

**TOWN OF FORT FRANCES**

**BY-LAW NO. 34/95-F**

(Being a by-law to amend By-Law No. 34/95, the Procedure By-Law.)

**WHEREAS** Section 238(2) of the Municipal Act, 2001, provides that every Municipality shall pass a procedural by-law to govern the calling, place and proceedings of meetings;

**AND WHEREAS** Council and its Committees shall also follow the regulations as set out within the *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act* and the parliamentary authority of Robert's Rules of Order;

**AND WHEREAS** the Ontario Government took unprecedented action to respond to COVID-19 by convening an emergency sitting of the legislature and passing legislation which gives municipal councils the flexibility to continue operations while maintaining social distancing through the introduction of Bill 187 – An Act to amend the *Municipal Act, 2001* and the *City of Toronto Act, 2006*;

**AND WHEREAS** Council of the Corporation of the Town of Fort Frances deems it expedient to provide for updates to the way in which its meetings are conducted and governed during this emergency;

**NOW THEREFORE** Council for the Corporation of the Town of Fort Frances **HEREBY ENACTS** as follows:

1. That Town of Fort Frances By-Law No. 34/95 (Procedure By-Law), and its amendments, be further amended as follows:

- 1) THAT the General section be amended to include the following wording regarding Electronic Participation at Meetings pursuant to *Municipal Act, 2001*:

**Electronic Participation at Meetings**

- a) Members may be permitted to participate in a meeting of Council or Committee/Local Board remotely via electronic means (e.g. video or audio), provided a Declaration of an Emergency is declared by the Premier, Cabinet or the Municipal Head of Council under the *Emergency Management and Civic Protection Act*. Once the emergency has ended, all Procedural By-law meeting rules apply.
    - b) All members attending the meeting shall have the same rights and responsibilities as if he or she were in physical attendance.
    - c) Members of Council or of a Committee/Local Board may also participate in a meeting or portion of a meeting that is closed to the public while adhering to section 239 of the *Municipal Act*.
    - d) Members shall be counted towards quorum of members present at any point in time and shall be able to vote, unless prohibited by the *Municipal Act* or the *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act*.
    - e) Electronic Participation does not exclude the necessity of providing notice of agendas and meetings time/locations for public access and must follow the notice by-law.

This by-law shall come into force and take effect on the final passing thereof.

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J. Caul, Mayor

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E. Slomke, Clerk