



Ministry of Government and Consumer  
Services  
777 Bay St., 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Toronto, ON  
M5B 2H7

May 27<sup>th</sup> 2021

To Whom it May Concern:

Please be advised that at the Town of Plympton-Wyoming Council Meeting held Wednesday, May 26<sup>th</sup> 2021, the following resolution was adopted:

**Motion 10**

Moved by Gary Atkinson

Seconded by Muriel Wright

That Council support item 'L' of correspondence from the Township of Terrace Bay regarding Advocacy for Reform MFIPPA.

**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

546 Niagara Street

Wyoming, ON N0N 1T0

p. 519-845-3939

[ekwarciak@plympton-wyoming.ca](mailto:ekwarciak@plympton-wyoming.ca)

Cc: All Ontario Municipalities

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

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# The Corporation of the Township of Terrace Bay

P.O. Box 40, 1 Selkirk Avenue, Terrace Bay, ON, P0T 2W0

Phone: (807) 825-3315 Fax: (807) 825-9576

May 18, 2021

Ministry of Government and Consumer Services  
777 Bay St., 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Toronto, ON  
M5B 2H7

To Whom it May Concern:

At the Township of Terrace Bay Regular Council Meeting held on Monday May 17, 2021, the following resolution of support was passed.

**RE: Advocacy for Reform MFIPPA**

**Resolution: 122-2021**

**Moved by: Councillor St.Louis**

**Seconded by: Councillor Moore**

**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 Township of Terrace Bay, 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;

**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.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Jon Hall', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Jon Hall  
CAO/Clerk

CC: Ontario Municipalities