

September 26, 2023

sent via email

Minister Paul Calandra
Municipal Affairs and Housing
777 Bay Street
College Park 17th Floor,
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3

Dear Minister Calandra:

I am writing to you on behalf of AMCTO's members to seek clarity following the recent announcement from Metroland Media Group of its intention to cease print publication of 70 community newspapers across the province.

As you are aware, various statutes and regulations require that municipalities provide notice to the public in a newspaper, including but not limited to the *Ontario Heritage Act*, *Planning Act*, and *Municipal Act*. The announcement from Metroland means that many municipalities no longer have a printed newspaper in their community.

Historically, smaller municipalities have used online newspapers to communicate various notices in the absence of a local printed newspaper. This recent announcement has resulted in printed newspapers being discontinued in many medium to large sized municipalities, like Guelph, Barrie and Oakville, many in higher-growth areas where significant notice activity has traditionally occurred.

Given the significance of these recent closures, your guidance and clarification to affected municipalities as it relates to the challenges this presents for local government professionals across Ontario is appreciated. We are seeking your guidance as to whether municipalities are in compliance with statutes that require public notice be provided in a newspaper, when in the absence of a printed newspaper an online publication is used.



As always, we would be happy to collaborate with you towards a solution to support Ontario's municipalities. Please contact David Arbuckle, Executive Director (darbuckle@amcto.com), who would be happy to arrange a meeting.

Yours truly,

[Originally signed by]

Stephen O'Brien, AOMC
President, AMCTO

cc. Martha Greenberg, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing