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Modernizing Ontario's Municipal Legislation Act, 2017

As you are aware, Bill 68 – *Modernizing Ontario's Municipal Legislation Act, 2017* received Royal Assent on May 30, 2017.

The *Modernizing Ontario's Municipal Legislation Act, 2017* is the result of the review of three key elements of Ontario's municipal legislative framework: the *Municipal Act, 2001*, *City of Toronto Act, 2006* and the *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act*.

This package of amendments includes valuable feedback that we heard from stakeholders during our engagement throughout the review process. The changes will:

- increase fairness and reduce barriers for women and new parents elected to municipal governments and school boards by allowing time off for pregnancy or parental leave,
- provide broader municipal investment powers to eligible municipalities that may help raise more revenue to improve local infrastructure,
- enhance local government accountability and integrity across the province by requiring municipalities to have a code of conduct for members of municipal councils and local boards, and
- ensure the public and municipal councillors have access to integrity commissioners with a broadened role related to conflicts of interest and municipal codes of conduct.

Bill 68 changes will come into force in phases, with some provisions coming into force on Royal Assent and most changes coming into force on proclamation.

- Some items that came into force on Royal Assent include: changes to advertising devices (signs) grandfathering rules, certain property tax collection provisions and clarifications regarding community councils.
- Some of the items that will come into force on proclamation include: changes to open meeting rules, codes of conduct, and new rules requiring access to an integrity commissioner.

We encourage you to review the *Modernizing Ontario's Municipal Legislation Act, 2017* and consider the potential effect the Act may have as you review your local bylaws or policies. You can refer to e-Laws for the most current version of Acts amended by the *Modernizing Ontario's Municipal Legislation Act, 2017*, including amendments that are not yet proclaimed/in effect:

- *Municipal Act*: <https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/01m25>
- *Municipal Elections Act*: <https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/96m32>
- *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act*: <https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/90m50>

For more information about the *Modernizing Ontario's Municipal Legislation Act, 2017* please see the news release and backgrounder on www.ontario.ca. For a copy of the *Modernizing Ontario's Municipal Legislation Act, 2017*, please visit Ontario's Legislative Assembly website: <http://www.ontla.on.ca/>.

Best Regards,

Ian Kerr
Regional Director