



Municipality of South Bruce

MUNICIPAL OFFICE

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January 17, 2024

Via Email

Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry
5th Floor, 99 Wellesley St.
Toronto, ON M7A 1W3
Graydon.Smith@pc.ola.org

Lisa Thompson, Huron-Bruce MPP
408 Queen Street, Box 426
Blyth, ON N0M 1H0
lisa.thompsonco@pc.ola.org

Dear Sir and Madams,

Re: Extension of Minister's Direction for Conservation Authorities Regarding Fee Changes
Associated with Planning, Development and Permitting Fees

Please be advised that the Municipality of South Bruce Council met at their regular session of Council on January 9, 2024, at which time the following resolution was passed in response to correspondence received relating to the continued fee freeze:

Motion M24-15

Moved by: Nigel Van Dyk

Seconded by: Ron Schnurr

THAT Council instructs staff to write a letter to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry opposing the directive mandating conservation authorities to not alter fees related to planning, development and permitting for the 2023 calendar year;
AND FURTHER THAT a copy of this letter be forwarded to the MPP.

Carried

The Municipality of South Bruce encourages the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry to reevaluate its recent directive directing conservation authorities not to change fees for programs and services associated with planning, development and permitting for the 2023 calendar year.

The unexpected announcement affects our local Authority's 2024 budget. The budget had already been approved at the time of the announcement, resulting in time lost to review and potentially revise their 2024 budget.

Additionally, the freeze impacts the financial planning and operation capabilities of Conservation Authorities across Ontario. The impact of rising costs has affected all sectors and it is important for Conservation Authorities to be able to achieve an appropriate level of costs recovery through their fees.

The Municipality of South Bruce is hopeful the Ministry will reconsider their directive.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'V. Kennedy', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Vivian Kennedy
Deputy Clerk
Municipality of South Bruce