

January 9, 2017

VIA EMAIL

The Honourable Kathleen Wynne
The Honourable Chris Ballard
Patrick Brown, Leader of the Progressive Conservative Party
Andrea Horwath, Leader of the New Democratic Party
All Members of Provincial Parliament
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA)
All Ontario Municipalities

Resolution: Bill 7, amendments to Residential Tenancies Act, 2006

Please be advised that the Council of the Corporation of the Municipality of Bluewater at its regular meeting on December 19th, 2016 carried the following resolution:

Whereas the Government of Ontario has introduced Bill 7, the Promoting Affordable Housing Act, 2016, an omnibus Bill that includes amendments to the Residential Tenancies Act, 2006 (RTA); and

Whereas Schedule 5 of the Bill prescribes that local municipalities shall assume enforcement responsibility for residential rental maintenance standards (O. Reg. 517/06) under the RTA on July 1, 2018; and

Whereas the Ministry of Housing currently enforces residential rental maintenance standards in municipalities that do not have a property standards by-law, or have a "partial" by-law that does not address the interior of rental buildings; and

Whereas the Ministry currently receives complaints from tenants respecting residential rental maintenance standards and appoints inspectors to provide this service to municipalities on an as needed basis, for a cost-effective set fee of \$265 for each inspection or re-inspection; and

Whereas the download of enforcement responsibility will require each municipality to receive written complaints from tenants, cause an inspector to make an inspection to determine whether the provincial standards have been complied with, issue work orders to landlords who have not complied with a prescribed maintenance standard, monitor compliance, investigate allegations of failure to comply, and where circumstances warrant, to prosecute landlords for non-compliance; and

Whereas the Government of Ontario intends to download these responsibilities with no compensatory funding, leaving municipalities that do not currently enforce residential rental maintenance standards with the significant fiscal challenge of providing this service cost-effectively;

Resolved, That the Council of the Municipality of Bluewater calls on the Government of Ontario and the Ministry of Housing to halt the download of enforcement responsibility for residential rental maintenance standards proposed in Schedule 5 of Bill 7, in light of the significant fiscal challenge each municipality will face to provide this service to the public in a cost-effective manner; and

That a copy of this resolution be sent to the Honourable Kathleen Wynne, Premier of Ontario, the Honourable Chris Ballard, Minister of Housing, Mr. Patrick Brown, Leader of the Progressive Conservative Party, Ms. Andrea Horwath, Leader of the New Democratic Party and all Member of Provincial Parliament in the Province of Ontario; and

That a copy of this resolution be send to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) and to all Ontario municipalities for consideration.

As per the above resolution, please accept this correspondence for your information and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kyle Pratt". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kyle Pratt
Chief Administrative Officer