

Melinda Reith, Head, Clara & Maria

From: Connie Wilson <cwilson@countyofrenfrew.on.ca>
Sent: Friday, December 14, 2018 9:56 AM
To: [REDACTED]



Cc: Treasurer
Jeff Foss
Subject: Regulations Implementing Changes to Vacancy Programs - County of Renfrew

Good Morning Everyone,

Just to keep everyone updated on the issue of the Vacancy Programs, the County of Renfrew has received the email below from the Ministry of Finance. The Ministry of Finance was responding to an April 25, 2018 County Council resolution to "eliminate the vacant and excess land subclasses, as well as the vacant building rebate program for the 2019 taxation year and thereafter".

We are planning the next meeting for the Tax Policy Working Group on Wednesday, March 20, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. at the County Administration Building. We intend to include the vacancy program change by-laws with all other tax policy related by-laws for approval at the April 2019 session of County Council.

Wishing you and your family a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



Jeffrey Foss CPA, CMA, CMO
Director of Finance / Treasurer
County of Renfrew
9 International Drive
Pembroke, ON K8A 6W5
613-735-7288
800-273-0183

From: [REDACTED] (MOF)
Sent: December 10, 2018 10:41 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Regulations Implementing Changes to Vacancy Programs

Dear Municipal Treasurer / Clerk-Treasurer,

We would like to inform you that the regulations implementing requested changes to the vacancy rebate and reduction programs have been enacted for your municipality and will be available shortly on the Government of Ontario's e-laws website at www.ontario.ca/laws.

- O. Reg. 490/18 amending O. Reg. 580/17 under the *Municipal Act, 2001* implements requested changes to the Vacant and Excess Land Subclasses
- O. Reg. 491/18 amending O. Reg. 325/01 under the *Municipal Act, 2001* implements requested changes to the Vacant Unit Rebate

As a reminder, municipalities are required to pass a by-law related to changes to the Vacant and Excess Land Subclasses.

If you have any questions regarding the regulations or implementation of changes to the vacancy programs please contact the Ministry at info.propertytax@ontario.ca.

Thank you,
Property Tax Policy Branch, Ministry of Finance

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MUNICIPAL PROPERTY ASSESSMENT CORPORATION

December 19, 2018

To: All Municipalities, All School Boards and All District Social Services Administration Boards

From: Carla Y. Nell
Vice-President, Municipal and Stakeholder Relations

Subject: Gender Alignment Systems and Products Changes

I am writing to share information about an upcoming change regarding how the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) will reflect gender information on our products and systems.

On April 26, 2018, regulatory changes were introduced regarding the collection of gender information for enumeration purposes. Effective January 1, 2019, MPAC will no longer have the authority to collect gender information as part of its enumeration for municipal elections and elections in non-municipal territories.

By January 1, 2019, gender identifiers will be replaced with a code of "I" (individual) on all MPAC products and/or systems where gender information is currently shown.

This change aligns with the Provinces' gender identity policy, pertaining to the collection, use, display and retention of a person's gender identity or sex information on government forms and products.

We are in the process of updating affected systems and products. Please see the attached appendix for a full list of changes. Please share this information with others in your respective office/organization accordingly.

More information regarding the regulatory change is available under section 42.7 of O. Reg. 310/18 in the *Assessment Act*.

If you have any questions, please contact your respective MPAC Municipal and Stakeholder Relations representative(s).

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Nell", is written over a white background.

Carla Y. Nell
Vice-President, Municipal and Stakeholder Relations

Attachment

Systems Impacted	What has changed?
Municipal Connect - People Portal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population Report headings and school board breakdowns • Custom Query Identifier search options • Identifier coding for names displayed on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Property Details screen • Multi-List
Products Impacted	What has changed?
Year-end ROL XML	<p>The 'Identifier' or 'ID' has changed from 'M' or 'F' to 'I'.</p> <p><i>Note:</i> Other Identifiers have not been impacted, including C, E, G, P, L and X.</p> <p>Gender coding will reflect 'I'.</p>
Year-end Tax File NOTE: Please advise 3rd party software vendor as required to ensure there are no issues related to tax billing	
In-Year XMLs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ANA, PRAN, SAN, TIA, PACN 	
Omitted/Supplementary Tax File NOTE: Please advise 3rd party software vendor as required to ensure there are no issues related to tax billing	
Electronic Assessment Information (EAI)	
Conservation Authority Property Report	
Payment-in-Lieu Property Report	
(2022) Enumeration-related products: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preliminary List of Electors (PLE) • Voter Notification File (VNF) • Voter Notification File – No Electors (VNFNE) • Elector Differences Found Report (EDFR) • Exceptions Voter Notification File (EVNF) • Exceptions Voter Notification File – No Electors (EVNFNE) • Ontario Population Report (OPR) 	



Renfrew County and District Health Unit

"Optimal health for all in Renfrew County and District"

December 11, 2018

Dear Chief Administrative Officer and Council Members,

Municipalities are making decisions related to cannabis retail and policies, due to the legalization of cannabis on October 17, 2018. Renfrew County and District Health Unit will provide evidence-informed information to support municipalities in making cannabis policy decisions that promote and protect the health of its residents.

Cannabis resources are available online at <https://www.rcdhu.com/healthy-living/alcohol-and-other-drugs/>, which include:

- Cannabis Question & Answer Fact Sheet;
- Cannabis Fact Sheet, Cannabis Infographics and posters;
- Municipality Considerations Document.

Renfrew County and District Health Unit can assist with facilitating community information sessions for residents to make informed decisions about reducing harms associated with cannabis use.

As well, Public Health Inspectors can provide information on the Smoke Free Ontario Act (SFOA) legislation, to identify where cannabis cannot be smoked or vaped. Public Health Inspectors are responsible to enforce this provincial legislation. Please note that the enforcement of local municipal by-laws is the responsibility of the municipality, as this falls outside the mandate of the health unit.

Additional resources can be provided upon request or they can be accessed on the health unit website at www.rcdhu.com. For more information, please contact Elizabeth McLaren at 613-735-8654, Ext. 517.

Sincerely,

Dr. Robert Cushman, MD FRCP(C)
Acting Medical Officer of Health



Renfrew County and District Health Unit

"Optimal Health for All in Renfrew County and District"



Q: What is cannabis?

A: Cannabis is a plant that contains over 100 different chemicals called cannabinoids. THC (delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol) is the main mind altering chemical and affects how you act, feel and think. CBD (Cannabidiol) is another chemical, but has little or no psychoactive effects and can even counteract the psychoactive/negative effects of THC.

Q: Is cannabis safe to consume?

A: No drug is without certain risks. To avoid all potential for harm, it is recommended to avoid cannabis. Should you choose to use cannabis always consult your health care provider and refer to [Canada's Lower Risk Cannabis Use Guidelines](#).

Q: What effect does cannabis have on mental health?

A: High THC content, use before 25 years of age, or a personal or family history of mental health issues increase the risk of dependency and can escalate the development of mental health problems. Daily cannabis use has been associated with an increased risk of experiencing depression and anxiety disorders. Frequent use starting at earlier ages is associated with cognitive and neuropsychological deficits.

Q: Why are adolescents and young adults (less than 25 years of age) especially susceptible to cannabis related mental health risks?

A: Cannabis use can affect areas of the developing brain that are important for cognitive and emotional processes. With increased use, comes increased risk, and initiating use at a younger age (particularly those younger than 16) increases the risk of mental health problems and dependence. If you choose to use cannabis, the health unit recommends starting after 25 years of age when the brain is fully developed.

Q: What common physical effects result from cannabis use?

A: Physical effects of cannabis include: irritated respiratory system, increased appetite, increased heart rate, decreased blood pressure, decreased ability to maintain balance or stability, poor memory, thinking difficulties, distorted perceptions (sights, sounds, time, touch), drowsiness or restlessness, anxiety, red eyes, and dry mouth/throat. **Individual responses to cannabis can differ.**

Q: Does cannabis affect someone's ability to drive?

A: People should not operate a motorized vehicle while under the influence. Cannabis impairs one's ability to drive by negatively impacting reaction time, motor coordination, ability to divide attention, perception, decision making, and short-term memory - all of these are critical for safe driving. Impairment can last, unknowingly, for a long period of time.

Q: Does cannabis use affect pregnancy or breastfeeding?

A: Cannabis use may affect your ability to become pregnant. Cannabis use also causes toxins to be carried through the mother's blood to her fetus, and can result in a baby being born of low birthweight. THC passes into breastmilk and to the baby's fat cells and the brain. They may have effects on the baby's health. It is recommended to

Visit Renfrew County and District Health Unit at www.rcdhu.com

avoid cannabis if you are planning a pregnancy, pregnant or breastfeeding

Q: How can I reduce harms associated to cannabis consumption?

A: Harm is best avoided by not consuming cannabis. Since consuming is a choice, some best practices to keep in mind include:

- ✓ Avoid cannabis if younger than 25 years of age, planning a pregnancy, pregnant, breastfeeding, or at risk for mental health problems.
- ✓ Consult a health care provider, and refer to Canada's Lower Risk Cannabis use Guidelines (CAMH).
- ✓ Avoid "deep inhalation" or "breath-holding", as they increase the amount of toxic material entering the lungs into the body.
- ✓ Reduce how often cannabis is used.
- ✓ High-potency cannabis products (high THC to CBD levels) are more likely to result in harms.
- ✓ Smoking burnt/combusted cannabis can harm the respiratory tract. Choosing other methods like vaporizers or edibles may reduce some risks.
- ✓ Avoid synthetic cannabis products (e.g., K2 or Spice) as it can lead to more severe health problems or even death.

Q: Can you overdose from using cannabis?

A: Yes. While cannabis overdose does not happen in the same way that overdose occurs with opioids or other drugs, overconsumption can cause high levels of anxiety, fear or panic, and psychotic episodes of paranoia, delusions or hallucinations. Hyperemesis, involving uncontrollable vomiting can also occur.

Consuming cannabis that was purchased or received from an unreliable or unregulated source increases the risk for overdose from other substances. Opioids, cocaine, MDMA, LSD, methamphetamine, or other household chemicals have been found in unregulated or "black market" cannabis.

Q: How can I help protect others around me?

A: Some practices to reduce risk to others include:

- ✓ Do not operate vehicles after using cannabis. Dosage, potency, mode of use and tolerance all have an influence on the levels and duration of impairment.
- ✓ Avoid smoking or vaporizing indoors or around children. Secondhand exposure can result in illness for infants and young children, while also affecting alertness, understanding and judgement.
- ✓ Use child-resistant packaging, and keep cannabis locked, out of sight and reach. Control unnecessary exposure to areas where various home-grown plant parts are present.

Q: Is cannabis addictive?

A: Yes. Regular, daily and heavy use can lead to dependence and in extreme cases, addiction in the form of Cannabis Use Disorder. About 1 in 6 teenagers and 1 in 11 adults will develop a cannabis addiction. When someone stops using after regular or heavy consumption, withdrawal symptoms can lead to continued use to offset newly experienced issues including:

- ✓ Irritability.
- ✓ Trouble sleeping.
- ✓ Dysphoria (state of general unhappiness), restlessness, frustration or dissatisfaction.
- ✓ Depression or anxiety.
- ✓ Cravings or changes in appetite and weight loss.

Q: How do edibles differ from inhaled cannabis?

A: The effects of edibles can be delayed up to 2 hours and may last up to 10 hours. After smoking or vaping cannabis, effects are felt almost instantly and may last up to 4 hours. Individual effects to cannabis can differ. Remember, dosage, potency, mode of use and tolerance all have an influence on the levels and duration of impairment.

What's in Store for Cannabis?

Cannabis Retail Outlet Considerations for Municipalities in Renfrew County and District

On October 17, 2018, the Ontario Government passed legislation that privatized the cannabis retail model. The newly enacted *Cannabis License Act, 2018* sets the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO) as the regulator of cannabis retail outlets, and the Ontario Cannabis Retail Corporation (OCRC) as the exclusive wholesaler and online retailer of cannabis in Ontario. The first retail stores are to be operational on April 1, 2019. In the interim, the public can purchase cannabis from OCRC's online store. Retail applications to the AGCO will be received starting December 17, 2018.

Municipalities must declare by January 22, 2019 whether they will opt-out of privatized retail outlets in their communities. To opt-out, municipal councils must provide a notice of resolution to opt-out to the Registrar no later than January 22, 2019. Opting out is a one-time option for municipalities, however, those that choose to opt out may opt-in at a later date. If a council does not opt out, cannabis retail outlets will be permitted.

The recently released Ontario Regulation 468/18 made under the *Cannabis Licence Act, 2018* governs private cannabis retail in Ontario and sets out requirements regarding retail store authorizations and operations. For example, minimum distances between a retailer and a school has been set at 150 metres and hours of operations are between 09:00 and 23:00. The Ontario government indicated that municipalities are prohibited from using licensing or land-use by-laws to control the placement or number of cannabis retail outlets. Municipalities are also prohibited from passing a by-law providing for a licensing system for cannabis retailers.

The Government of Ontario's response to the federal government's legalization of cannabis is a phased approach and information is still emerging. The decision to introduce retail outlets into your municipality may be difficult, particularly in the absence of a complete understanding of community impacts of allowing stores within a municipality. Municipal councils may want to include considerations from a public health perspective in their deliberations on the issue.

Is your Municipal Council considering HAVING cannabis retail outlets in your community?

You may want to consider the following:

The physical availability of a legal substance matters.

Research shows that increased availability and exposure of substances, such as alcohol and tobacco, increases related harms; for example:

- High retail outlet density can contribute to increased consumption and harms.²
- Retail outlet proximity to sensitive use spaces increases normalization among sensitive populations.^{3,4}
- Longer retail hours significantly increase consumption and related harms.²
- High number of retailers impacts cannabis use and frequency of use⁵
- Fewer restrictions on where cannabis, tobacco and vapes can be used may increase the risk of normalization, second-hand smoke exposure and impairment^{7, 8, 9, 10, 11}

Municipalities are prohibited from using licensing or land-use by-laws to control the placement or number of cannabis retail outlets. At this time, it is unclear if municipalities will be able to enact more restrictive by-laws controlling other aspects of the physical availability of cannabis, such as minimum distance requirements between cannabis retail outlets and other substance retailers; the number of outlets in a neighbourhood; proximity to other sensitive use spaces; and restricting retail hours.

The Government of Ontario has committed \$40 million to help with cannabis legalization implementation, with some conditions.

The bulk of provincial funding for municipalities is tied to not opting out. The Ontario Government has committed \$40 million over two years to help municipalities with implementation costs, with municipalities receiving at least \$10,000. A municipality that has not opted out would receive additional funds on a per household basis. Furthermore, if Ontario's portion of the federal excise taxes exceed \$100 million in the first two years, the province will provide 50% of the surplus only to municipalities that have not opted out.^{1, 5}



Is your Municipal Council considering OPTING OUT of cannabis retail outlets?

You may want to consider the following:

A central tenet of the Cannabis Act is the curtailing of the illegal cannabis market.

Opting out may not decrease cannabis use and its impact on the community, rather it will maintain the demand on the illegal market. Some consumers will access cannabis through legal sources, however, in the absence of retail outlets the demand for the illegal cannabis market will remain.

The retail system provides access to regulated and controlled cannabis products.

Some marginalized groups will not be able to access regulated products (e.g., individuals without a physical address, a credit card or access to transportation). These marginalized groups will be pushed to utilize the illegal cannabis market, creating a demand for the illegal market; as well as putting them at risk of unregulated products and the risks associated with these products such as, unknown potency, lacing with other substances, chemicals and mould.

The Government of Ontario has committed \$40 million to help with cannabis legalization implementation, with some conditions.

Municipalities will incur costs associated with cannabis legalization regardless of the presence of retail storefronts in their communities. Municipalities should consider how they will fund the costs and manage the risks associated with cannabis legalization. The Ontario Government has committed \$40 million over two years to help municipalities with implementation costs. If opting out of the retail model, communities will receive only \$10,000 to help with associated costs. Furthermore, they will not be able to access additional funding at a later date as communities that have opted out will not receive a portion of surplus excise taxes, should some be available in the first two years of legalization.¹

Opting out will allow municipalities to fully understand the regulations and funding prior to committing to retail outlets.

Opting out now and approving retail outlets at a later date will allow for time to develop business regulations, further clarify municipalities' role and responsibilities as information emerges, and to prepare for the edibles market. It is unknown if municipalities will receive funding if they choose to opt-out now and decide later to host retail storefronts in their communities.

References

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December 21, 2018

Dear Head of Council:

We are writing to provide you with an update on the 2019 Ontario Municipal Partnership Fund (OMPF).

Firstly, congratulations on your new office term. Our government knows that one of the first priorities for your new council is setting your 2019 budget. The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) along with a number of individual municipalities have asked for information about the 2019 OMPF to support budget planning.

Like many of my colleagues in the Legislature, as former municipal representatives, we understand the importance of this information. Let me assure you, we are committed to getting you the details of your 2019 OMPF allocation as soon as possible.

As outlined in November's *2018 Ontario Economic Outlook and Fiscal Review*, our government wants to ensure that the vital services people rely on like health and education are available to individuals and families for generations to come. This is why our top priority is putting the Province's fiscal house in order.

As you know, the Province's financial challenge is massive. We inherited a \$15 billion deficit and over a third of a trillion dollars in net debt. The previous government was spending more than \$40 million more a day than they took in.

This is simply unsustainable. This is why we are making every effort to restore fiscal balance to the Province.

Ernst and Young, who conducted a line-by-line-review of Ontario's spending, confirmed in its report *Managing Transformation — A Modernization Action Plan for Ontario* that the growth in transfer payments and other provincial supports are key contributors to the province's mounting debt. Getting this spending under control is why we are undertaking a detailed review of all transfer payments, including those to municipalities.

We must continue to support municipalities in a way that is sustainable and responsible. To achieve this, we are reviewing the OMPF — which is why details of OMPF allocations will be released later than in past years.

.../cont'd

We will be looking to you, our municipal partners, to help us with the challenge that lies ahead — as we look to drive efficiencies and value-for-money in all of our transfer payments, including the OMPF. While we all will be operating within a smaller funding envelope, we want to work with you to return the program to what it was initially intended to do — support the Northern and rural municipalities that need it the most.

As part of the OMPF review, we will seek your feedback on how best to renew the program. We will work through AMO and the recently signed joint Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). This agreement is a foundation of our relationship. The AMO MOU table has been an important forum for discussing and receiving your input on financial matters. I also understand that there has been a staff working group that has provided valuable feedback on the OMPF in the past. Ministry officials have been asked to engage with this group early in the New Year.

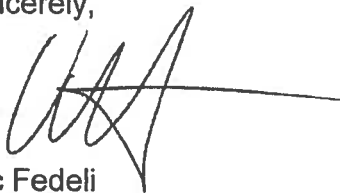
Again, we want to provide you with 2019 OMPF allocations as soon as possible. We are working to complete the review early in 2019.

Since coming into office, our government has taken a number of actions to support municipalities. These include introducing legislation to address two critical issues in Ontario's firefighting sector: fairness for professional firefighters and the efficiency of the interest arbitration system. In addition, we have committed to providing municipalities \$40 million over two years to help with the implementation costs of recreational cannabis legalization. In addition, if Ontario's portion of the federal excise duty on recreational cannabis over the first two years of legalization exceeds \$100 million, the province will provide 50 percent of the surplus only to municipalities that have not opted-out as of January 22, 2019. We are also working to reduce the significant red tape burden municipalities face.

These are important initiatives that will make life better for the people of Ontario.

We respect our municipal partners, and are committed to working constructively with all local governments to find smarter and more efficient ways to make life better for our communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Vic Fedeli', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Vic Fedeli
Minister of Finance

- c: The Honourable Steve Clark, Minister, Municipal Affairs and Housing
 Greg Orencsak, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Finance
 Laurie LeBlanc, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
 Jamie McGarvey, President, Association of Municipalities Ontario

Municipalité de
Municipality of

mATTICE~
VAL CÔTÉ



Sac postal / P.O. Bag 129, Mattice, Ont. P0L 1T0
(705) 364-6511 – Fax: (705) 364-6431

December 11th, 2018

Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Office of the Minister
777 Bay Street, 17th Floor
Toronto, ON
P5G 2E5

Attention: Honourable Steve Clark, Minister

Honourable Minister,

Re: Paragraph 4 of the Declaration of Office

Section 232 of the *Municipal Act, 2001 (Ontario)* provides that a person cannot take a seat on the council of a municipality until he or she takes the declaration of office on the form established by the Minister for that purpose.

In its current version, the declaration of office contains a statement whereby newly elected members of Council promise and declare their faith and allegiance to the Queen. Said statement is considered by many as irrelevant to the current political state of affairs, while many others find it simply offensive.

The Municipality of Mattice – Val Côté recently passed the enclosed resolution requesting that your Ministry amend paragraph 4 of the Declaration of Office in order to address these very legitimate concerns.

Sincerely yours,

Marc Dupuis
Mayor

Encl. Resolution no. 18-190

Municipalité de
Municipality of

mATTICE-
VAL CÔTÉ

Sac postal / P.O. Bag 129, Mattice, Ont. P0L 1T0
(705) 364-6511 – Fax: (705) 364-6431



Meeting no. 18-15

Resolution no. 18-190

Date: December 10th, 2018

Moved by: Daniel Grenier

Seconded by: Steve Brousseau

WHEREAS the requirement for members of municipal Council to be faithful and to bear true allegiance to the Queen is considered by many to be outdated and representative of a different era, and;

WHEREAS said requirement can go against or be contrary to an individual's culture, principles and beliefs, and;

WHEREAS said requirement presents an obstacle for some individuals who would have otherwise been willing to run for Council and serve at the municipal level of government;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing and its Minister modify the wording of paragraph four of the Declaration of Office to make it more inclusive and representative of the times, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Ministry consider replacing paragraph four of the Declaration of Office with the following wording: "I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to my country, Canada, and to its three founding nations", and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, to the Premier of Ontario, Doug Ford, to our provincial and federal parliament representatives, Guy Bourgouin and Carol Hughes, and to all Ontario municipalities.

Carried Defeated Deferred

Mayor, Marc Dupuis
Presiding Officer

Recorded Vote
(unanimous unless indicated below)

Name	Yeas	Neas	Abstention
Dupuis, Marc			
Brousseau, Steve			
Grenier, Daniel			
Lemay, Richard			
Malenfant, Joyce			

Certified by: *Guylaine Coulombe*
Guylaine Coulombe, CAO/Clerk