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MAYOR: BARBARA SHAW
CLERK: BERNICE CROCKER
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September 16, 2020

**MINISTRY OF MUNICIPAL
AFFAIRS AND HOUSING**
17th Floor, 777 Bay street
TORONTO, ON
M7A 2J3

ATTN: THE HON. STEVE CLARK

Dear Minister Clark:

At a special meeting of council held on August 24, 2020, members discussed concerns regarding the 2018 municipal election.

In the last six weeks of the 2018 municipal election in Wollaston Township, seasonal property owners presented signed leases with family members for sleeping cabins, bunkies and sheds. The \$100.00 leases added a significant number of new non-resident electors to the voters' list.

Although concerns were raised regarding the Township's Comprehensive Zoning By-law and non-use of the standard lease form, the leases were used as eligibility, allowing the children of seasonal property owners access to a Township election for the first time.

Because this gave the appearance of a pay to play campaign, and because the leases were with family members, and because no people actually lived in these structures that lacked hydro, running water and washroom facilities, this was reported to the OPP, who have a duty to enforce the rules and regulations of the *Municipal Elections Act*.

The OPP did not proceed with charges because they said there was no case law.

The following Motion was adopted:

MOTION NO.: 03
MOVED BY: TIM CONLIN
SECONDED BY: DARLENE COLTON

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Council of Wollaston Township ask Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Hon, Steve Clark, to review the *Municipal Elections Act* and provide amendments to ensure that loopholes are closed on any pay to play schemes in rural communities where non-resident electors are permitted to participate in elections so that \$100.00 leases do not turn into ballots for garden sheds.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the County of Wollaston Township ask the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Hon. Steve Clark, to review the Municipal Elections Act and provide amendments to provide clearer, stronger wording, to assist municipal Clerks in addressing issues to allow for a more definitive decision to be made when adding names to the voters' list.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Council of Wollaston Township ask the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Hon. Steve Clark, to ensure that there is a clear and accessible way to report election fraud.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Council of Wollaston Township ask the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Hon. Steve Clark, to ensure that the rules described in the Municipal Elections Act are actually enforceable even if there is not current case law.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that support for this resolution be sent to Premier Doug Ford, Daryl Kramp, M.P.P. for Hastings-Lennox and Addington, all Ontario Municipalities and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario.

CARRIED

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding the above, do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



BERNICE CROCKER
Clerk/Administrator

cc. Premier Doug Ford, Daryl Kramp, M.P.P. for Hastings-Lennox and Addington, AMO and all Ontario Municipalities.