

DOUGLAS W. JUDSON

COUNCILLOR
TOWN OF FORT FRANCES

March 30, 2022

Town of Fort Frances
320 Portage Avenue
Fort Frances, ON P9A 3P9

Via Email: town@fortfrances.ca

To Mayor and Council:

On March 25, I was elevated to chair of the Federation of Ontario Law Associations (FOLA). FOLA is a provincial organization that brings together Ontario's 46 county and district law associations, collectively representing over 12,000 lawyers. It is a leading voice in the law and justice sector. I had anticipated that I would not be taking on the role of chair for several years; however, with the rapid, successive appointments of several of our executive members to the bench, I find myself unexpectedly assuming this important new role.

Unfortunately, the increased demand on my time means I will no longer be available for regular municipal meetings during the business day. This correspondence shall serve as notice of my resignation, effective immediately, from (i) the Planning and Development Executive Committee, (ii) the Administration and Finance Executive Committee, and (iii) the Economic Development Executive Committee. I am retaining my seat on Council.

This decision has not been made lightly. After careful consideration, I have determined that I can more effectively serve our community's interests through my other roles. In addition to my duties as chair of FOLA, I continue to maintain my legal practice in Fort Frances, to serve as President of the Rainy River District Law Association, and on the boards of the Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre, the Northwest Community Legal Clinic, and Borderland Pride.

In reaching this decision, I have been disappointed in recent actions to restrict the ability of Council members to place business before committees, and to defer to staff on matters of significant community interest. Likewise, despite that I am held out by Council as evidence of diversity, I am troubled by ongoing efforts to obstruct my participation, including by misusing points of order. It has been made abundantly clear at various points during this term that the majority of Council is not in favour of removing barriers which prevent working people, like me, from participating in Council proceedings (or of even allowing a discussion on this issue, as I requested on March 14).

In these circumstances, I can no longer justify the significant disruption to my workday caused by these committees. I can just as effectively advance the goals and aspirations of my constituents during our regular Monday evening Council meetings.

I look forward to continuing the work, in the final months of our term, to make Fort Frances a more attractive community for working families by increasing our recreational amenities, advancing reconciliation, and promoting the economic development potential of our region.

Regards,



Douglas W. Judson