

December 3, 2019

REPORT TO: Mayor & Council

FROM: Elizabeth (Lisa) Slomke, Clerk

SUBJECT: Conflict of Interest

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In November 2016, the Province of Ontario tabled Bill 68, the Modernizing Ontario's Municipal Legislation Act, which introduced a series of reforms to the Municipal Act, Municipal Conflict of Interest Act, as well as several other pieces of municipally-relevant legislation.

Multiple reports have been brought to this Council recommending amendments to current practices in order to adhere to the updated legislation.

The Clerk's office has introduced a Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest form for Members of Council to fill out, which is then submitted to the Clerk in order for the wording to be typed into the minutes and subsequently added into a register which is then uploaded onto the Town website. All of these steps are necessary in order to adhere to the legislation.

Our current meeting management provider, iCompass has developed a new tool 'Conflict of Interest Tracker' which would enable the Council member the ability to submit the form electronically, which would then be submitted into a dashboard to be accessed by the Clerk and Deputy Clerk. The Clerk's Office would review the submission for completeness and then we would be able to push it into the correct minutes (Committee of the Whole, Council or various Committees) and finally the submission would be populated into a list contained within the Document Centre linked to our website.

NEXT STEPS

In order to add this item into our current suite of services with iCompass, our annual costs would increase by \$500.00 per year. Our 2019 invoice for services was \$10,150.00 plus taxes. The Town of Fort Frances has increased our usage of iCompass in the last five years and we continue to bring forward other solutions that would be beneficial/efficient for Council and Administration.

Council approval of this report will agree to the recommendation of the Administration & Finance Executive Committee to add the 'Conflict of Interest Tracker' to the current suite of services from iCompass at a cost of \$500.00 per year in addition to our existing annual costs.