



# COUNCIL INFORMATION PACKAGE

## SUMMARY

JANUARY 21, 2022

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1. **C-2022-023**  
Correspondence dated January 7, 2022 from the Mayors of the Town of Caledon and the Town of Mono addressed to the Honourable Doug Downey, Attorney General, Ministry of the Attorney General providing a joint letter respecting the mitigation of issues facing the provincial offence courts in Dufferin and Caledon.
2. **C-2022-024**  
Correspondence dated January 14, 2022 from the Town of Plympton-Wyoming addressed to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario respecting a motion to support the City of Kitchener's motion regarding Fire Safety Measures – Request to Review the Ontario Fire Code Retrofit Section 9.5

January 7, 2022

The Honourable Doug Downey, Attorney General  
Ministry of the Attorney General  
11<sup>th</sup> Floor, 720 Bay St.  
Toronto, ON M7A 2S9

Dear Minister,

We, the Mayors of the Town of Caledon and the Town of Mono, respectfully submit this joint letter to provide you with our municipal perspectives, outline our unique challenges and frustrations, and also to propose solutions that would mitigate the serious issues facing our provincial offence courts in Dufferin and Caledon.

Municipal resources are being exhausted and pushed beyond capacity and the implications are profound. The information we share below clearly indicates that the Caledon/Dufferin POA Courts are in a crisis. We are not alone in the Province nor are the problems described here solely attributable to COVID 19.

The critical challenges are:

***Last minute cancellations due to a lack of judicial resources***

This is resulting in a negative and compounding administrative impact to case management. As example, between September 10<sup>th</sup> and December 15<sup>th</sup> there were 3,038 docket lines cancelled and rescheduled. This one example equates to 26 closed court days.

A related frustration is that early resolution dockets are often cancelled, with the next available return date being in June pushing some matter 12 months before they are able to have an early resolution. Matters requesting trials are being scheduled up to 24+ months out.

Another troubling result of this issue is the capital and operating costs to run a court are essentially wasted when we are forced to reschedule due to lack of, or cancellation of, judicial resources. We have provided the courtroom and technology, the court clerks and prosecutors, and notified all the defendants, only to repeatedly cancel.

***Reduction of Judicial availability for administrative functions such as swearing of informations, issuing of summons and review of applications***

This is creating an enormous backlog and, in some cases, has resulted in the swearing of informations occurring *after* an appearance date causing inconvenience to defendants and the need to re-issue summonses with attendant multiple, unproductive court attendances.

Outlined below are some possible solutions that from our perspective would mitigate these issues.

- Assign Justices of the Peace to POA courts either in person or virtually. This should entail total mobility for all justices of the peace regardless of region.
- There are currently over 80 per diem justices of the peace and they should be utilized to the fullest. Exemption from their presiding 'cap', something allowed for, should be considered to address backlog. Per diem justices of the peace willing to accept POA assignments would go a long way to addressing backlog.
- Allow e-Hub access for POA court matters immediately, for the swearing of informations and issuing of summons to start addressing the timeliness of judicial administrative functions and paperwork.
- Launch early resolution, trial and paperwork blitzes to address backlog. Make judicial dependant paperwork a mandatory part of court assignments.
- Use your legislative authority as Attorney General to fast track section 11 of the POA to proclaim the re-opening amendments and, amend the early resolution process in section 5 of the PA to permit the clerk of the court to enter convictions.
- Together with the Ontario Court of Justice, commit to convening a 'Justice Summit' on POA where all stakeholders can address the considerable issues facing our courts.

Minister, it is not inconceivable that hundreds if not thousands of serious charges are at risk of being withdrawn either by prosecutors or as the result of a court ruling on 11b of the Charter as it applies to old POA cases.

We are very willing to be part of the solution and welcome a further conversation with you or your staff on how we can work together. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Mayor John Creelman  
Town of Mong



Mayor Allan Thompson  
Town of Caledon

Copy to:

The Honourable Sylvia Jones, MPP Dufferin Caledon

The Honourable Lise Maisonneuve, Chief Justice, Ontario Court of Justice

The Honourable Paul R. Currie, Regional Senior Justice, Central West Judicial District

Her Worship Marsha Farnand, Regional Senior Justice of the Peace



Honourable Doug Ford  
Premier of Ontario  
Legislative Building  
Queen's Park  
Toronto ON M7A1A1 (Sent via email)

January 14, 2022

**Re: Fire Safety Measures – Request to Review the Ontario Fire Code Retrofit Section 9.5**

Please be advised that on January 12<sup>th</sup> 2022 the Town of Plympton-Wyoming Council passed the following motion to support the City of Kitchener's resolution (attached) regarding fire safety measures and a request to review the Ontario Fire Code Retrofit Section 9.5.

**Motion 19**

*Moved by Mike Vasey*

*Seconded by Gary Atkinson*

*That Council supports item 't' of correspondence from the City of Kitchener regarding fire safety measures, and directs staff to prepare a letter of support.*

**Motion Carried.**

If you have any questions regarding the above motion, please do not hesitate to contact me by phone or email at [ekwarciak@plympton-wyoming.ca](mailto:ekwarciak@plympton-wyoming.ca).

Sincerely,

Erin Kwarciak

Clerk

Town of Plympton-Wyoming

Cc: (all sent via e-mail)  
Honourable Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing  
Monika Turner, Association of Municipalities of Ontario  
All Ontario Municipalities

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**The Corporation of the Town of Plympton-Wyoming**

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December 1, 2021

Honourable Doug Ford  
Premier of Ontario  
Legislative Building  
Queen's Park  
Toronto ON M7A 1A1

Dear Premier Ford:

This is to advise that City Council, at a meeting held on November 22, 2021, passed the following resolution regarding fire safety measures:

"WHEREAS the Government of Ontario, in December 1975, enacted the Ontario Building Code for the purpose of regulating the construction of new, safe buildings within the Province of Ontario; and,

WHEREAS the Government of Ontario, in November 1981 enacted the Ontario Fire Code for the purpose of maintaining the life safety systems of all buildings within the Province of Ontario; and,

WHEREAS the Government of Ontario, in November 1983 began the process of amending the Ontario Fire Code to include Retrofit provisions, for the purpose of providing a minimum level of life safety for those existing buildings which had not been built under the provisions of any version of the Ontario Building Code; and,

WHEREAS the government of Ontario, in October 1992 amended the Ontario Fire Code Retrofit provisions, for the purpose of providing a minimum level of life safety to buildings classed as low rise residential (9.5); and,

WHEREAS October 2021 marks twenty-nine (29) years since the requirements outlined by Retrofit 9.5 have been substantially updated; and,

WHEREAS this lack of currently appropriate standards for self-closing devices on suite doors and positive latching on exit stairwell doors has led to significant serious injuries, deaths, long term dislodgement of residents, and significant unnecessary insurance loss due to allowed building deficiencies;

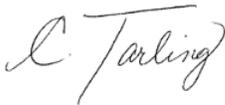
THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED that the City of Kitchener urges the government of Ontario to direct the Ontario Fire Marshal's Office – Technical Services, to undertake an immediate review of that portion of the Ontario Fire Code known as Retrofit Section 9.5;

THEREFORE IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that the City of Kitchener urges the Government of Ontario to, as expeditiously as possible, amend the Ontario Fire Code Sentence 9.5.2.8.(1) to require self closing devices on all suite closures (doors) within low rise residential buildings: and,

THEREFORE IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that the City of Kitchener urges the Government of Ontario to, as expeditiously as possible, amend the Ontario Fire Code Sentence 9.5.3.3.(3) to require that closures (doors) entering exit stairwells be equipped with both self-closing devices and positive latching; and,

THEREFORE IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Honourable Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario; and, all other Ontario municipalities."

Yours truly,



C. Tarling  
Director of Legislated Services  
& City Clerk

c: Honourable Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing  
Monika Turner, Association of Municipalities of Ontario  
Ontario Municipalities