the Township, where there is a dispute about who can act, is a matter connected to the good government of the municipality;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. Council of the Township of Springwater hereby confirms that Loopstra Nixon LLP was retained on May 21, 2025, and remains retained to represent the Township of Springwater in all matters relating to the City of Barrie Boundary Proposal and associated proceedings, including the judicial inquiry provided for in paragraph 6. Council further confirms and, to the extent necessary, reappoints Loopstra Nixon LLP to continue carrying out the directions set out in all Council resolutions, notwithstanding any purported Mayoral Directions to the contrary;

2. The Mayor's Strong Mayor By-laws are of no effect because they do not carry out the provincial priorities and because the inclusion of employment lands and the absence of a direct connection to residential development in the Township renders the proposal outside the scope of these priorities.

3. The veto of Confirmatory By-law 2025-091 and Mayoral Direction MDIR-2025-005 are of no force and effect, because:

    a. Resolution dated November 5 2025, which authorized the engagement of Loopstra Nixon LLP and the scope of legal action to be undertaken, was passed by Council and does not constitute a by-law subject to veto under section 284.11 of the Municipal Act, 2001.

    b. The Mayor's authority to veto is limited to by-laws that, in the Mayor's opinion, interfere with prescribed provincial priorities, and does not extend to resolutions or decisions regarding the retention of external legal counsel.

    c. The issuance of Mayoral Direction MDIR-2025-005 purporting to terminate the engagement of Loopstra Nixon LLP is ultra vires the Mayor's authority under Part VI.1 of the *Municipal Act, 2001*, S.O. 2001, c. 25, as the power to retain and direct external legal counsel resides with Council and not the Mayor.

4. Council's previous directions to Loopstra Nixon LLP with respect to challenging the validity of the Impugned By-law and providing a broad range of authority to the lawyer to take any and all courses of legal action that, in the opinion of the lawyer, are required to have the matter resolved, including for example an application to the courts to quash the Impugned By-law on the basis of illegality or an application for judicial review, and to seek an injunction to restrain the municipality, and any other party, from acting upon the

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Impugned By-law unless and until the matter is determined by the Courts and/or to take any and all courses of legal action that, in the opinion of the lawyer, are required to prevent any further action taken upon the Impugned By-law unless and until the matter above is determined by the Courts, stands, and for further clarification, the direction includes that the Township do the following, unless the lawyer determines that only one or none shall occur:

a. Bringing an application to quash the Impugned By-law forthwith pursuant to section 273(1) of the *Municipal Act, 2001,* S.O. 2001, c. 25;

b. Seeking a statutory injunction pursuant to section 273(4) of the *Municipal Act, 2001,* S.O. 2001, c. 25 to prevent anything being done under the Impugned By-law until the application is disposed of.

5. That a judge of the Superior Court of Justice is hereby requested to conduct an inquiry pursuant to section 274(1) of the *Municipal Act, 2001,* S.O. 2001, c. 25, into a matter connected with the good government of the municipality, and in particular the following questions related to the proper exercise of powers by the head of Council under Part VI.1 of the *Municipal Act, 2001,* S.O. 2001, c. 25:

   a. What practices and procedures should the Township adopt to resolve disputes between a majority of Council and the Mayor about the appropriate use of the Mayor's powers under Part VI.1 of the *Municipal Act, 2001,* S.O. 2001, c. 25?

   b. What process should the Township follow to resolve the following specific questions related to the good government of the municipality:

      i. Was the Mayor's exercise of her powers under Part VI.1 of the *Municipal Act, 2001,* S.O. 2001, c. 25 to facilitate the passage of By-laws 2025-042, 2025-068, and 2025-093 valid?

      ii. Was the Mayor's exercise of her powers under Part VI.1 of the *Municipal Act, 2001*, S.O. 2001, c. 25 to attempt to veto Resolution dated November 5, 2025 valid? Does the Mayor's veto of Confirmatory By-law 2025-091 have any legal effect on Resolution dated November 5, 2025?

      iii. Was Mayoral direction MDIR-2024-005 issued pursuant to section 284.3 of Part VI.1 of the *Municipal Act, 2001,* S.O. 2001, c. 25 to attempt to end the retainer of the Township's external legal counsel, Loopstra Nixon LLP, and prevent it from carrying out Council's direction given through Resolution dated November 5, 2025 valid?

   c. If the Justice is of the opinion that the following questions are properly within the scope of the inquiry:

      i. Was the Mayor's exercise of her powers under Part VI.1 of the *Municipal Act, 2001,* S.O. 2001, c. 25 to facilitate the passage of By-laws 2025-042, 2025-068, and 2025-093 valid?

      ii. Was the Mayor's exercise of her powers under Part VI.1 of the *Municipal Act, 2001,* S.O. 2001, c. 25 to attempt to veto Resolution dated November

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5, 2025 valid? Does the Mayor's veto of Confirmatory By-law 2025-091 have any legal effect on Resolution dated November 5, 2025?

iii. Was Mayoral direction MDIR-2024-005 issued pursuant to section 284.3 of Part VI.1 of the *Municipal Act, 2001,* S.O. 2001, c. 25 to attempt to end the retainer of the Township's external legal counsel, Loopstra Nixon LLP, and prevent it from carrying out Council's direction given through Resolution dated November 5, 2025 valid?

iv. Was it appropriate for the Mayor to attempt to shield use of her powers under Part VI.1 of the *Municipal Act, 2001,* S.O. 2001, c. 25 from judicial review and oversight by a majority of Council?

v. If the Justice determines that these questions are not properly within the scope of the inquiry, how can they be judicially determined, including the procedural route for doing so both at the Township and in the courts?

d. How should municipalities act in the future when similar issues arise in connection with the use or alleged misuse of powers under Part VI.1 of the *Municipal Act, 2001,* S.O. 2001, c. 25?

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Whereas on 2 occasions, the Mayor has purported to veto council decisions on
November 05/25 and November 10/2025
Whereas the Mayors veto – veto's the confirming by-law of the two meetings where
Council passed resolutions C446-2025 and C452-2025 which are not ByLaws
Whereas the Mayors veto did not have the effect of vetoing the resolutions (C446 &
C452) the resolutions stand
Now therefore be it resolved that the official position of Springwater Council remains
and continues to be
A) Springwater Council opposes the Barrie framework proposal but supports the
Moore motion of Nov 05/2025
B) Springwater will proceed with the court actions to quash the Mayors Strong
Mayors Bylaws and proceed with the judicial inquiry
C) Loopstra Nixon continues to be Council for the Township of Springwater despite
MD2025-005 and MD2025-006
D) And that the provincial facilitator and Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing be advised of the foregoing

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Court File No.

ONTARIO
SUPERIOR COURT OF JUSTICE

B E T W E E N:

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SPRINGWATER

Applicant

and

JENNIFER COUGHLIN

Respondent

APPLICATION UNDER the *Municipal Act*, 2001, S.O. 2001, c. 25 and Rule 14.05(2), 14.05(3) (g) and (h) of the *Rules of Civil Procedure*

NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO QUASH BY-LAW

TO THE RESPONDENT

A LEGAL PROCEEDING HAS BEEN COMMENCED by the Applicant. The Claim made by the Applicant appears on the following page.

THIS APPLICATION will come on for a hearing before the Court on a date to be fixed by the Registrar by the method of hearing requested by the Applicant, unless the Court orders otherwise. The Applicant requests that this Application be heard

☒ In person
☐ By telephone conference
☐ By video conference

at the following location: Barrie Courthouse, 75 Mulcaster Street, Barrie, Ontario, L4M 3P2

on a date and at a time to be fixed by the Court.

IF YOU WISH TO OPPOSE THIS APPLICATION, to receive notice of any step in the Application or to be served with any documents in the Application, you or an Ontario lawyer acting for you must forthwith prepare a notice of appearance in Form 38A prescribed by the *Rules of Civil Procedure*, serve it on the Applicant's lawyer or, where the Applicant does not have a lawyer,

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serve it on the Applicant, and file it, with proof of service, in the office of the Superior Court of Justice, and you or your lawyer must appear at the hearing.

IF YOU WISH TO PRESENT AFFIDAVIT OR OTHER DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE TO THE COURT OR TO EXAMINE OR CROSS-EXAMINE WITNESSES ON THE APPLICATION, you or your lawyer must, in additional to serving your notice of appearance, serve a copy of the evidence on the Applicant's lawyer or, where the Applicant does not have a lawyer, serve it on the Applicant, and file it, with proof of service, in the office of the Court within thirty days after service on you of the Applicant's application record, or at least four days before the hearing, whichever is earlier.

IF YOU FAIL TO APPEAR AT THE HEARING, JUDGMENT MAY BE GIVEN TO IN YOUR ABSENCE AND WITHOUT FURTHER NOTICE TO YOU. IF YOU WISH TO DEFEND THIS PROCEEDING BUT ARE UNABLE TO PAY LEGAL FEES, LEGAL AID MAY BE AVAILABLE TO YOU BY CONTACTING A LOCAL LEGAL AID OFFICE.

TAKE NOTICE: THIS APPLICATION WILL AUTOMATICALLY BE DISMISSED if it has not been set down for hearing or terminated by any means within five years after the notice of application was filed with the Court, unless otherwise ordered by the Court.

Date _____ Issued by _____
Local Registrar

Address of court office: 75 Mulcaster Street, Barrie, Ontario L4M 3P2

TO: **JENNIFER COUGHLIN**
2231 Nursery Road,
Minesing, ON, L9X 1A8
Email: Jennifer.coughlin@springwater.ca

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APPLICATION

1. **THE APPLICANT MAKES APPLICATION FOR:**

(a) a declaration that the Corporation of the Township of Springwater ("**Township**") By-law No. 2025-042, *A By-law to authorize the Mayor to engage in discussion with the City of Barrie and the Province regarding the Barrie Boundary Proposal*, By-law No. 2025-068 *A By-law to authorize the Mayor to include cross-border servicing for the Bayfield Street corridor in discussions with the City of Barrie and the Province of Ontario regarding the Barrie Boundary Proposal* and By-law No. 2025-093 *A By-law to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to execute the boundary adjustment/restructuring proposal between the Township and the City of Barrie* ("**Impugned By-laws**") are ultra vires and void;

(b) a declaration that the Impugned By-laws do not advance a prescribed provincial priority as required pursuant to Section 1 of O. Reg. 580/22 ("**Regulation**"), made under the *Municipal Act,* S.O. 2001, c.25 ("***Act***") and are therefore contrary to the *Act*;

(c) a declaration that Mayor Jennifer Coughlin's ("**Mayor Coughlin**") acts in passing the Impugned By-laws were not supported by and contrary to law, including because they were not authorized uses of and exceeded the scope of the Strong Mayor Powers (defined below)*;*

(d) a declaration that the Impugned By-laws are contrary to section 19(1) of the *Act;*

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(e) an Order quashing the Impugned By-laws on the basis that they are ultra vires and void;

(f) an Order quashing the Impugned By-laws on the basis they are contrary to the *Act*;

(g) an interim and interlocutory Order pursuant to section 273(4) of the *Act* directing that no action shall be taken in respect of or pursuant to the Impugned By-laws and no similar by-law or acts shall be taken without a majority of Township Council pending the determination of this Application by this Court;

(h) an interim and interlocutory Order directing that Mayor Coughlin cannot take steps, including but not limited to, exercising her Strong Mayor Powers, to impede with or obstruct this Application;

(i) costs of this Application; and,

(j) such other and further relief as the Applicant may advise and this Honourable Court may deem just.

2. **THE GROUNDS FOR THE APPLICATION ARE:**

Overview

(a) Mayor Coughlin alleges that her use of the Strong Mayor Powers allowed the Township Council to pass the Impugned By-laws approving the City of Barrie's proposal to annex part of the Township's land.

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(b) The use of the Strong Mayor Powers is expressly limited to advance specific Provincial Priorities (defined below), specifically, the development of housing and related infrastructure by 2031.

(c) The Impugned By-laws relate to,

(i) the development of employment lands and not residential development which does not advance the required Provincial Priorities;

(ii) residential development in the City of Barrie (following the border adjustment) that will not create residential units in the Township by 2031 and will in fact occur into 2051; and

(iii) does not create residential development in the Township.

(d) The inclusion of employment lands and the absence of a direct connection to residential units in the Township by 2031, render the Impugned By-laws outside the scope of the Provincial Priorities required for use of the Strong Mayor Powers.

(e) Moreover, the geographic limitations imposed by section 19(1) of the *Act* prohibits a municipality from passing by-laws in respect of land that is outside its jurisdiction.

(f) The purported use of the Strong Mayor Powers to pass the Impugned By-laws was ultra vires. The Impugned By-laws are therefore ultra vires, void, contrary to the *Act* and must be quashed.

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The Parties

(g) The Applicant Township is a municipality in Ontario, located west of Highway 400, and borders the City of Barrie and the Township of Oro-Medonte, among others.

(h) The Respondent, Mayor Coughlin, is a resident of the Township and is its current Mayor.

The Township Considers Possible Boundary Adjustments

(i) On March 15, 2023, Township Council passed a resolution in closed session authorizing the Mayor and the then-current Chief Administrative Officer to meet with surrounding landowners/property developers, municipalities and/or representatives of the City of Barrie concerning potential intermunicipal servicing arrangements, shared services, and municipal boundary adjustments.

(j) In September 2023, Mayor Nuttall of the City of Barrie presented a proposal to Township Council regarding a proposed boundary adjustment of approximately 2,500 acres of Township land into the City of Barrie to increase its supply of developable employment land. The proposal identified three key study areas: (1) Penetanguishene Road (Hwy 93)/Little Lake; (2) Bayfield Street North; and (3) Miller Drive/County Road 90.

(k) At the Township Council meeting held on November 15, 2023, Township staff provided a report related to the City of Barrie's proposed boundary adjustment. The report provided information related to zoning, current land uses, assessment and

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taxation, and servicing for each of the three study areas identified in the Barrie proposal.

(l) At the same November 15, 2023, meeting, Township Council voted unanimously to terminate discussions with the City of Barrie regarding the City's boundary adjustment proposal. Council also directed staff to pursue discussions with the County of Simcoe and the Township of Oro-Medonte regarding potential cross-border servicing partnerships.

(m) Subsequently, on March 6, 2024, Township Council voted to reconsider its November 15, 2023, resolution, agreeing to continue discussions with the City of Barrie regarding cross-border servicing for water and wastewater, but not to discuss any future boundary adjustment.

(n) From May 2024 to April 2025, Township Council considered various potential opportunities for settlement expansion, in collaboration with neighboring municipalities, among other things.

The Strong Mayor Powers

(o) The Strong Mayor Powers pursuant to Part VI.1 of the *Act* are limited to matters that, in the Mayor's opinion, may advance one or more of the Provincial Priorities, as defined in the Regulation.

(p) The Regulation specifically provides that the only provincial priorities prescribed for the purposes of sections 284.10, 284.11 and 284.11.1 of the *Act* are:

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(i) building 1.5 million new residential units by December 31, 2031; and,

(ii) constructing and maintaining infrastructure to support housing, including, transit; roads; utilities, and servicing.

("**Provincial Priorities**")

(q) Section 284.11.1 of the *Act* empowers the Mayor to propose a by-law and require Council to consider and vote on it, despite any applicable procedure by-law. This authority applies to by-laws made under:

(i) the *Act* and its regulations (with certain exceptions not applicable to the facts of this Application);

(ii) the *Planning Act* and its regulations (with certain exceptions); and,

(iii) any other prescribed Acts or regulations.

(r) The Mayor can only legally use this power if the Mayor forms the opinion that the proposed by-law could advance one or more of the Provincial Priorities. Otherwise, the Mayor cannot use the power.

(s) Where the Mayor invokes the power to propose a by-law under section 284.11.1, subsection (4) provides that the by-law may be passed by Council if more than one-third of the members vote in favour, a threshold that substantially and materially deviates from the standard majority requirement.

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The City of Barrie's Proposal To Annex The Township's Land

(t) On May 7, 2025, Mayor Coughlin purported to exercise the Strong Mayor Powers and purported to pass By-law 2025-042 which, if valid, would authorize her to engage in discussions with the City of Barrie with respect to the City of Barrie's proposal to annex a portion of the Township' land, among other things. This was the purported passing of the first of the Impugned By-laws.

(u) On September 3, 2025, Mayor Coughlin purported to exercise the Strong Mayor Powers and pass By-law 2025-068 which, if valid, would authorize her to include cross-border servicing for the Bayfield Street corridor in discussion with the City of Barrie and the Province of Ontario regarding the City of Barrie's proposal to annex a portion of the Township's land. This was the purported passing of the second of the Impugned By-laws.

(v) The City of Barrie's proposal includes a boundary adjustment of approximately 2150 acres of the Township's land being transferred to the City of Barrie ("**Barrie Proposal**").

(w) The Barrie Proposal includes lands unrelated to the development of new residential units and contemplates approximately 300 hectares of employment land being transferred to the City of Barrie and is not connected to the approval and development of residential units in the Township.

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(x) A land needs analysis prepared in support of the Barrie Proposal projected residential land needs to the planning horizon year of 2051, while the employment land needs are evaluated based on a 2061 horizon.

Mayor Coughlin's Purported Exercise of The Strong Mayor Powers to Pass The Impugned By-laws

(y) On or about October 15, 2025, Township Council met to make a decision with respect to the Barrie Proposal but opted to adjourn to seek further information.

(z) On November 5, 2025, Township Council reconvened to consider the Barrie Proposal ("**November 5 Meeting**").

(aa) During the November 5 Meeting, Mayor Coughlin, purportedly invoked the Strong Mayor Clause and directed that Council vote on the third of the Impugned By-laws, By-law 2025-093.

(bb) Mayor Coughlin, Councillor Brad Thompson and Councillor Matt Garwood voted in favour of the third Impugned By-law. If the use of the Strong Mayor Powers was valid, which it is not, this would meet the threshold of more than 1/3 to pass By-law 2025-093.

(cc) Mayor Coughlin, in her purported exercise of the Strong Mayor Powers, erroneously asserted that the Impugned By-laws advance the Provincial Priorities – specifically, the construction of 1.5 million homes by 2031 and the supporting infrastructure.

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(dd) The Impugned By-laws do not advance the Provincial Priorities and are therefore ultra vires and void and on that basis must be quashed.

(ee) Immediately after Mayor Coughlin purported to exercise her Strong Mayor Powers to pass By-law 2025-093, Ward Councillor, Phil Fisher, brought forward a motion that directed the Township's counsel, Loopstra Nixon LLP, to "challenge the validity of … [By-law 2025-093]" ("**Motion to Challenge**").

(ff) The Motion to Challenge provided a broad range of authority to counsel to take "any and all course of legal action that, in the opinion of the solicitor, are required to have the matter resolved".

(gg) In a 4-3 vote, the Motion to Challenge passed, with the majority of Township Council voting in support ("**Resolution C446-2025**").

(hh) Following the November 5 Meeting, as a matter of ordinary procedure, a confirming by-law was passed, being By-law 2025-091, the purpose of which was to confirm the proceedings of the November 5 Meeting.

(ii) On November 7, 2025, Mayor Coughlin again purported to exercise her Strong Mayor Powers to veto By-law 2025-091, in part, to revoke Resolution C446-2025.

(jj) As part of By-law 2025-091, Mayor Coughlin purported to exercise her Strong Mayor Powers to veto Resolution C446-2025 as she was of the opinion that it could potentially interfere with the Provincial Priorities as it sought to "quash a decision that could potentially advance a provincial priority". This purported use of her Strong Mayor powers was ultra vires the *Act* as there is no potential for By-law

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2025-091 to interfere with the advance of Provincial Priorities because By-law 2025-093 will not potentially advance Provincial Priorities.

(kk) On November 10, 2025, the date of this application being commenced, Township Council passed a resolution that, inter alia, confirms Loopstra Nixon LLP remains retained and that the Township shall challenge the Impugned By-laws, including by bringing this application.

The Impugned By-laws Do Not Advance Provincial Priorities And Must Be Quashed

(ll) The Superior Court of Justice may quash a by-law in whole or in part for illegality, including a by-law that is passed ultra vires.

(mm) A municipality's law-making authority is:

(i) limited to the powers conferred upon it by the provincial legislature; and

(ii) further constrained by the purposes of the legislation.

(nn) The municipal powers conferred upon Mayor Coughlin are limited by section 19(1) of the *Act,* which provides that a municipality is restricted from passing by-laws in relation to lands outside of there jurisdiction, where no statutory exemption applies.

(oo) The Strong Mayor Powers are conditional on advancing the Provincial Priorities, which narrowly focus on building residential units and constructing or maintaining housing related infrastructure by 2031.

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(pp) The Impugned By-laws are ultra vires the scope of the Strong Mayor Powers and Mayor Coughlin's municipal powers pursuant to section 19(1) of the *Act* and are therefore void, because, among things,

(i) they relates to land that is unrelated to the development of new residential units, such as employment land use which is not one of the Provincial Priorities;

(ii) the development of any residential units pursuant to the Impugned By-laws is in respect of development in the City of Barrie (following the proposed boundary adjustment), not the Township;

(iii) Mayor Coughlin is not the mayor of the City of Barrie and is restricted by section 19(1) of the *Act* from passing by-laws in respect of land that is outside the Township;

(iv) the development of proposed residential units pursuant to the Barrie Proposal, which the Impugned By-laws approve, are forecasted out to 2051, whereas the Provincial Priorities requires the development of residential units by the end of 2031.

(qq) If an agreement with the City of Barrie is reached on the basis of the Impugned By-laws, then the proposed annexation of Township lands may be irreversible, or submit the Township to very large damages. This is irreparable harm to the Township.

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(rr) There is no harm to Mayor Coughlin if the Court is permitted to determine whether the Impugned By-laws are legal before she purports to cause the Township to take incredibly significant and potentially irreversible actions based on the Impugned By-laws. In contrast, the harm to the Township if she takes those actions, which may be illegal, would be great and perhaps irreversible. The balance of convenience favours a stay until the legality of the actions is determined.

(ss) In light of the foregoing, the Township seeks an interim and interlocutory Order preventing any action being taken in respect of or pursuant to the Impugned By-laws pending determination of their validity by this Court.

(tt) The Township relies on the following legislation, among others,

(i) the *Act*, including sections 19(1), 273, 284.10, 284.11 and 284.11.1;

(ii) the Regulation, including section 1;

(iii) the Township's By-law 2021-025 (Code of Conduct for members of Council, Local Boards and Committees of Council);

(iv) the *Rules of Civil Procedure,* including, Rules 14.05(2), 14.05(3) (g) and (h);

(v) *Statutory Powers Procedure Act,* R.S.O. 1990, c. S.22; and

(vi) such further and other grounds as the Township may advise and this Honourable Court deems just.

3. The following documentary evidence will be used at the hearing of the Application:

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(a) a copy of the Staff Report for Information regarding the City of Barrie's Proposed Boundary Adjustment;

(b) a copy of the Impugned By-laws;

(c) meeting minutes from various Council meetings;

(d) affidavits, to be sworn, tendered on behalf of the Township; and

(e) such further and other evidence as the Township may advise and this Honourable Court may permit.

4. The Township requests that this matter be heard in Barrie, Ontario.

November 10, 2025

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Lawyers for the Applicant

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THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SPRINGWATER Applicant	v.	JENNIFER COUGHLIN Respondent

Court File No.:

ONTARIO
SUPERIOR COURT OF JUSTICE

PROCEEDING COMMENCED AT
BARRIE

NOTICE OF APPLICATION

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Lawyers for the Applicant

RCP-F 4C (September 1, 2020)

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RESOLUTION OF
THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SPRINGWATER

WHEREAS on May 7, 2025, the Mayor of the Township of Springwater exercised the Strong Mayor Powers and By-law 2025-042 was passed authorizing the Mayor to engage in discussions with the City of Barrie and the Province of Ontario with respect to the City of Barrie's Boundary Proposal;

AND WHEREAS on September 3, 2025, the Mayor of the Township of Springwater exercised the Strong Mayor Powers and By-law 2025-068 was passed authorizing the Mayor to include cross-border servicing for the Bayfield Street corridor in the discussions with the City of Barrie and the Province of Ontario regarding the City of Barrie's Boundary Proposal;

AND WHEREAS the Township of Springwater Council authorized the retainer of Loopstra Nixon LLP on May 21, 2025 by Resolution C245-2025 in respect of the City of Barrie Boundary Proposal;

AND WHEREAS the retainer of Loopstra Nixon LLP was not legally terminated by Mayoral Direction MDIR-2025-005 given to Staff on November 8, 2025, such termination being legally possible only by further direction of Council, not Staff;

AND WHEREAS Council confirms that Loopstra Nixon LLP was duly authorized to fulfill Council's instructions in respect of the City of Barrie Boundary Proposal, including the provision of legal opinions in respect of the matter, and that such instructions also conferred authority for Loopstra Nixon LLP to communicate with individual Council members as necessary to address the issues involved;

AND WHEREAS on November 5, 2025, the Mayor of the Township of Springwater exercised the Strong Mayor Powers and By-law 2025-093 was passed authorizing the Mayor and Clerk to execute the boundary adjustment/restructuring proposal between the Township of Springwater and the City of Barrie;

AND WHEREAS on November 5, 2025, the Township of Springwater Council authorized Loopstra Nixon LLP to challenge the validity of By-laws 2025-042, 2025-068 and 2025-093 by Resolution C446-2025;

AND WHEREAS on November 10, 2025, Loopstra Nixon LLP filed a Notice of Application to Quash By-laws 2025-042, 2025-068 and 2025-093 pursuant to section 273(1) of the *Municipal Act, 2001,* S.O. 2001, c. 25, with the Superior Court of Justice;

AND WHEREAS on December 11, 2025, Bill 76, the Barrie – Oro-Medonte – Springwater Boundary Adjustment Act, 2025, an act respecting the adjustment of the boundaries between the City of Barrie, the Township of Oro-Medonte and the Township of Springwater, received Royal Assent thereby rendering the Application to Quash By-laws 2025-042, 2025-068 and 2025-093 filed with the Superior Court of Justice pursuant to section 273(1) of the *Municipal Act, 2001,* S.O. 2001, c. 25, moot;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

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1. Council of the Township of Springwater hereby authorizes Loopstra Nixon LLP to withdraw the Application to Quash filed with the Superior Court of Justice on November 10, 2025;

2. Council of the Township of Springwater hereby directs Loopstra Nixon LLP to cease all work on this matter effective December 12, 2025, and to submit an account for services rendered up to and including that date, and directs Staff to pay all outstanding accounts forthwith; and

3. Council extends its appreciation to Quinto Annibale and Loopstra Nixon LLP for its diligent and professional representation on such a highly contentious matter during an especially challenging period for the Township, and confirms that Quinto Annibale and Loopstra Nixon LLP faithfully carried out its work in accordance with Council's instructions (which instructions included seeking the views of individual Councillors who contacted them and who they contacted) and conducted itself at all times with the highest standards of professionalism, integrity, and competence.

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