May 22, 2007

All Heads of Council:

The Municipal Statute Law Amendment Act, 2006 received Royal Assent on December 20, 2006. It was proclaimed into force, in large part, on January 1, 2007.

With its passage, the revised Municipal Act, 2001 has brought about a new relationship between the municipal sector and the Province based on mutual respect, consultation and co-operation.

However, several sections of the Municipal Statute Law Amendment Act, 2006 were not proclaimed on January 1, 2007 including:

- Closed meetings investigators (Section 104 of Schedule A)
- Adoption of policies (Section 113 of Schedule A)

Many of our stakeholders in the municipal sector, including the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and the Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario, requested that the proclamation of these sections be delayed until municipalities had an opportunity to develop policies and consider their option to appoint a meetings investigator.

I am pleased to announce that January 1, 2008, has been named as the day these sections will be proclaimed into force. Also proclaimed into force on January 1, 2008, will be amendments found in Section 107 in Schedule A, Section 43 in Schedule B, and Section 40 in Schedule C.

This effective date provides time for your municipality to develop policies such as those required for notice, the delegation of powers and the sale of land, and to prepare for the upcoming tasks and responsibilities to investigate complaints regarding closed meetings.

With these steps, the government has acted on its goal of strengthening municipalities by providing them with the appropriate tools and flexibility to make their own decisions. These changes also assure the public that their council and local boards remain transparent and accountable for those decisions.
All Heads of Council

I thank all of those partners who have assisted in the implementation of these sections under the Municipal Statute Law Amendment Act, 2006 and look forward to working with you in implementing these important changes.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

John Gerretsen
Minister