



*The Corporation of*

**THE TOWNSHIP OF MELANCTHON**

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August 16, 2023

Municipality of Chatham-Kent  
315 King Street West, PO Box 640  
Chatham, Ontario  
N7M 5K8

Attention: Judy Smith, Clerk/Freedom of Information

Dear Ms. Smith:

**Re: Chatham-Kent's Resolution – Time for Change – Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act**

At the meeting of Melancthon Township Council held on August 10, 2023, the following motion was introduced and passed:

Moved by White, Seconded by Neilson

**Be it resolved that:** "Council supports the motion from Chatham-Kent regarding changes to the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, in its entirety, and that a copy of this motion be sent to the Minister of Public and Business Service Delivery and all municipalities in Dufferin County." **Carried.**

Yours truly,

Denise B. Holmes, AMCT  
CAO/Clerk

- c. Honourable Kaleed Rasheed, Minister of Public and Business Service Delivery  
All Municipalities in Dufferin County



**Municipality of Chatham-Kent**

Corporate Services

Municipal Governance

315 King Street West, P.O. Box 640

Chatham ON N7M 5K8

July 5, 2023

Via Email: [Kaleed.Rasheed@ontario.ca](mailto:Kaleed.Rasheed@ontario.ca)

Minister of Public and Business Service Delivery (MPBSD)

Honourable Rasheed:

**Re: Time for Change  
Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act**

Please be advised the Council of the Municipality of Chatham-Kent at its regular meeting held on June 26, 2023 passed the following resolution:

WHEREAS the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act R.S.O. 1990 (MFIPPA) dates back 30 years;

AND WHEREAS municipalities, including the Municipality of Chatham-Kent, practice and continue to promote open and transparent government operations, actively disseminate information and routinely disclose public documents upon request outside of the MFIPPA process;

AND WHEREAS government operations, public expectations, technologies, and legislation surrounding accountability and transparency have dramatically changed and MFIPPA has not advanced in line with these changes;

AND WHEREAS the creation, storage and utilization of records has changed significantly, and the Municipal Clerk of the Municipality is responsible for records and information management programs as prescribed by the Municipal Act, 2001;

AND WHEREAS regulation 823 under MFIPPA continues to reference antiquated technology and does not adequately provide for cost recovery, and these financial shortfalls are borne by the municipal taxpayer;

AND WHEREAS the threshold to establish frivolous and/or vexatious requests is unreasonably high and allows for harassment of staff and members of municipal councils, and unreasonably affects the operations of the municipality;

AND WHEREAS the Act fails to recognize how multiple requests from an individual, shortage of staff resources or the expense of producing a record due to its size, number or physical location does not allow for time extensions to deliver requests and unreasonably affects the operations of the municipality;

AUG 10 2023

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AND WHEREAS the name of the requestor is not permitted to be disclosed to anyone other than the person processing the access request, and this anonymity is used by requesters to abuse the MFIPPA process and does not align with the spirit of openness and transparency embraced by municipalities;

AND WHEREAS legal professionals use MFIPPA to gain access to information launch litigation against institutions, where other remedies exist;

AND WHEREAS there are limited resources to assist administrators or requestors to navigate the legislative process;

AND WHEREAS reform is needed to address societal and technological changes in addition to global privacy concerns and consistency across provincial legislation;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Ministry of Government and Consumer Services be requested to review the MFIPPA, and consider recommendations as follows:

1. That MFIPPA assign the Municipal Clerk, or designate to be the Head under the Act;
2. That MFIPPA be updated to address current and emerging technologies;
3. That MFIPPA regulate the need for consistent routine disclosure practices across institutions;
4. That the threshold for frivolous and/or vexatious actions be reviewed, and take into consideration the community and available resources in which it is applied;
5. That the threshold for frivolous and/or vexatious also consider the anonymity of requesters, their abusive nature and language in requests to ensure protection from harassment as provided for in Occupational Health and Safety Act;
6. That the application and scalability of fees be designed to ensure taxpayers are protected from persons abusing the access to information process;
7. That administrative practices implied or required under the Act, including those of the IPC, be reviewed and modernized;
8. That the integrity of the Act be maintained to protect personal privacy and transparent governments.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Judy Smith at [ckclerk@chatham-kefn.ca](mailto:ckclerk@chatham-kefn.ca)

Sincerely,

**Judy Smith**

Digitally signed by  
Judy Smith  
Date: 2023.07.05  
10:48:27 -04'00'

Judy Smith, CMO  
Director Municipal Governance  
Clerk /Freedom of Information Coordinator

c.

Lianne Rood, MP  
Dave Epp MP  
Trevor Jones, MPP  
Monte McNaughton, MPP  
Information and Privacy Commissioner of Ontario  
Association of Municipalities of Ontario  
AMCTO Legislative and Policy Advisory Committee  
Ontario municipalities