

Report to Council

Report Title:	Ministry Proposal to Create an Administrative Authority for Building Code Services.docx		
Prepared By:	Terry Tuck, Chief Building Official		
Department:	Building		
Date:	November 12, 2019		
Report Number:	BLDG2019-05	File Number:	C11BU
Attachments:	Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing – Media Release: Ontario Taking Further Action to Build More Housing Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing - Transforming and Modernizing the Delivery of Ontario’s Building Code Services Discussion Paper		

Recommendation:

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby receives Report Number BLDG2019-05 - Ministry Proposal to Create an Administrative Authority for Building Code Services, prepared by Terry Tuck, Chief Building Official and in doing so reviews the Provincial Government’s proposal to transform and modernize the delivery of Ontario’s Building Code services.

Report:

Background:

The Building’s Branch for the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing are proposing to create an Administrative Authority. This new Administrative Authority will spin-off from the current Building’s Branch, involving some of the current Building staff.

The Ministry’s Media Release about the Administrative Authority has been attached to this report for Council’s information. The Ministry is responding to feedback from stakeholders about the need for “better, modern, and timely services to support the building sector’s ability to understand and apply building code requirements”. Some of the proposed new services include:

- Strengthening public safety
- Streamlining customer service and approval processes
- Delivering sector-driven services
- Providing timely and modern tools and products
- Promoting consistency across the province
- Enhancing integrity in the system

Analysis:

Funding for the new Administrative Authority will be a fee for services, as well as a levy charged to municipalities based on construction values. This levy will come out of the building permit fees collected by building departments. The Ministry is proposing to charge 0.016% of the construction cost estimate noted on the building permit applications. If Brockton uses construction values up to October 31, 2019, the levy would be approximately \$3,200.00, coming directly off the top of permit fees collected.

Building Officials from across the Province discussed the proposal with Brenda Lewis, Director for the Building's Branch, at the Ontario Building Official's Annual Meeting and Training Session (AMTS) in the Town of the Blue Mountains. The majority of the Building Officials at the AMTS agreed that the current system is broken, but were doubtful that creating another level of government would transform or modernize the delivery of Ontario's Building Code Services.

The Ministry is providing updates about the Administrative Authority on their website <https://ero.ontario.ca/notice/019-0422>. The Ministry have drafted a Discussion Paper entitled "Transforming and Modernizing the Delivery of Ontario's Building Code Services" which has been attached to this report for Council's information. The Discussion Paper outlines existing building code services, identifies concerns that have been raised regarding their delivery, asks questions about how they might be improved or enhanced, proposes potential changes, and outlines areas where there might be a need for new services to be delivered. The Ministry is also advertising a corresponding survey encouraging participants to share their feedback on how to improve Ontario's building code system. The survey is available on the [Provincial Government's website](#) with a closing date of November 25, 2019.

In my opinion, I do not believe that Brockton will benefit from this new Administrative Authority. Currently, we do not use the services offered by the Building's branch, as they have moved away from training and are focused on development and harmonization with the National Code. Brockton's Building Department have found that the courses offered by the Ontario Building Officials Association (OBOA) are more productive and relatable since the courses are designed by Building Officials.

Sustainability Checklist:

What aspect of the Brockton Sustainable Strategic Plan does the content/recommendations in this report help advance?

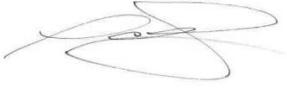
- Do the recommendations help move the Municipality closer to its Vision? N/A
- Do the recommendations contribute to achieving Cultural Vibrancy? N/A
- Do the recommendations contribute to achieving Economic Prosperity? N/A
- Do the recommendations contribute to Environmental Integrity? N/A
- Do the recommendations contribute to the Social Equity? N/A

Financial Impacts/Source of Funding:

- Do the recommendations represent a sound financial investment from a sustainability perspective? No

Staff await the legislative changes but do not feel this administrative change would be beneficial to Brockton's budget.

Reviewed By:



Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer

Respectfully Submitted by:



Terry Tuck, Chief Building Official

Reviewed By:



Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer