

Type of Decision									
Meeting Date	Friday, December 5, 2014				Report Date	Tuesday, December-02-14			
Decision Required	X	Yes		No	Priority	X	High		Low
Direction	X	Information Only			Type of Meeting	X	Open		Closed

Bill 8 – Accountability and Transparency Measures - Report #05/12/14/1404

Subject:

Consideration of AMO’s position on Bill 8 which makes changes to a number of different pieces of legislation affecting municipal governments. Depending on the size of your municipality and the services you provide it may affect you more or less.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council receive the following as information. Considering that the legislation was re-introduced immediately after the election by the majority Liberal government, there is likely little that can be done to change this legislation. AMO is lobbying for clarity and hopes to ensure that municipalities are not burdened with additional administration. They will keep member municipalities posted as development occur.

BACKGROUND/EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

New legislation is being re-introduced after being stopped during election call earlier in the year. The short version is that this legislation adds to methods of ensuring accountability and transparency in municipal areas of responsibility. The Municipal Act, when updated included various means of appointing accountability officers – be they Integrity Commissioners, Municipal Ombudsmen or Auditors General.

The province has determined that 1 – not enough municipalities took advantage of these positions and 2 – those which did, have already eliminated them. In order to “force” accountability, the province wishes to have the Ontario Ombudsman have oversight on municipalities.

AMO does not feel that the additional oversight is warranted, that it will add red tape and another costly layer of administration. The Ombudsman feels that this act by the province is long overdue, first being called for by his predecessor in the ‘70s.

The attached article from Geoff Zochodne of The Oshawa Express describes the situation quite succinctly.

Options/Discussion:

Financial Considerations/Budget Impact:

None at this time. Currently the use of the Ombudsman's services is cost free for residents.

Policy Impact:

Others Consulted:

Reeve Gibson, Legislation from

http://www.ontla.on.ca/web/bills/bills_detail.do?locale=en&BillID=3000&detailPage=bills_detail_the_bill, AMO reports, AMCTO reports.

Approved and Recommended by the Clerk

Melinda Reith,
Municipal Clerk