Chronology and Communications (November/December billing period)

November 5, 2025- Closed session was held with topic: "Legal Advice regarding the Legislative Authority of the Minister to Implement the Barrie Annexation Proposal" as directed at the previous meeting. Loopstra presented the opinion to Council and Council directed that the opinion be made public.

At the November 5, 2025 Regular meeting of Council, a report was presented regarding the City of Barrie Proposed Boundary Adjustment, as deferred from the October 15th meeting. The motion listed on the agenda for consideration was as follows:

> **C440-2025**
>
> That the report from Township Senior Staff regarding the City of Barrie Final Boundary Adjustment Proposal, dated October 15, 2025, be received; and,
>
> **Option 1**
>
> That Council for the Township of Springwater accepts the City of Barrie's Boundary Adjustment proposal as presented and inform the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing of its decision; and,
>
> That a by-law be presented at the November 5, 2025 regular meeting of Council for consideration.
>
> or
>
> **Option 2**
>
> That Council for the Township of Springwater rejects the City of Barrie's Boundary Adjustment Proposal as presented and inform the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing of its decision.

Councillor Moore advised she had a motion without notice that she wished to introduce. As a motion was already on the table, a deferral of the above noted motion was required in order to introduce a new motion. Council supported this request and granted the deferral. Procedurally, a motion to suspend procedures was required and was supported by Council. Councillor Moore's motion was tabled and ultimately supported by Council. The motion is listed below:

> **C443-2025**
>
> That the Minister be requested to review and consider the Map on Schedule A to the Boundary Adjustment Agreement with the City of Barrie, delineating the lands to be annexed from Springwater is modified to reflect those parcels (S1,S2,S3) shown on the map from the County of Simcoe CO 2025-297 Schedule 3 (shown at the Special Meeting of County Council on November 4, 2025); and,

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That the MZO Lands in the Bayfield corridor are serviced by Springwater and the Framework Agreement be modified to remove the reference to cross border servicing found in section 1.3 and 6.4; and,

That the Minister of Municipal Housing and Affairs be informed of its decision.

The deferred motion was then put back on the table. Due to the outcome of C443-2025, staff advised that option 1 of the deferred motion (to approve the boundary adjustment agreement) was no longer appropriate as it was in direct conflict to C443-2025 (which approved alternative mapping and no cross-border servicing). Council voted in favour of option 2, to reject the framework agreement, as outlined below:

C444-2025

That the report from Township Senior Staff regarding the City of Barrie Final Boundary Adjustment Proposal, dated October 15, 2025, be received; and,

That Council for the Township of Springwater rejects the City of Barrie's Boundary Adjustment Proposal as presented and inform the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing of its decision.

At this time, Mayor Coughlin introduced a by-law, under the authority of Strong Mayors Powers, to approve the framework agreement and authorize its execution. A copy of the by-law was sent by the Mayor to the Clerk and members of Council, as required. Upon confirming that the by-law was delivered, the Mayor read the title of the by-law, her reasons for bringing it forward and advised that it would be amended to include a clause "notwithstanding any previous decisions of Council". The motion to approve the by-law, along with a link to the by-law are listed below:

C445-2025

That the mayor's 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, as presented be signed and sealed by the Mayor and Clerk, as amended to add the following clause "Notwithstanding any previous resolutions regarding the Barrie Boundary Discussions, this by-law shall take precedence".

2025-093 (November 5, 2025) Authorize the Mayor and Clerk to execute the boundary adjustment/restructuring proposal between the Township of Springwater and the City of Barrie.

The matter was debated, and the by-law was passed by 1/3 majority. Clause 4 of by-law 2025-093 states "Notwithstanding any previous resolutions regarding the Barrie Boundary Discussions, this by-law shall take precedence". Due to this clause, C443-2025 and C444-2025 are deemed superseded, rendering the decision of authorizing the execution of the boundary adjustment/restructuring proposal as the standing direction on the matter.

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Councillor Fisher advised he had a motion without notice that he wished to introduce. As Council had previously waived procedure, he was able to introduce his motion regarding commencing of various legal proceedings. After debate, this motion was supported by Council. The motion is outlined below:

> **C446-2025**
>
> That Council direct Loopstra Nixon LLP to challenge the validity of the impugned by-law and provide 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,
>
> That Council direct 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 by-law unless and until the matter above is determined by the courts.

November 7, 2025, Mayor Coughlin issued Mayoral Decision MD-2025-005 A decision to Veto a by-law passed by Council – By-law 2025-091, in part as it applies to Resolution C446-2025

November 7, 2025, an email was sent from staff to Loopstra Nixon LLP at 12:15 PM, advising of the above noted veto. A response was received from Quinto Annibale, which was subsequently forwarded to Council, at the request of Mr. Annibale. The correspondence is attached as Appendix A to this chronology.

November 8, 2025, Mayor Coughlin issued Mayoral Direction MDIR-2025-005 To Direct Township staff to Engage Legal Counsel and Provide Notice to Loopstra Nixon LLP

November 8, 2025, an email was sent from staff to Loopstra Nixon LLP at 10:54 AM advising of the above noted mayoral direction, and to provide notice of cessation of its engagement effective 12:15 PM on November 7, 2025, in accordance with the direction. Confirmation of receipt of the email was sent by Mr. Annibale on November 8, 2025 at 2:18 PM. The correspondence is attached as Appendix B to this chronology.

November 10, 2025, a petition of a majority of members of Council was submitted to the Clerk, calling for a Special Meeting of Council to be held on November 10, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. The agenda topic requested was: Discussion re Use of Strong Mayor Powers relating to the Barrie Boundary Adjustment matter including Dismissal of Loopstra Nixon LLP and Superseding of Council Direction. The agenda can be found here.

Council discussed the noted matter. Through discussion, Councillor Fisher tabled a motion to retain legal to commence legal proceedings relating to the use of Strong Mayor Powers regarding the City of Barrie Boundary Adjustment matter. The Mayor

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called the motion out of order. Subsequently, Councill tabled a motion to temporarily suspend procedures in order to retable the motion in question, which was supported by Council. Councillor Fisher's motion was tabled and ultimately supported by Council. The motion is listed below:

C452-2025

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-

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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;

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:

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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 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:

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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-2025-005 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 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-2025-005 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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November 10, 2025 an email was received from Loopstra Nixon LLP at 9:02 PM. This email addressed to the Chief Justice advising of the above noted resolution with a request to appoint a Judicial Inquiry. A copy of the email and letter are attached to this chronology as Appendix C.

November 12, 2025, Mayor Coughlin issued Mayoral Decision MD-2025-006 A decision to Veto a by-law passed by Council – By-law 2025-095, in part as it applies to Resolution C452-2025 (November 10th motion noted above)

November 12, 2025 – Affleck Greene McMurtry LLP sent an email to the Chief Justice at 4:06 PM advising the Chief Justice of the Mayoral Veto regarding the request for Judicial Inquiry. This email and letter can be found attached to this Chronology as Appendix D.

November 12, 2025, Council convened a Special Meeting to discuss the 2026/27 Mayor's Proposed Budget. Once budget deliberations were complete, and prior to the tabling of the confirmatory by-law, Councillor Alexander tabled a motion to temporarily waive the procedure by-law to introduce a motion without notice, which was supported by Council. Councillor Alexander then tabled the following motion, which was supported by Council.

C458-2025

Whereas on 2 occasions, the Mayor has purported to veto council decisions on November 05/25 and November 10/2025; and,

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 by-laws; and,

Whereas the Mayors veto did not have the effect of vetoing the resolutions (C446 & C452) the resolutions stand; and,

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

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D) And that the provincial facilitator and Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing be advised of the foregoing

At the same meeting of November 12, 2025, Councillor Garwood tabled the following motion, which was supported by Council:

C459-2025

That Council hereby directs that a chronology of events/decisions, along with all legal correspondence/opinions received, that have taken place since November 5, 2025, along with any decisions/uses of strong mayors powers used since May 1, 2025, regarding the Barrie Boundary Adjustment matter be sent to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing advising the Township has exhausted procedural advice and legal resources on the matter, seeking guidance and advice from the Province.

November 13, 2025, Mayor Coughlin issued Mayoral Decision MD-2025-007 to Veto a by-law passed by Council – By-law 2025-094, in part as it applies to Resolution C458-2025.

November 13, 2025 – Staff were included on an email from Mr. Annibale which included a screenshot of the November 12th motion of Council that is noted above *C458-2025). This email email can be found attached to this chronology as Appendix E.

November 14, 2025 – A letter was sent to the Chief Justice by Loopstra Nixon LLP. This correspondence is included in the below entry from November 19th as it was not sent to staff until that time.

November 17, 2025 – Affleck Greene McMurtry LLP sent an email to the Chief Justice, cc'ing Loopstra Nixon LLP regarding the request for Judicial Inquiry. A copy of this email can be found attached to this chronology as Appendix F.

November 19, 2025 – An email was received by staff from Loopstra Nixon LLP at 4:32 PM, which was addressed to the Chief Justice regarding the request for Judicial Inquiry. A copy of this email can be found attached to this chronology as Appendix G.

November 21, 2025 – An email was received by staff from Loopstra Nixon LLP at 6:32 PM. This email included a letter from the Chief Justice addressed to Loopstra Nixon LLP and Affleck Greene McMurtry LLP advising that the Chief Justice would not consider the request for appointment of a judge for the judicial inquiry until clarity is received. A copy of this email can be found attached to this chronology as Appendix H.

November 27, 2025 – An email was received by staff from Loopstra Nixon LLP at 12:15 PM regarding the passage of Bill 76. A copy of this email can be found attached to this chronology as Appendix I.

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December 12, 2025 – An email was received by staff from Loopstra Nixon LLP at 1:09 PM regarding the passage of Bill 76. A copy of this email can be found attached to this chronology as Appendix J.

December 16, 2025 – An email was sent to Loopstra Nixon LLP requesting a copy of all draft and filed court materials, relating to the November statement of account. A copy of this email can be found attached to this chronology as Appendix K.

December 17, 2025 – Special meeting of Council – Topic "Statement of Account from Loopstra Nixon for the period of November 3, 2025 to November 26, 2025 and review of all correspondence with Loopstra Nixon during the statement period". At this meeting, in closed session, the following confidential resolution was passed:

CONFIDENTIAL RESOLUTION

> **C524-2025**
> That staff be directed to correspond with Loopstra Nixon LLP to seek a possible resolution of the November statement of account, including a request for further detailed itemized statement, to be brought forward to Council in a subsequent closed session.
>
> And Further That staff be directed to ensure the statement of account continues to remain confidential, to be further directed by Council once staff report back to Council.

December 18, 2025 – A follow-up email was sent to Loopstra Nixon LLP from staff regarding the November statement of account, as directed by Council. A copy of this email can be found attached to this chronology as Appendix L.

January 12, 2026 – Correspondence from Loopstra Nixon LLP to staff regarding the request for information of December 18, 2025 was received. A copy of this correspondence can be found attached to this chronology as Appendix M.

January 21, 2026 – Special Meeting Closed Session - Topic "Update - Statement of Account from Loopstra Nixon for the period of November 3, 2025 to November 26, 2025 and review of all correspondence with Loopstra Nixon during the statement period". A report was provided by the CAO with the correspondence from Loopstra (report and appendices emailed to Council by Deputy Clerk Nelson on 2025-01-15 at 5:21 PM). At this meeting, in closed session, the following confidential resolution was passed:

CONFIDENTIAL RESOLUTION

> **C003A-2026**
> That the confidential report from the Chief Administrative Officer regarding Update - Statement of Account from Loopstra Nixon, dated January 21, 2026, be received; and,

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That staff be directed to advise Loopstra Nixon LLP the Township of Springwater will pay for services rendered up to and including November 7, 2025 and request a final invoice be provided with these details.

Referred

C003B-2026

That the motion now before Council be referred, to be brought forward as follows:

- once all billing is received
- invoices be broken down as follows: previous to November 7, 2025 and post November 7, 2025
- an additional request for itemized details of the invoices in question
- inclusions of any additional communication with Loopstra Nixon LLP during the invoicing time period.

Carried

January 23, 2026 – An email was sent to Loopstra Nixon, as directed by Council at the January 21st closed session. This email is attached to this chronology as Appendix N.

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Appendix A: 2025 11 07 Email to Loopstra

Renee Ainsworth

From: Quinto M. Annibale <QAnnibale@loonix.com>
Sent: November 7, 2025 4:37 PM
To: Renee Ainsworth
Subject: Re: Additional Direction from Council

EXTERNAL EMAIL. Please check sender.

Thanks Renee

Q

On Nov 7, 2025, at 3:48 PM, Renee Ainsworth <Renee.Ainsworth@springwater.ca> wrote:

Good afternoon Council,

I am forwarding the below email for your information, as requested by Mr. Annibale.

Thank you,

Renee

Get Outlook for Android

From: Quinto M. Annibale <QAnnibale@loonix.com>
Sent: Friday, November 7, 2025 3:14:42 p.m.
To: Renee Ainsworth <Renee.Ainsworth@springwater.ca>
Cc: Stacey Forfar <stacey.forfar@springwater.ca>; Roberta Green <rgreen@LN.Law>; Christopher Lee <clee@LN.Law>
Subject: Re: Additional Direction from Council

EXTERNAL EMAIL. Please check sender.

Hi Renee

Thanks for your note. In my opinion, the Mayor's veto does not have the effect of overriding the council resolution. The veto vetoes the confirming bylaw and the confirming by-law merely confirms the actions taken by council at the meeting. As you know, the actions were authorized by resolution of council not a bylaw, so while the confirming by-law confirmed the resolution, I don't believe the veto of the confirming bylaw affects the

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resolution at all. The resolution still stands and unless and until a court deals with the matter stating that court application(s) can only be commenced by bylaw (a debatable point in my opinion as the common law is mixed on the point), then the resolution continues to have effect. I say this notwithstanding section 5 of the Municipal Act

In addition to that, Section 274 of the Municipal Act clearly does allow the municipality to request the court to conduct an inquiry. The section also clearly allows that to occur by resolution, in which case, it is quite clear to me that the mayors veto does not have the effect of overriding the resolution. Section 5 contains an exception (where powers are specifically otherwise authorized by the Municipal Act or any other Act). The request for a judicial inquiry would include as its relief, a finding by way of recommendation, that all of the actions authorized by council (judicial review, injunction, application to quash) are properly brought in the circumstances. A positive finding in the s274 application would provide the necessary legal authority to proceed with the section 273 motion to quash and the other relief sought in my view. The council resolution is drafted broadly enough to authorize a section 274 application.

Therefore I am proceeding on the basis that the applications are still authorized by council and we will be drafting and issuing the various proceedings as quickly as possible. It is open to the Mayor and others to oppose those applications or to bring personal actions challenging them.

I would be most appreciative if you could forward this email to all members of council and that you copy me on that correspondence. Kindly confirm once you have done this.

Regards

Quinto M. Annibale*, Partner
Municipal, Land Use Planning & Development
T. 416.748.4757 | C. 416.917.5563 | QAnnibale@loonix.com

* Quinto M. Annibale Professional Corporation

Loopstra Nixon LLP
This email may contain confidential information which may be protected by legal privilege. If you are not the intended recipient, please immediately notify us by email or by telephone, delete this email and destroy any copies.

From: Renee Ainsworth <Renee.Ainsworth@springwater.ca>
Date: Friday, November 7, 2025 at 12:15 PM
To: Quinto M. Annibale <QAnnibale@loonix.com>
Cc: Stacey Forfar <stacey.forfar@springwater.ca>
Subject: RE: Additional Direction from Council

Good afternoon Quinto,

Mayor Coughlin has vetoed the resolution from Council directing your firm to commence various legal proceedings related to the COB matter. A copy of the veto is attached for your information. As such, I will cancel our meeting on Monday afternoon as no further action is necessary.

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Thank you,

Renée Ainsworth, Dipl. M.A., AOMC
Deputy Chief Administrative Officer/
Director of Corporate Services
Township of Springwater
2231 Nursery Road
Minesing, ON L9X 1A8
P. 705-728-4784 Ext. 2026
F. 705-728-6957
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Respecting Your Right to Disconnect: My working hours may not reflect yours. Please do not feel obligated to answer outside your normal work hours.

The information contained in this message is directed in confidence solely to the person(s) named above and may not be otherwise distributed, copied, or disclosed. The message may contain information that is privileged, confidential and exempt from disclosure under the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. If you have received this message in error, please notify the sender of the error so that we can update our distribution list and then delete the message without making a copy.

From: Quinto M. Annibale <QAnnibale@loonix.com>
Sent: November 6, 2025 12:09 AM
To: Renee Ainsworth <Renee.Ainsworth@springwater.ca>
Cc: Stacey Forfar <stacey.forfar@springwater.ca>; Renee Ainsworth <Renee.Ainsworth@springwater.ca>
Subject: Re: Additional Direction from Council

EXTERNAL EMAIL. Please check sender.

Hi Renee

Thanks for the follow up. Could we do Monday around 100 pm?

Quinto

On Nov 6, 2025, at 3:58 AM, Renee Ainsworth <Renee.Ainsworth@springwater.ca> wrote:

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Appendix A: 2025 11 07 Email to Loopstra

Good evening Quinto,

At this evening's meeting, the COB boundary matter was brought before Council. After much discussion and debate, the following resolutions were passed:

1. That the Minister be requested to review and consider the Map on Schedule A to the Boundary Adjustment Agreement with the City of Barrie, delineating the lands to be annexed from Springwater is modified to reflect those parcels (S1,S2,S3) shown on the map from the County of Simcoe CO 2025-297 Schedule 3 (shown at the Special Meeting of County Council on November 4, 2025); and,

   That the MZO Lands in the Bayfield corridor are serviced by Springwater and the Framework Agreement be modified to remove the reference to cross border servicing found in section 1.3 and 6.4; and,

   That the Minister of Municipal Housing and Affairs be informed of its decision.

2. That the report from Township Senior Staff regarding the City of Barrie Final Boundary Adjustment Proposal, dated October 15, 2025, be received; and,

   That Council for the Township of Springwater rejects the City of Barrie's Boundary Adjustment Proposal as presented and inform the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing of its decision.

Once those resolutions were dealt with, the Mayor tabled a by-law under strong Mayors powers to enter into agreement with the COB for the framework agreement, not withstanding any previous decisions of Council. This by-law was passed with 1/3 support. I will send over a copy of that by-law tomorrow.

Upon resolution of that by-law, Council then tabled and passed the below motion, providing direction to Loopstra Nixon, as follows:

1. That Council direct Loopsta Nixon LLP to challenge the validity of the impugned by-law and provide 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,

   That Council direct 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 by-law unless and until the matter above is determined by the courts.

A lot to digest, but if you are available for a zoom call to meet with both myself and CAO Forfar in the next day or two, it would be appreciated.

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Appendix A: 2025 11 07 Email to Loopstra

Thank you,

Renée Ainsworth, Dipl. M.A., AOMC
Deputy Chief Administrative Officer/
Director of Corporate Services
Township of Springwater
2231 Nursery Road
Minesing, ON L9X 1A8
P. 705-728-4784 Ext. 2026
F. 705-728-6957
<image002.png>
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Quinto M. Annibale*, Partner
Municipal, Land Use Planning & Development
T. 416.748.4757 | C. 416.917.5563 | QAnnibale@loonix.com

* Quinto M. Annibale Professional Corporation

<image008.png>

100 New Park Place, Suite 303, Vaughan, Ontario L4K 0H9 | www.LN.Law
Consistently Ranked as One of the Top Development Law Firms in the GTHA by Novae Res Urbis.

Loopstra Nixon LLP
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<image009.png>

Quinto M. Annibale*, Partner
Municipal, Land Use Planning & Development

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Appendix A: 2025 11 07 Email to Loopstra

T. 416.748.4757 | C. 416.917.5563 | QAnnibale@loonix.com

* Quinto M. Annibale Professional Corporation

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Appendix B: 2025 11 08 Email to Loopstra

Renee Ainsworth

From: Quinto M. Annibale <QAnnibale@loonix.com>
Sent: November 8, 2025 2:18 PM
To: Renee Ainsworth
Cc: Stacey Forfar; Renee Ainsworth
Subject: Re: MDIR-2025-005 Direct Staff to Engage Legal Counsel and Provide Notice to Loopstra Nixon LLP

EXTERNAL EMAIL. Please check sender.

Thank you Renee
Confirm receipt of your email

Quinto

On Nov 8, 2025, at 10:54 AM, Renee Ainsworth <Renee.Ainsworth@springwater.ca> wrote:

Good morning,

Mayor Coughlin has issued Mayoral Direction MDIR-2025-005 Direct Staff to Engage Legal Counsel and Provide Notice to Loopstra Nixon LLP, which is attached for your information.

The direction provides, in part, that notice be provided to Loopstra Nixon LLP confirming cessation of its engagement effective 12:15 p.m. (EST) 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 on or after that time. This email will serve as notice to your firm, in accordance with the Mayoral direction.

Thank you,

<image001.png>
Renée Ainsworth, Dipl. M.A., AOMC
Deputy Chief Administrative Officer/
Director of Corporate Services
Township of Springwater
2231 Nursery Road
Minesing, ON L9X 1A8
P. 705-728-4784 Ext. 2026
F. 705-728-6957
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Appendix B: 2025 11 08 Email to Loopstra

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<image006.png>

<image007.png>

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<MDIR-2025-005 Direct Staff to Engage Legal Counsel and Provide Notice to Loopstra Nixon LLP Signed.pdf>

Quinto M. Annibale*, Partner
Municipal, Land Use Planning & Development
T. 416.748.4757 | C. 416.917.5563 | QAnnibale@loonix.com

* Quinto M. Annibale Professional Corporation

LOOPSTRA NIXON

100 New Park Place, Suite 303, Vaughan, Ontario L4K 0H9 | www.LN.Law
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Loopstra Nixon LLP
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Appendix C: 2025 11 10 Email from Loopstra to Chief Justice & Attachment

Renee Ainsworth

From: Renee Ainsworth
Sent: November 11, 2025 2:59 PM
To: Council Members
Cc: Stacey Forfar
Subject: FW: Request from Springwater that a Judge Shall Inquire into matters per Municipal Act, 2001, s. 274
Attachments: Letter to the Honourable Chief Justice, dated November 10, 2025.pdf

Importance: High

Good afternoon Council,

Please see the attached correspondence from Loopstra Nixon received last evening at 9:02PM, for your information.

Thank you,

Renée Ainsworth, Dipl. M.A., AOMC
Deputy Chief Administrative Officer/
Director of Corporate Services
Township of Springwater
2231 Nursery Road
Minesing, ON L9X 1A8
P. 705-728-4784 Ext. 2026
F. 705-728-6957

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From: Jonathan Plender <jplender@LN.Law>
Sent: November 10, 2025 9:02 PM
To: michele.livingston@ontario.ca
Cc: Quinto M. Annibale <QAnnibale@loonix.com>; Christopher Lee <clee@LN.Law>; Stacey Forfar <stacey.forfar@springwater.ca>; Renee Ainsworth <Renee.Ainsworth@springwater.ca>
Subject: Request from Springwater that a Judge Shall Inquire into matters per Municipal Act, 2001, s. 274
Importance: High

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EXTERNAL EMAIL. Please check sender.

Dear Ms. Livingston,

We are writing to you in your capacity as judicial assistant to the Honourable Chief Justice Geoffrey Morawetz.

We represent the Corporation of the Township of Springwater.

Today, Council of the Township passed a resolution requesting a judge of the Superior Court of Justice investigate and inquire into certain matters under section 274 of the *Municipal Act, 2001*. We understand the typical process for an inquiry of this matter is for the municipality to write a letter to the Chief Justice of the Superior Court of Justice of Ontario. Attached is this letter which encloses a copy of the resolution.

We would greatly appreciate it if you could forward this to His Honour.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if we may be of further assistance to His Honour or the Court.

Your very truly,

Jonathan Plender, Associate
Commercial Litigation
T. 416.746.5644 | F. 416.746.8319 | jplender@LN.Law

LOOPSTRA NIXON
135 Queens Plate Drive, Suite 600, Toronto, Ontario M9W 6V7 | www.LN.Law

Loopstra Nixon LLP
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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 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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LOOPSTRA NIXON LLP
BARRISTERS AND SOLICITORS

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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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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Renee Ainsworth

From: Renee Ainsworth
Sent: November 12, 2025 4:55 PM
To: Council Members
Cc: Stacey Forfar
Subject: FW: The Corporation of the Township of Springwater Judicial Inquiry Request
Attachments: 2025 11 12 - Letter from M. Binetti re The Corporation of the Township of Springwater.pdf

Good afternoon Council,

Please see the below email and attachment for your information.

Thank you,

Renée Ainsworth, Dipl. M.A., AOMC
Deputy Chief Administrative Officer/
Director of Corporate Services
Township of Springwater
2231 Nursery Road
Minesing, ON L9X 1A8
P. 705-728-4784 Ext. 2026
F. 705-728-6957

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From: William McLennan <wmclennan@agmlawyers.com>
Sent: November 12, 2025 4:06 PM
To: Renee Ainsworth <Renee.Ainsworth@springwater.ca>; Stacey Forfar <stacey.forfar@springwater.ca>
Cc: Michael Binetti <mbinetti@agmlawyers.com>; John Mascarin <jmascarin@airdberlis.com>
Subject: FW: The Corporation of the Township of Springwater Judicial Inquiry Request

EXTERNAL EMAIL. Please check sender.

Stacey and Renee – I am forwarding the email sent to the Chief Justice earlier today. Let us know if you have any questions.

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Best,
Will

AFFLECK GREENE MCMURTRY LLP
BARRISTERS

WILLIAM MCLENNAN

+1 647-797-0623
wmclennan@agmlawyers.com

365 Bay Street, Suite 200
Toronto, Canada M5H 2V1
T/F +1 416-360-2800
agmlawyers.com / thelitigator.ca

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From: William McLennan
Sent: November 12, 2025 12:42 PM
To: 'michele.livingston@ontario.ca' <michele.livingston@ontario.ca>
Cc: Michael Binetti <mbinetti@agmlawyers.com>
Subject: The Corporation of the Township of Springwater Judicial Inquiry Request

Good afternoon,

Please see the attached correspondence from Michael Binetti to Chief Justice Morawetz regarding this matter. Please forward this to His Honour's attention.

Best,
Will

AFFLECK GREENE MCMURTRY LLP
BARRISTERS

WILLIAM MCLENNAN

+1 647-797-0623
wmclennan@agmlawyers.com

365 Bay Street, Suite 200
Toronto, Canada M5H 2V1
T/F +1 416-360-2800
agmlawyers.com / thelitigator.ca

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AFFLECK GREENE MCMURTRY LLP
BARRISTERS

Michael I. Binetti
Email: mbinetti@agmlawyers.com
Direct Line: (416) 360-0777

November 12, 2025

By EMAIL
michele.livingston@ontario.ca

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 are counsel to Springwater. We write regarding a letter sent to Your Honour by Loopstra Nixon LLP on November 10, 2025.

In its letter, Loopstra Nixon purported to act as counsel to Springwater and request the appointment of a judge for an inquiry under Section 274 of the *Municipal Act, 2001*, S.O. 2001, c. 25 (the "**Act**"). As authority for the alleged retainer and the request, Loopstra Nixon relied on Resolution C452-2025, which forms part of By-law 2025-095 (the "**By-Law**") (attached to its letter).

The By-Law did not authorize Loopstra Nixon to act as Springwater's counsel or request an inquiry.

The Act provides Springwater Mayor Coughlin two days to consider whether to veto the By-Law if it could potentially interfere with a provincial priority. Up until today, the By-Law was deemed not to be passed pursuant to s. 284.11(4)(a)(ii) of the Act.

Today, Mayor Coughlin vetoed the By-Law as it applies to Resolution C452-2025, and thus, that part of the By-Law is deemed not to have passed. It is of no force and effect.

See attached, Mayoral Decision MD-2025-006, "A decision to Veto a by-law passed by Council – By-law 2025-095, in part as it applies to Resolution C452-2025".

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AFFLECK GREENE MCMURTRY LLP
BARRISTERS

As the part of the By-Law requesting an inquiry was never passed, we respectfully submit that the request should be denied, and that no further intervention from the Court is required.

Sincerely,
Affleck Greene McMurtry LLP

[redacted]

Michael I. Binetti

Encl.

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Township of Springwater

Office of the Mayor

Mayoral Decision

MD-2025-006

A decision to Veto a by-law passed by Council – By-law 2025-095, in part as it applies to Resolution C452-2025

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 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 10, 2025 as follows:

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Township of Springwater

Office of the Mayor

1. That By-law 2025-095, being a by-law to confirm the proceedings of the Township of Springwater at its meeting held on November 10, 2025 be vetoed, in part, as it applies to resolution C452-2025 to direct Loopstra Nixon LLP to commence legal proceedings (hereinafter referred to as the "**By-law**").

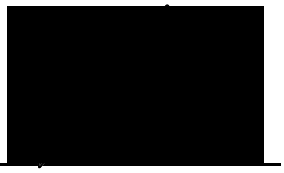
2. That all other aspects of By-law 2025-095 shall be deemed to have been approved in writing pursuant to subclause 284.11(4)(a)(i) of the Act on November 12, 2025.

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 12th day of November, 2025.



Jennifer Coughlin,
Mayor

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Renee Ainsworth

From: Quinto M. Annibale <QAnnibale@loonix.com>
Sent: November 13, 2025 1:57 PM
To: Alexandra Whyte; Brendan P. Ruddick; Christopher Lee; Amanda Pilieci; Jonathan Plender; Roberta Green; Renee Ainsworth
Subject: Re: We need a strong response.

EXTERNAL EMAIL. Please check sender.

Also passed last night

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Appendix E: 2025 11 13 Email from Loopstra



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On Nov 13, 2025, at 12:49 PM, Quinto M. Annibale <QAnnibale@loonix.com> wrote:

These were distributed to counsel last night.

Quinto M. Annibale*, Partner
Municipal, Land Use Planning & Development
T. 416.748.4757 | C. 416.917.5563 | QAnnibale@loonix.com

* Quinto M. Annibale Professional Corporation

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Renee Ainsworth

From: William McLennan <wmclennan@agmlawyers.com>
Sent: November 17, 2025 9:29 AM
To: michele.livingston@ontario.ca
Cc: Christopher Lee; QAnnibale@loonix.com; jplender@LN.Law; Michael Binetti; Stacey Forfar; Renee Ainsworth
Subject: RE: Letter to the Honourable Chief Justice Geoffrey Morawetz regarding Judicial Inquiry, dated November 14, 2025
Attachments: 2025 11 17 - Letter from M. Binetti re Corporation of the Township of Springwater.pdf

EXTERNAL EMAIL. Please check sender.

Good morning,

Further to email and letter below, please see the attached correspondence from Michael Binetti to Chief Justice Morawetz. Please forward this to His Honour's attention.

Thank you,
Will

AFFLECK GREENE MCMURTRY LLP
BARRISTERS

WILLIAM MCLENNAN

+1 647-797-0623
wmclennan@agmlawyers.com

365 Bay Street, Suite 200
Toronto, Canada M5H 2V1
T/F +1 416-360-2800
agmlawyers.com / thelitigator.ca

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From: Jonathan Plender <jplender@LN.Law>
Sent: Friday, November 14, 2025 3:28:54 p.m.
To: michele.livingston@ontario.ca <michele.livingston@ontario.ca>
Cc: Quinto M. Annibale <QAnnibale@loonix.com>; Christopher Lee <clee@LN.Law>; Stacey.forfar@springwater.ca <stacey.forfar@springwater.ca>; Renee.Ainsworth@springwater.ca <renee.ainsworth@springwater.ca>; Michael Binetti <mbinetti@agmlawyers.com>
Subject: Letter to the Honourable Chief Justice Geoffrey Morawetz regarding Judicial Inquiry, dated November 14, 2025

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Dear Ms. Livingston,

We are writing to you again in your capacity as judicial assistant to the Honourable Chief Justice Geoffrey Morawetz.

As you may know, we represent the Corporation of the Township of Springwater and we would greatly appreciate it if you could forward the attached correspondence to His Honour.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if we may be of further assistance to His Honour or the Court.

Your very truly,

Jonathan Plender, Associate
Commercial Litigation
T. 416.746.5644 | F. 416.746.8319 | jplender@LN.Law

LOOPSTRA NIXON

135 Queens Plate Drive, Suite 600, Toronto, Ontario M9W 6V7 | www.LN.Law

Loopstra Nixon LLP
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AFFLECK GREENE MCMURTRY LLP
BARRISTERS

Michael I. Binetti
Email: mbinetti@agmlawyers.com
Direct Line: (416) 360-0777

November 17, 2025

By EMAIL
michele.livingston@ontario.ca

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.

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AFFLECK GREENE MCMURTRY LLP
BARRISTERS

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

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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,

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Township of Springwater

Office of the Mayor

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.

[redacted]

Jennifer Coughlin,
Mayor

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Renee Ainsworth

From: Roberta Green <rgreen@LN.Law>
Sent: November 19, 2025 4:32 PM
To: Clerk's Department; Council Members; Renee Ainsworth
Cc: Quinto M. Annibale; Brendan P. Ruddick
Subject: Confidential Update to Council; Application to Quash By-laws 2025-42, 2025-068 and 2025-093; Request for Judicial Investigation pursuant to section 274 of the Municipal Act, 2001, S.O. 2001, c.25
Attachments: Confidential Correspondence from Q Annibale dated November 19 2025 1 1.pdf; Letter to the Honourable Chief Justice dated November 14 2025.pdf; 2025 11 17 - Letter from M. Binetti re Corporation of the Township of Springwater.pdf

EXTERNAL EMAIL. Please check sender.

Good afternoon,

Please find attached confidential correspondence from Mr. Annibale dated November 19, 2025.

Thank you,

Roberta Green, Senior Law Clerk
Municipal, Land Use Planning & Development
T. 416.748.4137 | rgreen@LN.Law

LOOPSTRA NIXON
100 New Park Place, Suite 303, Vaughan, Ontario L4K 0H9 | www.LN.Law
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Quinto M. Annibale*
***Quinto M. Annibale Professional Corporation**
Direct Line: (416) 748-4757
e-mail address: qannibale@loonix.com

VIA EMAIL (clerks@springwater.ca)

November 19, 2025

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

Attention: Stacey Forfar, Clerk

Dear Mayor Coughlin and Members of Council:

RE: Update to Council
Application to Quash By-laws 2025-42, 2025-068, and 2025-093
Request for Judicial Investigation pursuant to section 274 of the *Municipal Act,* 2001, S.O. 2001, c. 25
Our File No. 33222-0002

I am writing to provide an update to Council on the current status of the application to quash By-laws 2025-042, 2025-068, and 2025-093 filed in accordance with Council Resolutions C446-2025 and C452-2025 and the request for a judicial inquiry brought in accordance with Council's direction provided through Council Resolution C452-2025.

For your reference, the latest correspondence sent by our office to the Chief Justice of the Ontario Superior Court of Justice dated November 12, 2025 on behalf of the Township is enclosed herewith. Also enclosed for your reference is correspondence from Affleck Greene McMurtry LLP dated November 17, 2025 ("AGM Correspondence").

We disagree with the assertion in the AGM Correspondence that Loopstra Nixon LLP no longer acts for the Township. We also disagree with the conclusions in the AGM Correspondence regarding the legal effect of the decisions by Mayor Coughlin to veto portions of Confirming By-laws 2025-091, 2025-095 and 2025-094. In light of Council's direction provided to Loopstra Nixon through Resolution C446-2025 and C452-2025, which direction was confirmed at the November 12, 2025 meeting through resolution C458-2025, we consider ourselves to still be retained by the Township with respect to these matters.

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The application to quash continues to be filed with the Court and we will be moving forward with a motion for an injunction shortly in accordance with Council's direction.

We are waiting for a response from the Chief Justice regarding the request for a judicial inquiry and will update Council as soon as we receive more information and confirmation regarding next steps.

Please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned should you require anything further.

Yours truly,

LOOPSTRA NIXON LLP

[redacted]

Per: Quinto M. Annibale

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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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AFFLECK GREENE MCMURTRY LLP
BARRISTERS

Michael I. Binetti
Email: mbinetti@agmlawyers.com
Direct Line: (416) 360-0777

November 17, 2025

By EMAIL
michele.livingston@ontario.ca

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.

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AFFLECK GREENE MCMURTRY LLP
BARRISTERS

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

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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,

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Township of Springwater

Office of the Mayor

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.

[redacted]

Jennifer Coughlin,
Mayor

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Renee Ainsworth

From: Renee Ainsworth
Sent: November 24, 2025 4:39 PM
To: Council Members
Cc: Stacey Forfar
Subject: FW: Judicial inquiry request
Attachments: LET - ELO to Lee and Binetti - re Springwater - Nov. 21, 2025.pdf

Good afternoon,

Please see the below email and attachment, for information.

Thank you,

Renée Ainsworth, Dipl. M.A., AOMC
Deputy Chief Administrative Officer/
Director of Corporate Services
Township of Springwater
2231 Nursery Road
Minesing, ON L9X 1A8
P. 705-728-4784 Ext. 2026
F. 705-728-6957

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From: Quinto M. Annibale <QAnnibale@loonix.com>
Sent: November 21, 2025 6:32 PM
To: Renee Ainsworth <Renee.Ainsworth@springwater.ca>; Roberta Green <rgreen@LN.Law>; Stacey Forfar <stacey.forfar@springwater.ca>; Jennifer Marshall <jennifer.marshall@springwater.ca>; Christopher Lee <clee@LN.Law>; Brendan P. Ruddick <bruddick@LN.Law>
Subject: Judicial inquiry request

EXTERNAL EMAIL. Please check sender.

Renee and Jennifer

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Attached you will please find a letter from the Office of the Chief Justice, which is self explanatory. We will not be pursuing this relief further unless council can provide an unambiguous resolution. A resolution of council which the mayor does not attempt to veto would be an example of such an unambiguous resolution.

I would appreciate it if you would forward this correspondence to all council members.

Regards

Quinto Annibale

Quinto M. Annibale*, Partner
Municipal, Land Use Planning & Development
T. 416.748.4757 | C. 416.917.5563 | QAnnibale@loonix.com

* Quinto M. Annibale Professional Corporation

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Loopstra Nixon LLP
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SUPERIOR COURT OF JUSTICE
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF JUSTICE

ONTARIO

COUR SUPÉRIEURE DE JUSTICE
BUREAU DU JUGE EN CHEF

OSGOODE HALL
TORONTO, ONTARIO M5H 2N5

November 21, 2025

Christopher Lee
Loopstra Nixon LLP
Woodbine Place
#600-135 Queens Plate Drive
Toronto, Ontario
M9W 6V7

Sent via Email: clee@ln.law

Michael Binetti
Affleck Greene McMurtry LLP
#200-365 Bay Street
Toronto, Ontario
M5H 2V1

Sent via Email: mbinetti@agmlawyers.com

Dear Mr. Lee and Mr. Binetti,

I am the Executive Legal Officer for the Ontario Superior Court of Justice. Your correspondence to Chief Justice Morawetz, dated Nov. 10, 2025, Nov. 12, 2025, Nov. 14, 2025, and Nov. 17, 2025, has been forwarded to me.

I am writing to advise that Chief Justice Morawetz will not consider the request to exercise his duty to appoint a judge to conduct an inquiry pursuant to Section 274 of the *Municipal Act, 2002, S.O. 2001, c.* 25, unless the parties consent to such an appointment, or until further clarity is brought to the situation by due process of law or by an unambiguously valid resolution of the Council.

Sincerely,

Corie Langdon

Corie Langdon
Executive Legal Officer

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Renee Ainsworth

From: Renee Ainsworth
Sent: November 28, 2025 3:40 PM
To: Council Members
Cc: Stacey Forfar; Renee Ainsworth
Subject: FW: Bill 76
Attachments: b076_e[33].pdf

Good afternoon,

Please see the below email for information.

Thank you,

Renée Ainsworth, Dipl. M.A., AOMC
Deputy Chief Administrative Officer/
Director of Corporate Services
Township of Springwater
2231 Nursery Road
Minesing, ON L9X 1A8
P. 705-728-4784 Ext. 2026
F. 705-728-6957

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From: Quinto M. Annibale <QAnnibale@loonix.com>
Sent: November 27, 2025 12:19 PM
To: Renee Ainsworth <Renee.Ainsworth@springwater.ca>; Clerk's Department <clerks@springwater.ca>; Stacey Forfar <stacey.forfar@springwater.ca>
Cc: Roberta Green <rgreen@LN.Law>; Christopher Lee <clee@LN.Law>; Alexandra Whyte <awhyte@LN.Law>; Brendan P. Ruddick <bruddick@LN.Law>
Subject: Bill 76

EXTERNAL EMAIL. Please check sender.

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Renee

I would appreciate it if you would forward this email to all members of Council at your earliest convenience.

Mayor and Members of Council:

As you know, the legislature on Wednesday November 25, 2025, introduced Bill 76. "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**". A copy of the proposed legislation is attached for your reference. Bill 76 received second reading yesterday, November 26, 2025. If passed, it is our opinion that the effect of the legislation would be to implement the Barrie annexation proposal by statute, thereby making the relief which you instructed me to seek in the Application to Quash the Mayor's various strong Mayors By-laws and Directions moot. In those circumstances, the relief sought, (although still important as it would determine the reach of a Strong Mayor), would be theoretical only. Courts generally do not make rulings on theoretical or moot points and therefore the likelihood of success would diminish considerably were you to continue with the litigation now. Therefore, I have asked our litigation team to cease work on the Application to Quash as of today so that legal costs are minimized. If the legislation is passed I will likely follow up with a recommendation to council that it authorize me to withdraw the application.

I do note the Bill gives the Minister power to require compensation to be paid and that this may require further negotiation with the province and the other municipalities to determine that compensation (or at the very least, submissions to that effect should be made to the Minister by your council). You will recall that I made certain recommendations on how to improve the compensation last offered by Barrie through the Framework agreement, so that it was more in line with other examples throughout Ontario and fairer for Springwater. If Council wishes, I would be pleased to continue as your counsel and assist in those negotiations or submissions. Kindly advise.

Regards

Quinto M. Annibale*, Partner
Municipal, Land Use Planning & Development
T. 416.748.4757 | C. 416.917.5563 | QAnnibale@loonix.com

* Quinto M. Annibale Professional Corporation

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Legislative Assembly of Ontario



Assemblée législative de l'Ontario

1ST SESSION, 44TH LEGISLATURE, ONTARIO
4 CHARLES III, 2025

Bill 76

An Act respecting the adjustment of the boundaries between the City of Barrie, the Township of Oro-Medonte and the Township of Springwater

The Hon. R. Flack
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

Government Bill

1st Reading	November 25, 2025
2nd Reading	
3rd Reading	
Royal Assent	

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EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Bill enacts the *Barrie – Oro-Medonte – Springwater Boundary Adjustment Act, 2025*, which provides for the annexation of portions of the Township of Oro-Medonte and the Township of Springwater to the City of Barrie. Various matters are dealt with, including the application of by-laws, resolutions and official plans, the continuation of procedures in process and arrangements with respect to real property taxes and other tax matters. Provision is made for payments between the respective municipalities, as may be required and determined by regulation. The Minister is authorized to make regulations in respect of wards. The annexed areas are described in Schedule 1. However, the Minister is authorized to make regulations prescribing the annexed area and, if the Minister does so, that description is deemed to be the annexed area as of the effective date and the description in Schedule 1 is deemed not to have been the annexed area.

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Bill 76 **2025**

An Act respecting the adjustment of the boundaries between the City of Barrie, the Township of Oro-Medonte and the Township of Springwater

CONTENTS

1.	Definition
2.	Annexation
3.	By-laws and resolutions
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9.	Regulations
10.	Conflict
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12.	Commencement
13.	Short title
Schedule 1	

His Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Ontario, enacts as follows:

Definition

1 (1) In this Act,

"effective date" means the date determined in accordance with subsection (2).

Interpretation

(2) The effective date is the later of January 1, 2026 and the day the *Barrie – Oro-Medonte – Springwater Boundary Adjustment Act, 2025* receives Royal Assent.

Reference

(3) A reference in this Act to the County of Simcoe, the City of Barrie, the Township of Oro-Medonte or the Township of Springwater is a reference to the geographic area comprising that municipality or a reference to the municipal corporation bearing that name, as the context requires.

Annexation

2 (1) On the effective date, the portions of the Township of Oro-Medonte and the Township of Springwater described in Schedule 1 to this Act are annexed to the City of Barrie.

Real property

(2) Except as otherwise prescribed by the regulations, all real property of the Township of Oro-Medonte, the Township of Springwater and the County of Simcoe in the annexed areas vests in the City of Barrie on the effective date including, without limitation,

(a) any highway, fixture, waterline and sewer in the annexed area; and

(b) any easement and restrictive covenant running with land in the annexed area.

Other assets and liabilities

(3) All assets and liabilities of the Township of Oro-Medonte, the Township of Springwater or the County of Simcoe that are located in or associated with any of the annexed areas, other than those described in subsection (2), remain the assets and liabilities of the Township of Oro-Medonte, the Township of Springwater or the County of Simcoe, as the case may be.

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Materials

(4) As soon as reasonably possible after the effective date, the Township of Oro-Medonte, the Township of Springwater and the County of Simcoe shall transfer to the City of Barrie any studies, plans, records, data, designs or similar materials it has prepared, regardless of whether they were prepared for public access, that relate to any of the annexed areas.

Funds

(5) Any fund or proportionate amount of a fund held by the Township of Oro-Medonte, the Township of Springwater or the County of Simcoe on the effective date, which is held for the sole purpose of maintenance, improvement or operation of any of the real property referenced in subsection (2) shall be transferred to the City of Barrie on the effective date.

Reserve funds under the *Development Charges Act, 1997*

(6) Subsection (5) does not include reserve funds established under section 33 of the *Development Charges Act, 1997*.

Proceedings re real property

(7) Any proceeding, including any arbitral, administrative or court proceeding, relating to real property of the Township of Oro-Medonte, the Township of Springwater or the County of Simcoe in the annexed areas that commenced prior to the effective date remains the obligation of the Township of Oro-Medonte, the Township of Springwater or the County of Simcoe, as the case may be.

By-laws and resolutions

3 (1) On the effective date,

(a) the by-laws and resolutions of the City of Barrie extend to the annexed areas; and

(b) subject to subsections (3) and (4), the by-laws and resolutions of the Township of Oro-Medonte, the Township of Springwater and the County of Simcoe cease to apply to the annexed area.

By-laws passed under the *Development Charges Act, 1997*

(2) For greater certainty, by-laws referred to in clause (1) (a) include by-laws of the City of Barrie passed under the *Development Charges Act, 1997*.

Exception, subs. (1) (b)

(3) To the extent that they apply to any of the annexed areas, the following by-laws of the Township of Oro-Medonte, the Township of Springwater and the County of Simcoe are deemed to be by-laws of the City of Barrie and remain in force in the annexed area until they expire or are repealed or are amended to provide otherwise:

1. By-laws passed under section 34 or 41 of the *Planning Act*, or a predecessor of those sections.
2. By-laws passed under the *Highway Traffic Act* or the *Municipal Act, 2001*, or a predecessor of either of those Acts, to regulate,
    i. the use of highways by vehicles and pedestrians, or
    ii. the encroachment or projection of buildings upon or over highways.
3. By-laws passed under section 45, 58 or 61 of the *Drainage Act*, or a predecessor of any of those sections.
4. By-laws passed under section 10 of the *Weed Control Act* or a predecessor of that section.
5. Any other by-laws that may be prescribed by the regulations.

Same

(4) To the extent that they apply to any of the annexed areas, any by-laws and resolutions of the Township of Oro-Medonte, the Township of Springwater and the County of Simcoe that confer rights, privileges, franchises, immunities or exemptions and could not lawfully be repealed by the Township of Oro-Medonte, the Township of Springwater or the County of Simcoe are deemed to be by-laws and resolutions of the City of Barrie.

By-laws in process

(5) If the Township of Oro-Medonte, the Township of Springwater or the County of Simcoe has commenced procedures to enact a by-law under any Act and that by-law applies to the annexed areas and is not in force on the effective date, the City of Barrie may continue the procedures to enact the by-law to the extent that it applies to the annexed area.

Official plan

4 (1) The official plans of the Township of Oro-Medonte, the Township of Springwater and the County of Simcoe in respect of any of the annexed areas are each deemed to be an official plan of the City of Barrie on the effective date, and remain in force until they are revoked or amended to provide otherwise.

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Official plan and amendments in process

(2) If the Township of Oro-Medonte, the Township of Springwater or the County of Simcoe has commenced procedures to adopt an official plan or an amendment to its official plan and that official plan or amendment applies to any of the annexed area and is not in force on the effective date, the City of Barrie may continue the procedures to adopt the official plan or amendment to the extent that it applies to the annexed area.

Other matters in process

5 (1) If the Township of Oro-Medonte, the Township of Springwater or the County of Simcoe has commenced procedures with respect to any matter other than those described in subsections 3 (5) and 4 (2), and the matter applies to any of the annexed areas and, on the effective date, has not been completed, the City of Barrie may continue the procedures to complete the matter to the extent that it applies to the annexed area.

Tax sales

(2) For clarity, a reference to procedures in subsection (1) includes tax sales procedures under Part XI of the *Municipal Act, 2001*.

Property taxes due and unpaid

6 (1) All real property taxes or special rates assessed against the land in the annexed areas that are due and unpaid on the day before the effective date become, on the effective date, taxes that are due and payable to the City of Barrie and may be collected by the City.

Special tax roll

(2) Within two months after the effective date, the clerks of the Township of Oro-Medonte and the Township of Springwater shall prepare and furnish to the clerk of the City of Barrie a special tax roll showing,

(a) all arrears of real property taxes or special rates assessed against the land in the annexed area up to and including the day before the effective date; and

(b) the persons assessed for those arrears.

Tax arrears, etc

(3) Within seven months after the effective date, the City of Barrie shall pay to the Township of Oro-Medonte and the Township of Springwater an amount, in respect of each township, equal to the arrears of real property taxes or special rates contained on the special tax roll, together with any accumulated interest or penalty, but excluding any amount that the treasurer of the City of Barrie removes from the roll under section 354 of the *Municipal Act, 2001*.

Property tax phase-in

(4) Unless the regulations provide otherwise, if the property tax rate in respect of a property located within any of the annexed areas is higher in 2026 than it was in 2025 because the 2026 property tax rate in the City of Barrie is higher than the 2025 property tax rate in the township the property was in before the effective date, the following rules apply with respect to the property tax rate for that property:

1. In the case of a property in the farm property class or managed forests property class under the *Assessment Act*, the property tax rate difference for the property shall be phased in over the years 2026 to 2045 in accordance with the regulations, subject to such exceptions as are provided for in the regulations.
2. In the case of all other classes of property, the property tax rate difference for the property shall be phased in over the years 2026 to 2030 in accordance with the regulations, subject to such exceptions as are provided for in the regulations.

Same

(5) For greater certainty, if in a year a property is subject to the rules in subsection (4) the property tax rate in the City of Barrie for that year is lower than the 2025 property tax rate in the township the property was in before the effective date, the property tax rate for the property in that year will be the property tax rate for the City of Barrie.

Exception

(6) Despite subsection (4), if any of the following events occurs in respect of a property, the phasing in of the increased property tax rate under subsection (4) or in accordance with the regulations, as the case may be, shall cease to apply and, in the years following the event, the property tax rate shall be the property tax rate in the City of Barrie in each year:

1. There is a change in ownership of the property.
2. An official plan amendment, that applies to some or all of the property, adopted in response to a request made under section 22 of the *Planning Act* comes into effect.
3. An amendment to a zoning by-law, that applies to some or all of the property, passed in response to an application under section 34 of the *Planning Act* comes into force.

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4. Plans and drawings for development, that apply to some or all of the property, within a designated site plan control area under section 41 of the *Planning Act* have been approved.
5. A final plan of subdivision, for some or all of the property, under section 51 of the *Planning Act* is deposited with the land registrar for registration.
6. Consent has been given under section 53 of the *Planning Act* in respect of a transaction related to the property.
7. There is a change in classification of the property under the *Assessment Act*.
8. Such other events as may be prescribed by the regulations.

Same

(7) Paragraph 1 of subsection (6) does not apply if,

(a) in the case of a property in the farm property class or managed forests property class under the *Assessment Act*, the change in ownership is between a parent and their child; or

(b) in the case of all other classes of property, the change in ownership is between spouses.

Assessment roll for 2026 taxation

(8) For the purposes of the City of Barrie's assessment roll for the 2026 taxation year, the annexed areas are deemed to be part of the City of Barrie for the portion of the year commencing on the effective date and ending on the last day of 2026.

Definitions

(9) In this section,

"child" has the same meaning as in section 1 of the *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act*; ("enfant")

"real property taxes" has the same meaning as in subsection 371 (1) of the *Municipal Act, 2001*. ("impôts fonciers")

No disqualification

7 Despite subsection 258 (2) of the *Municipal Act, 2001*, a person who is a member of the council of the Township of Oro-Medonte or the Township of Springwater on the effective date is not, during the term of office ending November 14, 2026, disqualified from holding office because of any disqualification resulting solely from the annexation under this Act.

Compensation

8 (1) The City of Barrie shall make such payment or payments, or provide such other forms of compensation, as required and determined by the regulations, if any, to the Township of Oro-Medonte, the Township of Springwater and the County of Simcoe.

Same

(2) The Township of Oro-Medonte, the Township of Springwater and the County of Simcoe shall make such payment or payments, or provide such other forms of compensation, as required and determined by the regulations, if any, to the City of Barrie.

Regulations

9 (1) The Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing may make regulations providing for any matters which, in the opinion of the Minister, are necessary or advisable for the purposes of this Act, including,

(a) providing for any of the matters described in Ontario Regulation 204/03 (Powers of the Minister or a Commission in Implementing a Restructuring Proposal) made under the *Municipal Act, 2001*, with respect to the annexation under this Act;

(b) governing property rights of the Township of Oro-Medonte and the Township of Springwater in respect of real property of the township within the annexed areas that would otherwise transfer to the City of Barrie under subsection 2 (2);

(c) altering the wards of the City of Barrie to address the annexation under this Act and governing the division of the annexed areas into one or more wards of the City of Barrie, including by providing that such division will be in accordance with a designated map or document;

(d) prescribing by-laws for the purposes of subsection 3 (3);

(e) governing property tax rates for the purposes of subsection 6 (4), including defining property tax rate difference, governing how to determine the property tax rate difference for a property and how the property tax rate difference for a property will be phased in, prescribing exceptions to the phasing in and prescribing equations, rules or other methods for calculating or determining the property tax rate or amount of property tax owing for a property;

(f) prescribing events for the purposes of subsection 6 (6);

(g) requiring and determining payments or other forms of compensation for the purposes of section 8;

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(h) providing for transitional matters which, in the opinion of the Minister, are necessary or desirable to,

(i) facilitate the implementation of this Act or any provision of this Act, or

(ii) deal with problems or issues arising as a result of the enactment of this Act.

Retroactivity

(2) A regulation made under subsection (1) may be made retroactive to a date not earlier than the effective date.

No effect of s. 30 of O. Reg. 204/03

(3) For greater certainty, section 30 of Ontario Regulation 204/03 (Powers of the Minister or a Commission in Implementing a Restructuring Proposal) made under the *Municipal Act, 2001* does not apply to a regulation made under this section.

Conflict

10 (1) This Act applies despite any general or special Act and despite any regulation made under any other Act and, in the event of a conflict between this Act and another Act or a regulation made under another Act, this Act prevails.

Same

(2) In the event of a conflict between a regulation made under subsection 9 (1) and another provision of this Act, a provision of another Act or a provision of a regulation made under another Act, the regulation made under subsection 9 (1) prevails.

Amendments to this Act

11 (1) Subsection 2 (1) of this Act is repealed and the following substituted:

Annexation

(1) Any portion of the Township of Oro-Medonte or the Township of Springwater as prescribed by the regulations is annexed to the City of Barrie.

Same

(1.1) If a regulation is made for the purposes of subsection (1), the area prescribed by that regulation is deemed to be annexed as of the effective date and the area described in Schedule 1 to this Act, as it read immediately before its repeal, is deemed not to have been annexed.

(2) Subsection 9 (1) of this Act is amended by adding the following clause:

(a.1) prescribing the annexed area for the purposes of subsection 2 (1).

(3) Schedule 1 to this Act is repealed.

Commencement

12 (1) Except as otherwise provided in this section, this Act comes into force on the day it receives Royal Assent.

(2) Section 11 of this Act comes into force on a day to be named by order of the Lieutenant Governor in Council.

Short title

13 The short title of this Act is the *Barrie – Oro-Medonte – Springwater Boundary Adjustment Act, 2025*.

SCHEDULE 1

1 The portion of the Township of Oro-Medonte is described as follows:

1. Lands located in the Township of Oro-Medonte, County of Simcoe, being the lands described as Part of Lots 2 to 10, 12-15 Concession 1, East of Penetanguishene Road, Oro; and Part of the Road Allowance Between Lots 5 and 6, Concession 1, East of Penetanguishene Road, Oro, Lying between Penetanguishene Road and the Road Allowance between Concessions 1 and 2, East of Penetanguishene Road; and Lots 17 to 24, South Side of Steel Street, Lots 17 to 24 North Side of Adam Street; Steel Street; Block S; Part of Block E, Northside of Adam Street; Lots 13-16, 18-24 South Side of Adam Street; Lots 13-16, 18-24 North Side of Monk Street; Part of Monk Street Block G, Lying between Ely Limit of Penetanguishene Street and Wly Limit of Colborne Street; Part of Lots 13 to South Side of Monk Street Block G, Part of Adam Street, Part of O'Brien Street, North of Ride Road; Part of Adam Street, Between Penetanguishene Rd and O'Brien Street; Part of McVity Street; Part of Colborne Street; and Part of Block E, North Side of Adam Street, all on Registered Plan 1, Oro.
2. Part of Lots 11-15, West Penetanguishene Road, Oro; Part of the Road Allowance between the Township of Vespra and Oro; Part of the Road Allowance Between Lots 5 and 6, Concession 1 East of Penetanguishene Road Oro; Lying Between Penetanguishene Rd and the Road Allowance between Concessions 1 and 2, East of Penetanguishene Road, Oro; Part of the Road Allowance between Lots D and 10 Concession 1, East of Penetanguishene Road, Part of the Road Allowance between Lots 11 and E; Part of Lot 11 Concession 1, Part of Lot 11 Concession 2, East of Penetanguishene Road, Oro; Part of Lot 21 Concession 3; Part of Lot A, Concession 2, East of Penetanguishene Road, Oro; Part of Lot E Concession 1; Part of the Road Allowance Between Township of Oro and Vespra Oro; Part of the Road Allowance between Lot E

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and Lot 11, Concession 1, East of Penetanguishene Road, Part of the Road Allowance between Concession 1 and 2, Part of the Road Allowance Between Concession 2 and 3; Part of the Road Allowance between the Kings Highway No. 11 and the Road Allowance Between Lots 15 and 16, Concession 1, East of Penetanguishene Road, Oro.

3. All the lands as identified by the following Property Identification Numbers and all registered in the Land Registry Office for the Land Titles Division of Simcoe (No. 51):
    i. 58553-0029.
    ii. 58553-0039.
    iii. 58553-0028.
    iv. 58553-0036.
    v. 58553-0027.
    vi. 58553-0034.
    vii. 58553-0014.
    viii. 58553-0013.
    ix. 58553-0011.
    x. 58553-0010.
    xi. 58553-0012.
    xii. 58553-0145.
    xiii. 58553-0146.
    xiv. 58553-0007.
    xv. 58553-0006.
    xvi. 58553-0005.
    xvii. 58552-0002.
    xviii. 58552-0047.
    xix. 58552-0049.
    xx. 58552-0048.
    xxi. 58552-0046.
    xxii. 58552-0044.
    xxiii. 58552-0045.
    xxiv. 58552-0043.
    xxv. 58552-0042.
    xxvi. 58552-0041.
    xxvii. 58552-0039.
    xxviii. 58552-0040.
    xxix. 58552-0161.
    xxx. 58543-0001.
    xxxi. 58543-0002.
    xxxii. 58544-0001.
    xxxiii. 58552-0002.
    xxxiv. 58552-0080.
    xxxv. 58552-0302.
    xxxvi. 58552-0303.
    xxxvii. 58553-0024.

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xxxviii. 58553-0025.

xxxix. 58553-0026.

xl. 58553-0030.

xli. 58553-0035.

xlii. 58553-0077.

xliii. 58553-0122.

xliv. 58553-0130.

4. Those portions of lands known as Hwy 93 only, identified as being part of Property Identification Number 58544-0068 (LT), beginning from the abutting parcel identified by Property Identification Number 58552-0080 (LT), following the Hwy 93 up until the end of the Parcel as identified as being part of Property Identification Number 58544-0068 (LT), registered in the Land Registry Office for the Lands Title Division of Simcoe (No. 51).
5. Those portions of lands known as Penetanguishene Rd being part of Property Identification Number 58553-0117 (LT), beginning from the abutting parcel identified as by Property Identification Number 58553-0130 (LT), following the Penetanguishene Rd, as identified as being part of Property Identification Number 58553-0117 (LT), registered in the Land Registry Office for the Lands Title Division of Simcoe (No. 51).

2 The portion of the Township of Springwater is described as follows:

1. Lands located in the Township of Springwater, County of Simcoe, all registered in the Land Registry Office for the Land Titles Division of Simcoe (No. 51), being the lands described as:
    i. Lot 27, Part of Lot 15, RCP 1730, Vespra; Part of Lots 21, Concession 8, Vespra; Part of the East Half of Lots 18 and 19, Part of the South Half of the East Half of Lots 18 and 19; Part of Lots 18 - 21, Concession 7, Vespra; Part of Lots 18 and 19, Concession 6, Vespra; Parcel 18-2 Section 51, Vespra 6, Part of the East Half of Lots 18 and 19, Concession 6; Part of the West Half of Lot 18, Concession 6; Parcels 19-3 and 21-1 Section 51, Vespra 7; Part of the Road Allowance Between Concessions 6 and 7, Vespra; The Road Allowance Between Concessions 7 and 8, Lying Between Edgehill Rd and the Road Allowance Between Lots 20 and 21 Barrie/Vespra being Miller Dr.; Part of the Road Allowance Between Concessions 7 and 8; Lot 3 RCP Vespra, Being Miller Dr Lying Between Sunnidale Rd and the Road Allowance between Lots 20 and 21 Barrie/Vespra; Part of the West Half of Lots 19 and 20, Concession 7, Vespra.
    ii. Part of Lots 17 and18, Concession 5, Vespra; Part of Lots 17 and 18, Concession 4, Vespra; Part of the Road Allowance Between Concession 3 and 4, Vespra; Part of Lots 17 and 20, Concession 3, Vespra; Part of the West Half of Lot 18, Concession 3, Vespra; Part of the West Half of the East Half and East Part of Lot 18, Concession 3, Vespra; Part of the East Part of Lot 19, Concession 3, Vespra; Parcel 19-1 Section 51-Vesp-3.
    iii. Part of the North Half of the East Part of Lot 19, Concession 3, Blocks A and B RCP 1491, Vespra; Parcel A-1 Section 51-1491; Part of the Road Allowance Between Concession 1 and 2 Vespra lying between Little Lake and the Road Allowance Between Lots 15 and 16, Concession 2; Part of Lot 15, Concession 2.
    iv. Part of Lots 6-16, Concession 1, Vespra; Part of the Road Allowance Between Lots 10 and 11, Concession 1; Part of the Road Allowance between Lots 15 and 16, Concession 1, Vespra Lying West of Hwy #400; Part of Lots 12-15, Concession 1, East of Penetanguishene Road, Oro; Part of the Road Allowance Between the Township of Oro-Medonte and the Township of Vespra, being the Kings Highway No. 93 (AKA Penetanguishene Rd) Between the Kings Highway No. 11 and the Road Allowance Between Lots 15 and 16, Concession 1 East of Penetanguishene Road, Oro.
    v. Those small portions of lands that abut Miller Drive being Part of the East Half of Lot 23 Concession 8 consisting of Part of Property Identification Number 58355-0112 (LT).
    vi. Those portions of lands identified as 120 Miller Drive, being Part of the East Half of Lot 23, Concession 8, consisting of the back portion of the property as identified as Part of Property Identification Number 58355-0129 (LT).
    vii. Those portions of lands abutting 120 Miller Drive, being Part of the East Half of Lot 23, Concession 8, being Part of Property Identification Number 58355-0131 (LT).
    viii. Those portions of lands identified as 92 Miller Drive being Part of the East Half of Lot 23, Concession 8, being Part of Property Identification Number 58355-0135 (LT).
    ix. Those portions of lands abutting Property Identification Number 583550107 (LT) running to the limit of the North said Property Identification Number being the Road Allowance Between Lots 20 and 21, Concession 8 consisting of Part of Property Identification Number 58355-0043 (LT).

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x. Those portions of lands beginning from Dobson Road until the end of the Parcel, being Part of the Road Allowance Between Concession 7 and 8, Vespra; Part of Lot 26 RCP 1730, consisting of Part of Property Identification Number 58356-0448 (LT).

xi. Those small portions of lands being the tip of the Parcel being Part of Lot 19, Concession 8, consisting of Part of Property Identification Number 58356-1142 (LT).

xii. Those portions of lands known as Dobson Road running up until the limit of the abutting lands Identified by Property Identification Number 583560132 (LT), being the Part of the Road Allowance Between Concession 7 and 8 consisting of Part of Property Identification Number 58356-1169 (LT).

xiii. Those portions of lands known as Wilson Drive running until the limit of the abutting lands identified by property Identification Number 588960016 (LT), being the Road Allowance Between Concession 6 and 7 consisting of Part of Property Identification Number 58896-0001(LT).

xiv. Those portions of lands known as Anne Street running until the limit of the abutting lands identified by Property Identification Numbers 589260639 (LT) and 588960009 (LT), being Part of the Road Allowance Between Concession 5 and 6, consisting of Part of Property Identification Number 58926-0001(LT).

xv. Those portions of lands being Part of Lots 6 to 8, Concession 1, Vespra, Save and Except the bottom triangle portion of lands, consisting of the majority of Property Identification Number 58361-0355 (LT).

xvi. Those portions of lands being Part of the Road Allowance Between Concession 2 and 3, Lying Between Little Lake, running for only a portion, consisting of Property Identification Number 58361-0453 (LT).

xvii. Those portions of lands being the Road Allowance Between Lots 15 and 16 Concession 2, Vespra Lying Between the Road Allowance Between Concession 2 and 3 and the Road Allowance Between Concession 1 and 2, up until the North limit of the abutting parcel identified by Property Identification Number 583610323 (LT), consisting of Property Identification Number 58361-0454 (LT).

xviii. Those portions of lands known as Vincent Street, being Part of the Road Allowance Between Concession 3 and 4 Vespra and Part of the West Half of Lot 18, Concession 3, Vespra, consist of Part of Property Identification Number 58361-0819 (LT).

xix. Those portions of lands being Part of the Road Allowance Between Concessions 2 and 3 Vespra Lying Between Little Lake and Duckworth Street, running until the limit of the abutting parcel identified by Property Identification Number 583610275 (LT), consisting of Part of Property Identification Number 58361-0830 (LT).

xx. Those portions of lands known as Old Second South, being The Road Allowance Between Concession 1 and 2, running a small limit until the end of the abutting Road being Property Identification Number 583620002 (LT), consisting of Property Identification Number 58362-0001 (LT).

xxi. The portions of lands known as Saint Vincent Street, being Part of the Road Allowance Between Concessions 3 and 4, running up until the limit of the abutting parcel identified by Property Identification Number 583610264 (LT), consisting of Property Identification Number 58361-0821 (LT).

xxii. Those Portions of Lands known as Miller Drive, being the Road Allowance Between Concessions 7 and 8 Vespra Lying Between Edge Hill Rd and the Road Allowance Between Lots 20 and 21 Barrie/Vespra Being Miller Drive, running parallel with the abutting parcel identified as Property Identification Number 58355-0107 (LT) until the end of said parcel, consisting of Property Identification Number 58907-0001(LT).

2. All the lands as identified by the following Property Identification Numbers and all registered in the Land Registry Office for the Land Titles Division of Simcoe (No. 51):

i. 58355-0107 (LT).

ii. 58355-0108(LT).

iii. 58355-0109 (LT).

iv. 58355-0218 (LT).

v. 58356-0100 (LT).

vi. 58356-0728 (LT).

vii. 58356-0729 (LT).

viii. 58356-0730 (LT).

ix. 58356-0756 (LT).

x. 58356-0758 (LT).

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xi. 58356-1761 (LT).
xii. 58356-1762 (LT).
xiii. 58356-1763 (LT).
xiv. 58896-0010 (LT).
xv. 58896-0011 (LT).
xvi. 58896-0016 (LT).
xvii. 58896-0017 (LT).
xviii. 58896-0018 (LT).
xix. 58904-0096 (LT).
xx. 58904-0099 (LT).
xxi. 58904-0100 (LT).
xxii. 58904-0101 (LT).
xxiii. 58907-0003 (LT).
xxiv. 58907-0004 (LT).
xxv. 58907-0053 (LT).
xxvi. 58907-0054 (LT).
xxvii. 58908-0002 (LT).
xxviii. 58908-0285 (LT).
xxix. 58908-0286 (LT).
xxx. 58908-0606 (LT).
xxxi. 58908-0607 (LT).
xxxii. 58908-0608 (LT).
xxxiii. 58908-0609 (LT).
xxxiv. 58926-0030 (LT).
xxxv. 58926-0251 (LT).
xxxvi. 58926-0639 (LT).
xxxvii. 58926-0640 (LT).
xxxviii. 58361-0264 (LT).
xxxix. 58361-0265 (LT).
xl. 58361-0266 (LT).
xli. 58361-0267 (LT).
xlii. 58361-0268 (LT).
xliii. 58361-0269 (LT).
xliv. 58361-0270 (LT).
xlv. 58361-0271 (LT).
xlvi. 58361-0272 (LT).
xlvii. 58361-0273 (LT).
xlviii. 58361-0274 (LT).
xlix. 58361-0275 (LT).
l. 58361-0323 (LT).
li. 58361-0324 (LT).

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lii. 58361-0325 (LT).
liii. 58361-0326 (LT).
liv. 58361-0327 (LT).
lv. 58361-0328 (LT).
lvi. 58361-0329 (LT).
lvii. 58361-0330 (LT).
lviii. 58361-0333 (LT).
lix. 58361-0335 (LT).
lx. 58361-0337 (LT).
lxi. 58361-0339 (LT).
lxii. 58361-0340 (LT).
lxiii. 58361-0341 (LT).
lxiv. 58361-0343 (LT).
lxv. 58361-0344 (LT).
lxvi. 58361-0345 (LT).
lxvii. 58361-0348 (LT).
lxviii. 58361-0349 (LT).
lxix. 58361-0350 (LT).
lxx. 58361-0351 (LT).
lxxi. 58361-0352 (LT).
lxxii. 58361-0353 (LT).
lxxiii. 58361-0354 (LT).
lxxiv. 58361-0356 (LT).
lxxv. 58361-0357 (LT).
lxxvi. 58361-0358 (LT).
lxxvii. 58361-0359 (LT).
lxxviii. 58361-0360 (LT).
lxxix. 58361-0361 (LT).
lxxx. 58361-0363 (LT).
lxxxi. 58361-0444 (LT).
lxxxii. 58361-0448 (LT).
lxxxiii. 58361-0449 (LT).
lxxxiv. 58361-0450 (LT).
lxxxv. 58361-0451 (LT).
lxxxvi. 58361-0455 (LT).
lxxxvii. 58361-0457 (LT).
lxxxviii. 58361-0458 (LT).
lxxxix. 58361-0463 (LT).
xc. 58361-0473 (LT).
xci. 58361-0627 (LT).
xcii. 58361-0786 (LT).

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xciii. 58361-0793 (LT).
xciv. 58361-0794 (LT).
xcv. 58361-0808 (LT).
xcvi. 58361-0809 (LT).
xcvii. 58361-0825 (LT).
xcviii. 58361-0865 (LT).
xcix. 58361-0866 (LT).
c. 58361-0868 (LT).
ci. 58361-0869 (LT).
cii. 58361-0870 (LT).
ciii. 58361-0871 (LT).
civ. 58361-0872 (LT).
cv. 58362-0002 (LT).
cvi. 58362-0003 (LT).
cvii. 58544-0001 (LT).
cviii. 58926-0028 (LT).
cix. 58926-0031 (LT).
cx. 58928-0121 (LT).
cxi. 58928-0123 (LT).
cxii. 58928-0124 (LT).
cxiii. 58928-0125 (LT).
cxiv. 58928-0127 (LT).
cxv. 58928-0128 (LT).
cxvi. 58928-0129 (LT).
cxvii. 58928-0130 (LT).
cxviii. 58928-0131 (LT).
cxix. 58928-0132 (LT).
cxx. 58928-0133 (LT).
cxxi. 58908-0001 (LT).
cxxii. 58361-0364 (LT).
cxxiii. 58361-0785 (LT).
cxxiv. 58896-0009 (LT).
cxxv. 58896-0013 (LT).
cxxvi. 58896-0015 (LT).

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LOOPSTRA NIXON LLP
BARRISTERS AND SOLICITORS

Quinto M. Annibale*
***Quinto M. Annibale Professional Corporation**
Direct Line: (416) 748-4757
e-mail address: qannibale@loonix.com

VIA EMAIL (clerks@springwater.ca and councilmembers@springwater.ca)

December 12, 2025

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

Attention: Stacey Forfar, Clerk

Dear Mayor Coughlin and Members of Council:

RE: Update to Council
Application to Quash By-laws 2025-42, 2025-068, and 2025-093
Our File No. 33222-0002

As you are aware, the province gave Royal Assent to Bill 76, the Barrie – Oro-Medonte – Springwater Boundary Adjustment Act, 2025 on December 11, 2025. Accordingly, I am recommending that the Application to Quash By-laws 2025-042, 2025-068 and 2025-093 (the "Impugned By-laws"), which was filed on your behalf with the Superior Court of Justice pursuant to section 273(1) of the *Municipal Act, 2001,* S.O. 2001, c. 25 on November 10, 2025, be withdrawn.

Since the Application to Quash the Impugned By-laws was authorized by Council Resolution C446-2025, it requires a Council resolution to withdraw it. Accordingly, I have attached a resolution that I am recommending be enacted by Council at its next meeting scheduled for December 17, 2025. You will see that the resolution also addresses the matters set out in the Mayor's letter of today's date to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

If I can be of further assistance in making representations to the Province on the proper and fair compensation to paid by the City of Barrie to the Township pursuant to Bill 76, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours truly,

LOOPSTRA NIXON LLP

Per: Quinto M. Annibale

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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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Renee Ainsworth

From: Stacey Forfar
Sent: December 16, 2025 2:58 PM
To: qannibale@loonix.com
Cc: Renee Ainsworth; ar@loonix.com; rgreen@LN.Law
Subject: FW: Loopstra Nixon LLP - 33222-0002 - Statement 185609
Attachments: Bill 185609.PDF

Good afternoon Quinto,

We are reviewing the invoice that your firm provided to the Township of Springwater (attached, email below). Please provide a copy of all draft and filed court materials referenced in the invoice.

Thank you,
Stacey

Stacey Forfar RPP, MBA
Chief Administrative Officer
Township of Springwater
2231 Nursery Road
Minesing, ON L9X 1A8
P. 705-728-4784 Ext. 2009

Respecting Your Right to Disconnect: My working hours may not reflect yours. Please do not feel obligated to answer outside your normal work hours.

The information contained in this message is directed in confidence solely to the person(s) named above and may not be otherwise distributed, copied, or disclosed. The message may contain information that is privileged, confidential and exempt from disclosure under the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. If you have received this message in error, please notify the sender of the error so that we can update our distribution list and then delete the message without making a copy.

From: Accounts Receivable <AR@loonix.com>
Sent: December 3, 2025 3:26 AM
To: Shelley Westlake-Brown <shelley.westlake-brown@springwater.ca>
Cc: Roberta Green <rgreen@LN.Law>
Subject: Loopstra Nixon LLP - 33222-0002 - Statement 185609

EXTERNAL EMAIL. Please check sender.

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Attached please find your statement for services through November 26, 2025.

Payment remittance options can be found on the last page of the statement.

Thank you,

Accounts Receivable
Loopstra Nixon LLP
135 Queens Plate Drive, Suite 600
Toronto, Ontario M9W 6V7

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LOOPSTRA NIXON LLP
BARRISTERS AND SOLICITORS

November 30, 2025

Quinto M. Annibale
Direct Line: 416.748.4757
Email: qannibale@loonix.com
Quinto M. Annibale Professional Corporation

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

Matter No. 33222-0002

Attention: Renee Ainsworth

RE: Barrie Annexation Discussion

Please find enclosed herewith our Statement of Account for services rendered with regard to the above-noted matter to and including November 26, 2025 which we trust you will find satisfactory.

If you have any questions, please contact the undersigned.

Yours truly,

LOOPSTRA NIXON LLP
Per:

[redacted]
Quinto M. Annibale
Encl.

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LOOPSTRA NIXON LLP
BARRISTERS AND SOLICITORS

November 30, 2025

Invoice No. 185609

Matter No. 33222-0002

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

Attention: Renee Ainsworth

RE: Barrie Annexation Discussion

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT

TO OUR FEE FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES rendered in connection with the above-noted matter through to November 26, 2025.

OUR FEE	$50,190.50
HST on Fees @ 13%	$6,524.77
DISBURSEMENTS:	
Total Disbursements	($1,533.39)
HST on Disbursements	($199.34)
Total Fees, Disbursements and HST	**$54,982.54**

The above account represents a summary of the professional services rendered to you, and this firm reserves the right to provide further particulars of our professional services rendered in the event the same is required or requested.

THIS IS OUR STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT HEREIN
LOOPSTRA NIXON LLP
Per:

[redacted]

Quinto M. Annibale
QMA/tat

In accordance with the Solicitor's Act, interest will be charged on this account until paid, at the rate of 2.0% per annum, commencing one month after delivery, E. & O.E. * HST No. 122610298RT0001

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LOOPSTRA NIXON LLP
BARRISTERS AND SOLICITORS

PRIVILEGED AND CONFIDENTIAL
Billing Detail Report to 26-Nov-2025

November 30, 2025 Invoice No. 185609

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

Matter No. 33222-0002

Attention: Renee Ainsworth

RE: Barrie Annexation Discussion

FEES

Date	Narrative	Professional	Time
03-Nov-2025	To multiple correspondence and telephone calls with C. Lee and Q. Annibale; To correspondence to client	BXR	[redacted]
03-Nov-2025	To email from B. Ruddick re: revised draft opinion re: Minister's powers, review same; To email from Q. Annibale	AEW	
04-Nov-2025	To e-mail to A. Whyte;	QMA	
04-Nov-2025	To further review of case law re jurisdiction question	BXR	
04-Nov-2025	To emails w/ Q. Annibale re: binder of legal opinions	AEW	
06-Nov-2025	To receipt and review of Council direction; To e-mail to the team; To correspondence from R. Ainsworth;	QMA	
06-Nov-2025	To receipt and review of Council direction; To e-mail to the team; To correspondence from R. Ainsworth;	QMA	
06-Nov-2025	To correspondence with co-counsel	BXR	
06-Nov-2025	To emails from Q. Annibale, review correspondence from R. Ainsworth; To email from C. Lee	AEW	
07-Nov-2025	To correspondence from R. Ainsworth (2 times); To conducting legal research; To attendance at meeting with C. Lee, B. Ruddick and A. Whyte; To correspondence with R. Ainsworth (2 times); To telephone conference with C. Lee re process to be followed;	QMA	
07-Nov-2025	To e-mail from C. Lee re procedural by-law; To further legal research;	QMA	

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BARRISTERS AND SOLICITORS

07-Nov-2025	Call with C.Lee and municipal team re: inquiry under section 274 of the municipal act	AJP
07-Nov-2025	Review of precedent for judicial inquiry and instructions to J.Plender via Teams. call with J. Plenders and review emails between litigation team	AJP
07-Nov-2025	To multiple meetings and correspondence re resolution and next steps; To review of veto and staff direction and consideration of legal effect of same; To review of Council resolution; To research and review of precedents and case law;	BXR
07-Nov-2025	To review Municipal Act re: confirmatory by-laws; To email from Q. Annibale; To mtg w/ Q. Annibale, C. Lee and B. Ruddick; To review Municipal Act re: s. 274 case law; To mtg w/ C. Lee, A. Pillecci, J. Plender and B. Ruddick re: next steps	AEW
07-Nov-2025	To internal conference with C. Lee re Barrie Annexation Bylaw and preliminary research re same; and To conference call with C. Lee, A. Pilieci, B. Ruddick, and A. Whyte re strategy; and To research regarding S.274 of the Municipal Act and finding precedent municipal judicial inquiries; and To further internal conferences with A. Pilieci and C. Lee re same and strategy; and To internal correspondence with A. Pilieci, Q. Annibale, A. Whyte and B. Ruddick re same.	JOP
08-Nov-2025	To several telephone conference with the team to discuss next steps; To conducting legal research; To review of all matters;	QMA
08-Nov-2025	Review file, call and emails with litigation team, and review and revise Notice of Application	AJP
08-Nov-2025	To multiple correspondence with co-counsel; To review of draft NOA; To review of correspondence from Clerk; To correspondence with Q. Annibale; To telephone call with Q. Annibale	BXR
08-Nov-2025	To internal conference with C. Lee re file strategy and next steps; and To begin drafting Rules of Procedure for judicial inquiry.	JOP

[redacted]

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BARRISTERS AND SOLICITORS

08-Nov-2025	To internal conference with C. Lee re Application to Quash Bylaw strategy; and To draft email to A. Pilieci, B. Ruddick, A. Whyte, C. Lee and Q. Annibale re next steps and strategy; and To draft Notice of Application to Quash Bylaw; and To further internal conferences with A. Pilieci, B. Ruddick, A. Whyte, C. Lee re Application and Resolution strategy; and To making further amendments to same; and To conducting research on the use of Strong Mayor Powers in Ontario.	JOP
09-Nov-2025	To drafting, engrossing and preparation of resolution of Council; To several telephone conferences with the team; To review of and amendments to the resolution; To telephone conference with Township people; To review of press reports;	QMA
09-Nov-2025	To e-mail to the team re necessity of a confirming by-law; To e-mail from C. Lee re amendment to 6a; To e-mail to the team re readiness with court filing;	QMA
09-Nov-2025	To multiple correspondence re draft resolution and next steps; To revisions to resolution; To review and comment on NOA; To multiple meetings and correspondence with co-counsel re same;	BXR
09-Nov-2025	To correspondences w/ B. Ruddick and Q. Annibale; To drafting resolution, email to B. Ruddick; To edits to draft resolution; To mtg w/ Q. Annibale, C. Lee, J. Plender and B. Ruddick re: draft resolution, next steps; To revisions to draft resolution; To multiple correspondences w/ B. Ruddick, C. Lee and Q. Annibale	AEW
09-Nov-2025	To continue drafting Notice of Application; and To internal conference with A. Pilieci, B. Ruddick, A. Whyte, C. Lee re draft Notice of Application and draft Resolution; and To revising Notice of Application accordingly.	JOP
10-Nov-2025	To observing Council meeting; To correspondence with team (2 times); To correspondence from team;	QMA
10-Nov-2025	To correspondence with the team; To e-mail to B. Ruddick; To telephone conference with B. Ruddick; To e-mail from B. Ruddick; To telephone conference with Councillor; To review of resolution; To review of procedural by-law;	QMA
10-Nov-2025	To review of judicial proceedings;	QMA

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LOOPSTRA NIXON LLP
BARRISTERS AND SOLICITORS

10-Nov-2025	Email correspondence with litigation team, further review and revisions to notice of applicaton, meetings with C.Lee and J. Plender, instructions to L.Stark re: letter to chief justice, review of letter to chief justice, calls and correspondence with C.Fotopolous re: issuance of notice of application and further emails to team and virtual attendance of township special meeting	AJP
10-Nov-2025	To multiple correspondence re Court action, potential request for judicial investigation, and related council resolution; To review of draft correspondence and updated notice of application	BXR
10-Nov-2025	To TC w/ C. Lee; To multiple correspondences w/ Q. Annibale and B. Ruddick	AEW
10-Nov-2025	To continue drafting Notice of Application and several revisions to same; and To internal conferences with C. Lee and A. Pilieci re Notice of Application; and To drafting letter to the Honourable Chief Justice Morawetz to initiate the Judicial Inquiry and to revising same; and To draft email to Michele Livingston (judicial assistant to CJ Morawetz) containing the letter.	JOP
10-Nov-2025	To attendance at the Special Council Meeting - November 10, 2025; and To internal correspondence with A. Whyte, A. Pilieci, and C. Lee re letter to Chief Justice Morawetz; and To internal conference with C. Lee and A. Whyte re amendments to draft Resolution to append to letter to Chief Justice Morawetz; and To appending final amended Resolution to the letter; and To sending letter to M. Livingston (judicial assistant to Justice Morawetz).	JOP
10-Nov-2025	To discussion with C. Lee. To telephone discussion with M. Livingston. To email communication with A. Pilieci and C. Lee.	LHS
10-Nov-2025	To call with A. Pilieci; to correspond with A. Pilieci and J. Plender; to file Notice of Application; to send confirmation of Notice of Application;	CMF
11-Nov-2025	To telephone conference with Councillor;	QMA
11-Nov-2025	To multiple correspondence re response to letters and next steps	BXR
12-Nov-2025	To office conference with B. Ruddick; To review of veto;	QMA
12-Nov-2025	To review of media reports;	QMA
13-Nov-2025	To e-mail to C. Lee (2 times); To telephone attempt on C. Lee; To e-mail from C. Lee; To office conference with A. Whyte;	QMA

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LOOPSTRA NIXON LLP
BARRISTERS AND SOLICITORS

13-Nov-2025	To telephone conference with C. Lee; To receipt and review of correspondence from solicitor acting for the Mayor;	QMA
13-Nov-2025	To correspondence re letters to court and coordinating response to same	BXR
14-Nov-2025	To review of and amendment to letter;	QMA
14-Nov-2025	To multiple correspondence re letters to court and next steps	BXR
14-Nov-2025	To research re: resolutions and by-laws; To drafting letter re: Affleck Green McMurtry LLP letter re: judicial inquiry; To correspondences w/ J. Plender	AEW
14-Nov-2025	To rr emails from Q. Annibale; and To phone call with C. Lee re response letter to AGM and strategy re same; and To conducting research re Municipal Act, Regulation concerning Provincial Priorities, and operative Rules of Civil Procedure; and To drafting letter to Chief Justice Morawetz and internal correspondence, revising and redrafting same; and To finalizing letter to Chief Justice Morawetz, compiling documents to append and drafting email to Judicial Assistant of CJ Morawetz containing the letter.	JOP
17-Nov-2025	To research re: resolutions and by-laws, case law review, note to file	AEW
17-Nov-2025	To rr email from W. McLennan containing letter to CJ Morawetz and to reading same; and To internal conference with A. Pilieci re application strategy and next steps.	JOP
18-Nov-2025	To telephone conference with C. Lee;	QMA
18-Nov-2025	To telephone conference with Deputy Mayor; To office conference with B. Ruddick;	QMA
18-Nov-2025	To office conference with A. Whyte, B. Ruddick and C. Lee;	QMA
18-Nov-2025	To office conference with Q. Annibale; To review of correspondence to Court; To telephone call with C. Lee	BXR
18-Nov-2025	To office conference w/ Q. Annibale and B. Ruddick; To review correspondence from M. Binetti	AEW
19-Nov-2025	To drafting update correspondence to council and direction to R. Green re same; To correspondence with Q. Annibale; To correspondence from R. Green; To begin preparing draft procedural order and correspondence with J. Plender re same	BXR
19-Nov-2025	To review draft correspondence re: update to Council; To emails w/ B. Ruddick	AEW

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LOOPSTRA NIXON LLP
BARRISTERS AND SOLICITORS

19-Nov-2025	To internal conference with B. Ruddick re draft order for the Chief Justice re judicial inquiry and to providing a precedent example re same; and To draft email outlining similar orders from judicial inquiries in Ontario.	JOP	[redacted]
20-Nov-2025	To office conference with B. Ruddick re next steps;	QMA	
20-Nov-2025	Call with C.Fotopoulos re: notice of application	AJP	
20-Nov-2025	Review practice directions, email to C.Lee et al re: notice of application, call and emails to K.Fitzner.	AJP	
20-Nov-2025	To internal correspondence with A. Pilieci re Notice of Application.	JOP	
20-Nov-2025	To review correspondence from Court; to send correspondence to J. Plender, C. Lee and A. Pilieci; to call with A. Pilieci;	CMF	
20-Nov-2025	Call with Amanda Pilieci; Review email from Court re NOA and review practice directions; Email to Trial Coordinator re scheduling application date; Call Barrie Trial Coordinators office;	KAF	
21-Nov-2025	To receipt and review of correspondence from the Chief Judge; To correspondence with Council;	QMA	
21-Nov-2025	Teams messages with K.Fitzner and email to litigation team re: hearing date for application	AJP	
21-Nov-2025	Review of email from C.Lee and letter from superior court declining to conduct inquiry	AJP	
21-Nov-2025	To correspondence re judicial inquiry request;	BXR	
21-Nov-2025	To call Barrie Trial Coordinator;	KAF	
24-Nov-2025	To call Barrie Trial Coordinator; To internal correspondence re update;	KAF	
25-Nov-2025	To telephone conference with Councillor; To office conference with the team; To office conference with A. Whyte; To review of press release;	QMA	
25-Nov-2025	Teams call with Christopher Lee and J. Plender to discuss application materials	AJP	
25-Nov-2025	Begin drafting affidavit in support of application to quash by-law	AJP	
25-Nov-2025	To internal conference with C. Lee and A. Pilieci re application to quash.	JOP	
26-Nov-2025	To office conference with A. Whyte re boundaries of map;	QMA	
26-Nov-2025	Further review of client documents and continue drafting affidvait in support of application.	AJP	
OUR FEE			$50,190.50

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LOOPSTRA NIXON LLP
BARRISTERS AND SOLICITORS

Time Summary **Hours**

[redacted]

DISBURSEMENTS (E=HST exempt)

	Amount
LexisNexis Recovery	(293.79)
LexisNexis Recovery	(619.80)
LexisNexis Recovery	(619.80)
Total Disbursements	($1,533.39)

Confidential

LOOPSTRA NIXON LLP
BARRISTERS AND SOLICITORS

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

Statement No: 185609

Statement Date: 11/30/2025

Amount Due: $54,982.54

Attention: Renee Ainsworth

33222-0002: Barrie Annexation Discussion

ial

PAYMENT OPTIONS

[redacted]

Renee Ainsworth

From: Stacey Forfar
Sent: December 18, 2025 3:51 PM
To: Quinto M. Annibale
Cc: Renee Ainsworth
Subject: RE: Loopstra Nixon LLP - 33222-0002 - Statement 185609
Attachments: Bill 185609.PDF

Without prejudice

Good afternoon Quinto,

At their Closed Session on December 17, 2025, Springwater Council approved the following Resolution:

C524-2025
Moved by: Fisher
Seconded by: Cabral

That staff be directed to correspond with Loopstra Nixon LLP to seek a possible resolution of the November statement of account, including a request for further detailed itemized statement, to be brought forward to Council in a subsequent closed session.

And Further That staff be directed to ensure the statement of account continues to remain confidential, to be further directed by Council once staff report back to Council.

Carried

As such, we are looking for particulars regarding Invoice, No. 185609 (attached).

We note the following reference on your invoice 185609 dated November 30, 2025: “The above account represents a summary of the professional services rendered to you, and this firm reserves the right to provide further particulars of our professional services rendered in the event the same is required or requested.” We are requesting further detailed information.

To facilitate a comprehensive review, we require the following additional details:

a. Detailed Time Entries: The invoice provides some descriptions such as "multiple correspondence and telephone calls with C. Lee and Q. Annibale" and "Review file, call and emails with litigation team, and review and revise Notice of Application.” We require more specific descriptions for each time entry. This should include the precise nature of the task performed, the specific subject matter addressed, and, where applicable, the outcome or purpose of the activity. Please also clarify the full names and roles/seniority of the professionals identified by initials.

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b. Breakdown of Hourly Rates: The invoice lists the timekeeper's name and total hours. We require the cost per docket entry as well as a detailed breakdown of the rate charged by each lawyer/timekeeper and the total.

c. Retainer Agreement: Please provide a copy of the retainer agreement that you believe governed the services for this matter.

We kindly request that these particulars be provided within 30 days to allow for a thorough review. Thank you for your time and attention to this.

Stacey

Stacey Forfar RPP, MBA
Chief Administrative Officer
Township of Springwater
2231 Nursery Road
Minesing, ON L9X 1A8
P. 705-728-4784 Ext. 2009

Respecting Your Right to Disconnect: My working hours may not reflect yours. Please do not feel obligated to answer outside your normal work hours.

The information contained in this message is directed in confidence solely to the person(s) named above and may not be otherwise distributed, copied, or disclosed. The message may contain information that is privileged, confidential and exempt from disclosure under the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. If you have received this message in error, please notify the sender of the error so that we can update our distribution list and then delete the message without making a copy.

From: Stacey Forfar
Sent: December 16, 2025 2:58 PM
To: 'qannibale@loonix.com' <qannibale@loonix.com>
Cc: Renee Ainsworth <Renee.Ainsworth@springwater.ca>; 'ar@loonix.com' <ar@loonix.com>; 'rgreen@LN.Law' <rgreen@LN.Law>
Subject: FW: Loopstra Nixon LLP - 33222-0002 - Statement 185609

Good afternoon Quinto,

We are reviewing the invoice that your firm provided to the Township of Springwater (attached, email below). Please provide a copy of all draft and filed court materials referenced in the invoice.

Thank you,
Stacey

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Stacey Forfar RPP, MBA
Chief Administrative Officer
Township of Springwater
2231 Nursery Road
Minesing, ON L9X 1A8
P. 705-728-4784 Ext. 2009

Respecting Your Right to Disconnect: My working hours may not reflect yours. Please do not feel obligated to answer outside your normal work hours.

The information contained in this message is directed in confidence solely to the person(s) named above and may not be otherwise distributed, copied, or disclosed. The message may contain information that is privileged, confidential and exempt from disclosure under the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. If you have received this message in error, please notify the sender of the error so that we can update our distribution list and then delete the message without making a copy.

From: Accounts Receivable <AR@loonix.com>
Sent: December 3, 2025 3:26 AM
To: Shelley Westlake-Brown <shelley.westlake-brown@springwater.ca>
Cc: Roberta Green <rgreen@LN.Law>
Subject: Loopstra Nixon LLP - 33222-0002 - Statement 185609

EXTERNAL EMAIL. Please check sender.

Attached please find your statement for services through November 26, 2025.

Payment remittance options can be found on the last page of the statement.

Thank you,

Accounts Receivable
Loopstra Nixon LLP
135 Queens Plate Drive, Suite 600
Toronto, Ontario M9W 6V7

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LOOPSTRA NIXON LLP
BARRISTERS AND SOLICITORS

November 30, 2025

Quinto M. Annibale
Direct Line: 416.748.4757
Email: qannibale@loonix.com
Quinto M. Annibale Professional Corporation

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

Matter No. 33222-0002

Attention: Renee Ainsworth

RE: Barrie Annexation Discussion

Please find enclosed herewith our Statement of Account for services rendered with regard to the above-noted matter to and including November 26, 2025 which we trust you will find satisfactory.

If you have any questions, please contact the undersigned.

Yours truly,

LOOPSTRA NIXON LLP
Per:

[redacted]

Quinto M. Annibale
Encl.

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LOOPSTRA NIXON LLP
BARRISTERS AND SOLICITORS

November 30, 2025

Invoice No. 185609

Matter No. 33222-0002

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

Attention: Renee Ainsworth

RE: Barrie Annexation Discussion

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT

TO OUR FEE FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES rendered in connection with the above-noted matter through to November 26, 2025.

OUR FEE	$50,190.50
HST on Fees @ 13%	$6,524.77
DISBURSEMENTS:	
Total Disbursements	($1,533.39)
HST on Disbursements	($199.34)
Total Fees, Disbursements and HST	**$54,982.54**

The above account represents a summary of the professional services rendered to you, and this firm reserves the right to provide further particulars of our professional services rendered in the event the same is required or requested.

THIS IS OUR STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT HEREIN
LOOPSTRA NIXON LLP
Per:

[redacted]

Quinto M. Annibale
QMA/tat

In accordance with the Solicitor's Act, interest will be charged on this account until paid, at the rate of 2.0% per annum, commencing one month after delivery, E. & O.E. * HST No. 122610298RT0001

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LOOPSTRA NIXON LLP
BARRISTERS AND SOLICITORS

PRIVILEGED AND CONFIDENTIAL
Billing Detail Report to 26-Nov-2025

November 30, 2025 Invoice No. 185609

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

Matter No. 33222-0002

Attention: Renee Ainsworth

RE: Barrie Annexation Discussion

FEES

Date	Narrative	Professional	Time
03-Nov-2025	To multiple correspondence and telephone calls with C. Lee and Q. Annibale; To correspondence to client	BXR	[redacted]
03-Nov-2025	To email from B. Ruddick re: revised draft opinion re: Minister's powers, review same; To email from Q. Annibale	AEW	
04-Nov-2025	To e-mail to A. Whyte;	QMA	
04-Nov-2025	To further review of case law re jurisdiction question	BXR	
04-Nov-2025	To emails w/ Q. Annibale re: binder of legal opinions	AEW	
06-Nov-2025	To receipt and review of Council direction; To e-mail to the team; To correspondence from R. Ainsworth;	QMA	
06-Nov-2025	To receipt and review of Council direction; To e-mail to the team; To correspondence from R. Ainsworth;	QMA	
06-Nov-2025	To correspondence with co-counsel	BXR	
06-Nov-2025	To emails from Q. Annibale, review correspondence from R. Ainsworth; To email from C. Lee	AEW	
07-Nov-2025	To correspondence from R. Ainsworth (2 times); To conducting legal research; To attendance at meeting with C. Lee, B. Ruddick and A. Whyte; To correspondence with R. Ainsworth (2 times); To telephone conference with C. Lee re process to be followed;	QMA	
07-Nov-2025	To e-mail from C. Lee re procedural by-law; To further legal research;	QMA	

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LOOPSTRA NIXON LLP
BARRISTERS AND SOLICITORS

07-Nov-2025	Call with C.Lee and municipal team re: inquiry under section 274 of the municipal act	AJP
07-Nov-2025	Review of precedent for judicial inquiry and instructions to J.Plender via Teams. call with J. Plenders and review emails between litigation team	AJP
07-Nov-2025	To multiple meetings and correspondence re resolution and next steps; To review of veto and staff direction and consideration of legal effect of same; To review of Council resolution; To research and review of precedents and case law;	BXR
07-Nov-2025	To review Municipal Act re: confirmatory by-laws; To email from Q. Annibale; To mtg w/ Q. Annibale, C. Lee and B. Ruddick; To review Municipal Act re: s. 274 case law; To mtg w/ C. Lee, A. Pillecci, J. Plender and B. Ruddick re: next steps	AEW
07-Nov-2025	To internal conference with C. Lee re Barrie Annexation Bylaw and preliminary research re same; and To conference call with C. Lee, A. Pilieci, B. Ruddick, and A. Whyte re strategy; and To research regarding S.274 of the Municipal Act and finding precedent municipal judicial inquiries; and To further internal conferences with A. Pilieci and C. Lee re same and strategy; and To internal correspondence with A. Pilieci, Q. Annibale, A. Whyte and B. Ruddick re same.	JOP
08-Nov-2025	To several telephone conference with the team to discuss next steps; To conducting legal research; To review of all matters;	QMA
08-Nov-2025	Review file, call and emails with litigation team, and review and revise Notice of Application	AJP
08-Nov-2025	To multiple correspondence with co-counsel; To review of draft NOA; To review of correspondence from Clerk; To correspondence with Q. Annibale; To telephone call with Q. Annibale	BXR
08-Nov-2025	To internal conference with C. Lee re file strategy and next steps; and To begin drafting Rules of Procedure for judicial inquiry.	JOP

[redacted]

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LOOPSTRA NIXON LLP
BARRISTERS AND SOLICITORS

08-Nov-2025	To internal conference with C. Lee re Application to Quash Bylaw strategy; and To draft email to A. Pilieci, B. Ruddick, A. Whyte, C. Lee and Q. Annibale re next steps and strategy; and To draft Notice of Application to Quash Bylaw; and To further internal conferences with A. Pilieci, B. Ruddick, A. Whyte, C. Lee re Application and Resolution strategy; and To making further amendments to same; and To conducting research on the use of Strong Mayor Powers in Ontario.	JOP	[redacted]
09-Nov-2025	To drafting, engrossing and preparation of resolution of Council; To several telephone conferences with the team; To review of and amendments to the resolution; To telephone conference with Township people; To review of press reports;	QMA	
09-Nov-2025	To e-mail to the team re necessity of a confirming by-law; To e-mail from C. Lee re amendment to 6a; To e-mail to the team re readiness with court filing;	QMA	
09-Nov-2025	To multiple correspondence re draft resolution and next steps; To revisions to resolution; To review and comment on NOA; To multiple meetings and correspondence with co-counsel re same;	BXR	
09-Nov-2025	To correspondences w/ B. Ruddick and Q. Annibale; To drafting resolution, email to B. Ruddick; To edits to draft resolution; To mtg w/ Q. Annibale, C. Lee, J. Plender and B. Ruddick re: draft resolution, next steps; To revisions to draft resolution; To multiple correspondences w/ B. Ruddick, C. Lee and Q. Annibale	AEW	
09-Nov-2025	To continue drafting Notice of Application; and To internal conference with A. Pilieci, B. Ruddick, A. Whyte, C. Lee re draft Notice of Application and draft Resolution; and To revising Notice of Application accordingly.	JOP	
10-Nov-2025	To observing Council meeting; To correspondence with team (2 times); To correspondence from team;	QMA	
10-Nov-2025	To correspondence with the team; To e-mail to B. Ruddick; To telephone conference with B. Ruddick; To e-mail from B. Ruddick; To telephone conference with Councillor; To review of resolution; To review of procedural by-law;	QMA	
10-Nov-2025	To review of judicial proceedings;	QMA	

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LOOPSTRA NIXON LLP
BARRISTERS AND SOLICITORS

10-Nov-2025	Email correspondence with litigation team, further review and revisions to notice of applicaton, meetings with C.Lee and J. Plender, instructions to L.Stark re: letter to chief justice, review of letter to chief justice, calls and correspondence with C.Fotopolous re: issuance of notice of application and further emails to team and virtual attendance of township special meeting	AJP
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10-Nov-2025	To discussion with C. Lee. To telephone discussion with M. Livingston. To email communication with A. Pilieci and C. Lee.	LHS
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LOOPSTRA NIXON LLP
BARRISTERS AND SOLICITORS

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LOOPSTRA NIXON LLP
BARRISTERS AND SOLICITORS

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OUR FEE		$50,190.50

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LOOPSTRA NIXON LLP
BARRISTERS AND SOLICITORS

Time Summary **Hours**

[redacted]

DISBURSEMENTS (E=HST exempt)

	Amount
LexisNexis Recovery	(293.79)
LexisNexis Recovery	(619.80)
LexisNexis Recovery	(619.80)
Total Disbursements	($1,533.39)

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LOOPSTRA NIXON LLP

BARRISTERS AND SOLICITORS

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

Statement No: 185609

Statement Date: 11/30/2025

Amount Due: $54,982.54

Attention: Renee Ainsworth

33222-0002: Barrie Annexation Discussion

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PAYMENT OPTIONS

[redacted]

LOOPSTRA NIXON LLP
BARRISTERS AND SOLICITORS

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Quinto M. Annibale*
***Quinto M. Annibale Professional Corporation**
Direct Line: (416) 748-4757
e-mail address: qannibale@loonix.com

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

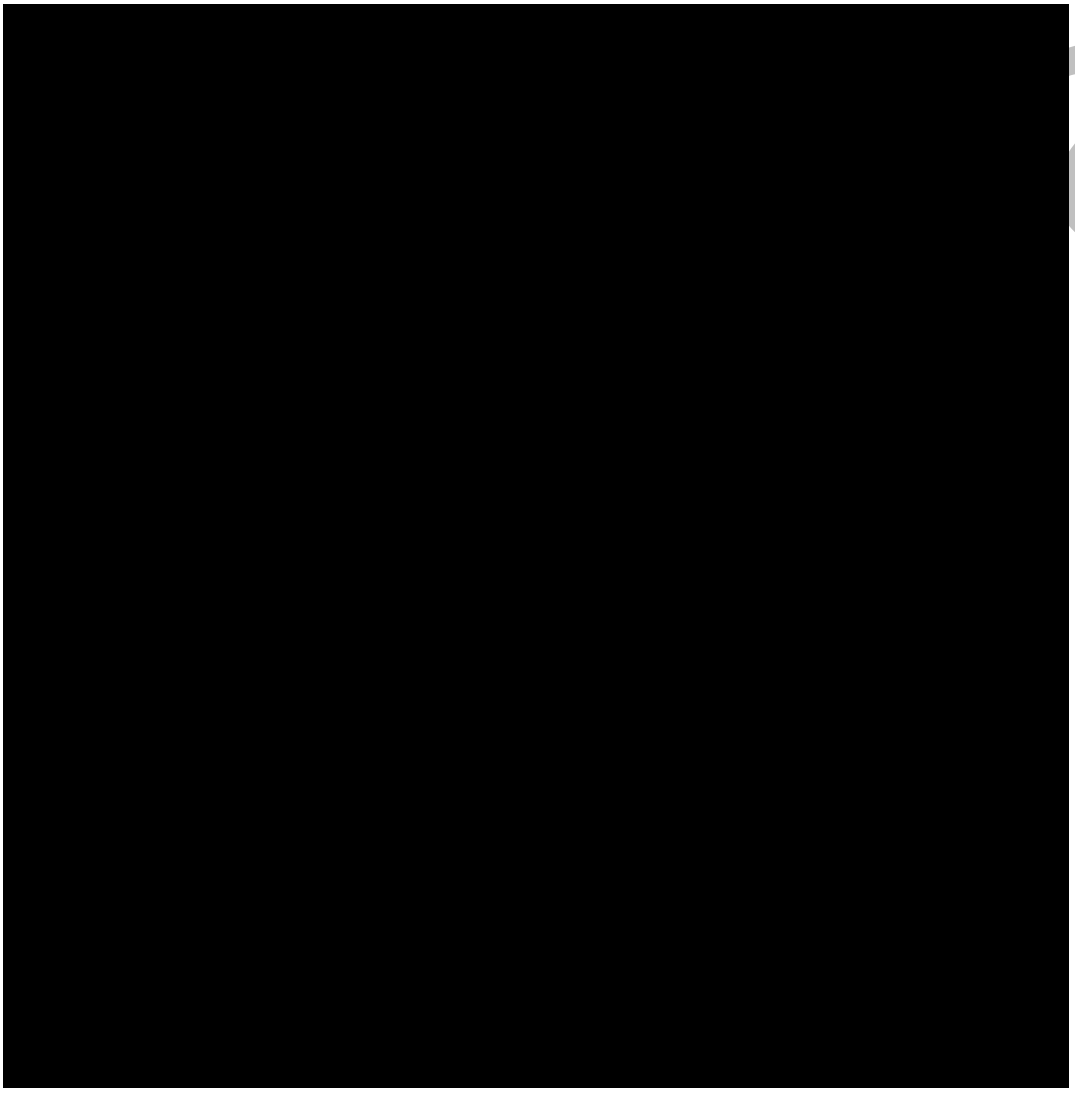
[redacted]

Per: Quinto M. Annibale

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Appendix 'A' – Hourly Rates



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Appendix 'B' – Filed Court Materials

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Christopher Lee
Tel: (416) 748-5117
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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Woodbine Place, 135 Queens Plate Drive, Suite 600, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M9W 6V7
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

LOOPSTRA NIXON LLP
Barristers and Solicitors
135 Queens Plate Drive, Suite 600
Toronto, ON M9W 6V7

Christopher R. Lee / *LSO#: 54040J*
Tel: 416-748-5117
Email: clee@LN.Law

Amanda Pilieci / *LSO#: 70422M*
Tel: (416) 748-5140
Email: apilieci@LN.Law

Jonathan Plender / *LSO#: 90860Q*
Tel: (416) 746-5644
Email: jplender@LN.Law

Lawyers for the Applicant

RCP-E 68A (September 1, 2020)

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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

LOOPSTRA NIXON LLP
Barristers and Solicitors
135 Queens Plate Drive, Suite 600
Toronto, ON M9W 6V7

Christopher R. Lee / *LSO#: 54040J*
Tel: 416-748-5117
Email: clee@LN.Law

Amanda Pilieci / *LSO#: 70422M*
Tel: 416-748-5140
Email: apilieci@LN.Law

Jonathan Plender / *LSO#: 90860Q*
Tel: (416) 746-5644
Email: jplender@LN.Law

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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Renee Ainsworth

From: Stacey Forfar
Sent: January 23, 2026 2:46 PM
To: Quinto M. Annibale
Cc: Renee Ainsworth
Subject: RE: Loopstra Nixon LLP - 33222-0002 - Statement 185609

Without prejudice

Good afternoon Quinto,

Thank you for your emailed correspondence received January 12, 2026, in response to Springwater Council's request for additional information, sent December 18, 2025 regarding Loopstra Nixon LLP Invoices (emails below).

This correspondence was shared with Springwater Council at their Closed Session on January 21, 2026. Following their discussion, additional information has been requested, including:

- A further request for itemized details of the November/December invoices
- A request for invoices to be broken down as follows: costs incurred up to and including November 7, 2025, costs incurred from November 8, 2025 onward

As such, could you please provide the additional information requested from Council at your earliest convenience.

Thank you for your time and attention to this.

Stacey

Stacey Forfar RPP, MBA
Chief Administrative Officer
Township of Springwater
2231 Nursery Road
Minesing, ON L9X 1A8
P. 705-728-4784 Ext. 2009

Respecting Your Right to Disconnect: My working hours may not reflect yours. Please do not feel obligated to answer outside your normal work hours.

The information contained in this message is directed in confidence solely to the person(s) named above and may not be otherwise distributed, copied, or disclosed. The message may contain information that is privileged, confidential and exempt from disclosure under the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. If you have received this message in error, please notify

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the sender of the error so that we can update our distribution list and then delete the message without making a copy.

From: Alexandra Whyte <awhyte@LN.Law>
Sent: January 12, 2026 4:05 PM
To: Stacey Forfar <stacey.forfar@springwater.ca>
Cc: Quinto M. Annibale <QAnnibale@loonix.com>; Roberta Green <rgreen@LN.Law>
Subject: RE: Loopstra Nixon LLP - 33222-0002 - Statement 185609

EXTERNAL EMAIL. Please check sender.

Dear Ms. Forfar,

Please find attached correspondence of today's date from Mr. Annibale in respect of the above noted matter.

Kind regards,

Alexandra Whyte, Senior Associate
Municipal, Land Use Planning & Development
T. 416.748.4777 | C. [redacted] | awhyte@LN.Law

Loopstra Nixon LLP
This email may contain confidential information which may be protected by legal privilege. If you are not the intended recipient, please immediately notify us by email or by telephone, delete this email and destroy any copies.

From: Stacey Forfar <stacey.forfar@springwater.ca>
Date: December 18, 2025 at 3:51:28 PM EST
To: "Quinto M. Annibale" <QAnnibale@loonix.com>
Cc: Renee Ainsworth <Renee.Ainsworth@springwater.ca>
Subject: RE: Loopstra Nixon LLP - 33222-0002 - Statement 185609

Without prejudice

Good afternoon Quinto,

At their Closed Session on December 17, 2025, Springwater Council approved the following Resolution:

C524-2025
Moved by: Fisher
Seconded by: Cabral

That staff be directed to correspond with Loopstra Nixon LLP to seek a possible resolution of the November statement of account, including a request for further detailed itemized statement, to be brought forward to Council in a subsequent closed session.

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And Further That staff be directed to ensure the statement of account continues to remain confidential, to be further directed by Council once staff report back to Council.

Carried

As such, we are looking for particulars regarding Invoice, No. 185609 (attached).

We note the following reference on your invoice 185609 dated November 30, 2025: “The above account represents a summary of the professional services rendered to you, and this firm reserves the right to provide further particulars of our professional services rendered in the event the same is required or requested.” We are requesting further detailed information.

To facilitate a comprehensive review, we require the following additional details:

1. Detailed Time Entries: The invoice provides some descriptions such as "multiple correspondence and telephone calls with C. Lee and Q. Annibale" and "Review file, call and emails with litigation team, and review and revise Notice of Application.” We require more specific descriptions for each time entry. This should include the precise nature of the task performed, the specific subject matter addressed, and, where applicable, the outcome or purpose of the activity. Please also clarify the full names and roles/seniority of the professionals identified by initials.

2. Breakdown of Hourly Rates: The invoice lists the timekeeper’s name and total hours. We require the cost per docket entry as well as a detailed breakdown of the rate charged by each lawyer/timekeeper and the total.

3. Retainer Agreement: Please provide a copy of the retainer agreement that you believe governed the services for this matter.

We kindly request that these particulars be provided within 30 days to allow for a thorough review.
Thank you for your time and attention to this.

Stacey

Stacey Forfar RPP, MBA
Chief Administrative Officer
Township of Springwater
2231 Nursery Road
Minesing, ON L9X 1A8
P. 705-728-4784 Ext. 2009

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Respecting Your Right to Disconnect: My working hours may not reflect yours. Please do not feel obligated to answer outside your normal work hours.

The information contained in this message is directed in confidence solely to the person(s) named above and may not be otherwise distributed, copied, or disclosed. The message may contain information that is privileged, confidential and exempt from disclosure under the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. If you have received this message in error, please notify the sender of the error so that we can update our distribution list and then delete the message without making a copy.

From: Stacey Forfar
Sent: December 16, 2025 2:58 PM
To: 'qannibale@loonix.com' <qannibale@loonix.com>
Cc: Renee Ainsworth <Renee.Ainsworth@springwater.ca>; 'ar@loonix.com' <ar@loonix.com>; 'rgreen@LN.Law' <rgreen@LN.Law>
Subject: FW: Loopstra Nixon LLP - 33222-0002 - Statement 185609

Good afternoon Quinto,

We are reviewing the invoice that your firm provided to the Township of Springwater (attached, email below). Please provide a copy of all draft and filed court materials referenced in the invoice.

Thank you,
Stacey

Stacey Forfar RPP, MBA
Chief Administrative Officer
Township of Springwater
2231 Nursery Road
Minesing, ON L9X 1A8
P. 705-728-4784 Ext. 2009
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Attached please find your statement for services through November 26, 2025.

Payment remittance options can be found on the last page of the statement.

Thank you,

Accounts Receivable
Loopstra Nixon LLP
135 Queens Plate Drive, Suite 600
Toronto, Ontario M9W 6V7

Quinto M. Annibale*, Partner
Municipal, Land Use Planning & Development
T. 416.748.4757 | C. 416.917.5563 | QAnnibale@loonix.com

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