



The Corporation of the Town of Bruce Mines

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May 14, 2026

Sent by email: Doug.fordco@pc.ola.org

The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building, Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

Dear Honourable Doug Ford,

Re: Bill 97, Plan to Protect Ontario Act (Budget Measures), 2026 – Schedule 7

At its Regular Meeting held on May 4, 2026, the Council of the Town of Bruce Mines reviewed the changes introduced through Schedule 7 of Bill 97, which amends the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FIPPA).

At that meeting, Council adopted a resolution expressing concern regarding these amendments and their impact on transparency and public access to information.

Enclosed is a copy of the resolution supported by Bruce Mines Council.

Sincerely,

Tarra Lapensee
Deputy Clerk
info@brucemines.ca
705-785-3493

cc:

The Honourable Doug Downey, Attorney General of Ontario
The Honourable Bill Rosenberg, Member of Provincial Parliament
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM)
Information and Privacy Commissioner of Ontario, Patricia Kosseim
All Ontario Municipalities

WHEREAS THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PROTECTION OF PRIVACY ACT (FIPPA) RECEIVED ROYAL ASSENT IN 1987, COMING INTO FORCE ON JANUARY 1, 1988; AND

WHEREAS THE MUNICIPAL FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PROTECTION OF PRIVACY ACT (MFIPPA) RECEIVED ROYAL ASSENT IN 1990, COMING INTO FORCE ON JANUARY 1, 1991; AND

WHEREAS BOTH ACTS PROVIDE THE PUBLIC WITH A LEGAL RIGHT OF ACCESS TO GOVERNMENT-HELD INFORMATION, REFLECTING THE PRINCIPLE THAT SUCH INFORMATION BELONGS TO THE PUBLIC UNLESS THERE IS A VALID REASON TO WITHHOLD IT; AND

WHEREAS THE INFORMATION AND PRIVACY COMMISSIONER OF ONTARIO HAS REINFORCED THAT ACCESS TO INFORMATION IS “ESSENTIAL TO THE HEALTHY FUNCTIONING OF A DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY” AND TO TRANSPARENT GOVERNANCE; AND

WHEREAS BILL 97 (2026): PLAN TO PROTECT ONTARIO ACT (BUDGET MEASURES) RECEIVED ROYAL ASSENT ON APRIL 24, 2026, INTRODUCING SIGNIFICANT CHANGES TO FREEDOM OF INFORMATION RULES, INCLUDING NEW EXEMPTIONS FOR MINISTERS’ OFFICES; AND

WHEREAS RECORDS HELD BY THE PREMIER, CABINET MINISTERS, PARLIAMENTARY ASSISTANTS, AND THEIR OFFICES ARE NO LONGER SUBJECT TO FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUESTS AND ARE NO LONGER CONSIDERED FOI-ELIGIBLE RECORDS; AND

WHEREAS COUNCIL IS OF THE OPINION THAT THE PASSAGE OF BILL 97 REPRESENTS A STEP BACKWARD FROM LONG-STANDING PROVINCIAL COMMITMENTS TO OPENNESS, TRANSPARENCY, AND ACCOUNTABILITY;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF BRUCE MINES FORMALLY EXPRESSES ITS CONCERN WITH THE PASSAGE OF BILL 97 (2026) AND FINDS THAT IT CONSTITUTES A REGRESSION FROM ESTABLISHED PRINCIPLES OF TRANSPARENT GOVERNANCE; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL URGES THE GOVERNMENT OF ONTARIO TO REPEAL THIS PROVISION OF THE LEGISLATION; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT A COPY OF THIS RESOLUTION BE FORWARDED TO THE PREMIER OF ONTARIO, DOUG FORD; THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OF ONTARIO, DOUG DOWNEY; THE MEMBER OF PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT, BILL ROSENBERG; THE ASSOCIATION OF MUNICIPALITIES OF ONTARIO (AMO); THE FEDERATION OF NORTHERN ONTARIO MUNICIPALITIES (FONOM); AND THE INFORMATION AND PRIVACY COMMISSIONER OF ONTARIO, PATRICIA KOSSEIM, AND THAT IT BE CIRCULATED TO ALL MUNICIPALITIES IN ONTARIO.