



October 22, 2020

Honourable Doug Ford  
Premier of Ontario  
Legislative Building  
Queen's Park  
Toronto, ON M7H 1A1  
Email: [premier@ontario.ca](mailto:premier@ontario.ca)

Re: Reform to the Municipal Insurance Policy

Dear Premier Ford,

At the regular council meeting of October 19, 2020, Council reviewed the attached correspondence from the Township of Lake of Bays requesting a reform to the Municipal Insurance Policy. As a result of their review, the following resolution was passed,

**R20-10-390**

Moved By Councillor Bjorkman  
Seconded By Councillor Bondy

**That** the copy of correspondence from Lake of Bays to Premier Doug Ford, dated October 9, 2020 expressing their concerns and requesting a reform to the Municipal Insurance Policy, be received and supported; and

**That** a letter of support be sent to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, MP Chris Lewis, MPP Taras Natyshak, and to the Township of Lake of Bays.

**Carried**

Please accept this letter as the Town of Essex's support of the Township of Lake of Bays' resolution and the suggested amendment to Bill 124.



Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Auger".

Robert W. Auger, L.L.B.  
Town Solicitor, Legal and Legislative Services/Clerk  
Ext. 1132  
Email: [rauger@essex.ca](mailto:rauger@essex.ca)

RWA/lam

Enclosure

c.c. Chris Lewis MP  
Email: [Chris.Lewis@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Chris.Lewis@parl.gc.ca)

Taras Natyshak MPP  
Email: [tnatyshak-qp@ndp.on.ca](mailto:tnatyshak-qp@ndp.on.ca)

Carrie Sykes  
Director of Corporate Services/Clerk  
Township of Lake of Bays  
Email: [csykes@lakeofbays.on.ca](mailto:csykes@lakeofbays.on.ca)

October 9, 2020

*Via Email*

Honourable Doug Ford  
Premier of Ontario  
Legislative Building  
Queen's Park  
Toronto, ON 1A1

Dear Honourable Premier Doug Ford:

**RE: Reform to the Municipal Insurance Policy**

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On behalf of the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Lake of Bays, please be advised that Council would like to express their concern and request a reform to the Municipal Insurance Policy.

As outlined in the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) report entitled, "[Towards a Reasonable Balance: Addressing Growing Municipal Liability and Insurance Costs](#)", dated October 1, 2019, joint and several liability creates a higher insurance cost for municipalities. Local municipalities within Muskoka have experienced a 20% increase in municipal liability for 2019 and are expecting at least 20% increase for 2020.

Throughout the Township of Lake of Bays, the area of concern is the Errors and Omissions for building code claims. There is a much higher value of newly built cottages/seasonal residences within Lake of Bays and it is populated by a commanding number of ratepayers who possess the financial means to sue and will endure the protracted legal process. The Township has a lower than average number of building claims, however a higher than average payout.

Please consider an amendment to Bill 124 to make it a requirement that the building contractor name be disclosed and that the contractor must provide proof of insurance, thus providing greater accountability and responsibility and ensuring that municipalities will not bear the burden alone.

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Kindly review and consider the recommendations as outlined in the above-noted AMO report. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the Municipal Office at 705-635-2272.

Sincerely,



Carrie Sykes, *Dipl. M.A., CMO, AOMC,*  
Director of Corporate Services/Clerk.

CS/cw

Copy to: MP, Scott Aitchison  
MPP, Norm Miller  
Association of Municipalities of Ontario  
Municipalities in Ontario