

June 1, 2026

The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Via Email: premier@ontario.ca

Re: Changes to Ontario's Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act

Please be advised the Council of the Municipality of Chatham-Kent, at its regular meeting held on May 25, 2026 supported the attached resolution from the Town of Bruce Mines (Appendix A) and the County of Prince Edward (Appendix B) regarding the above noted matter.

Sincerely,

Judy Shantz

Digitally signed by
Judy Shantz
Date: 2026.06.02
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Judy Shantz, CMO
Director Municipal Governance/Clerk

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Attorney General
Information and Privacy Commissioner of Ontario
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO),
Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)
Local MPPs
Ontario Municipalities



The Corporation of the Town of Bruce Mines Item 4b

PO Box 220
9126 Hwy. 17 East
Bruce Mines ON P0R 1C0

MAYOR: LORY PATERI
MUNICIPAL CLERK: JUDY DAVIS

Phone: (705)785-3493
Fax: (705)785-3170
Email: info@brucemines.ca
www.brucemines.ca

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.



From the Office of the Clerk
 The Corporation of the County of Prince Edward
 T: 613.476.2148 x 1021 | F: 613.476.5727
clerks@pecounty.on.ca | www.thecounty.ca

May 18, 2026

Please be advised that during the regular Council meeting of May 12, 2026 the following resolution regarding reinstating the requirements for compliance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act was carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-208

DATE: May 12, 2026

MOVED BY: Councillor MacNaughton

SECONDED BY: Councillor Branderhorst

WHEREAS all residents of Ontario have the right to fair, open and democratic government; and,

WHEREAS all elected representatives, municipal and provincial alike, in Ontario have a duty to faithfully execute the powers and trust placed in them and willingly swear an oath to this effect and are subject to fair public scrutiny; and,

WHEREAS the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FIPPA) and the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (MFIPPA) are essential tools to protect Ontarians against privacy breaches, and abuses of power; and,

WHEREAS the Province of Ontario enacted Bill 97, the Plan to Protect Ontario Act (Budget Measures), 2026, which received Royal Assent on April 24, 2026, and introduced significant amendments to both FIPPA and MFIPPA to alter statutory timelines and privacy governance frameworks;

WHEREAS the amendments introduced via Bill 97 have created a jurisdictional imbalance by excluding records held by provincial Ministers, their offices, and staff from the application of FIPPA, while maintaining the statutory responsibilities and administrative burdens for municipal elected officials and staff under MFIPPA, thereby establishing higher standards for transparency and personal record accountability for municipal governments;

WHEREAS excluding members of the highest offices and their staff from reasonable public access requests and records retention creates security concerns, reinforces the appearance of self-dealing and is contrary to the public interest,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Prince Edward County Council call on the Province to reinstate requirements for compliance with FIPPA to ensure that the Premier, Ministers, and their staff are subject to proper and fair public scrutiny like all other elected representatives in Ontario; and



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THAT the Government of Ontario implement recommendations of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Ontario to increase and ensure proper security, record keeping and democratic accountability; and

THAT this resolution be circulated to Premier Doug Ford, Minister of Finance Bethlenfalvy, Bay of Quinte MPP Tyler Allsopp, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and the 444 municipalities of Ontario.

CARRIED

Yours truly,

Catalina Blumenberg, **CLERK**

cc: Mayor Steve Ferguson, Councillor MacNaughton, Councillor Branderhorst

