

Supporting Ontario's Community, Rural and Agricultural Newspapers Act, 2019

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Bill amends the *City of Toronto Act, 2006*, the *Development Charges Act, 1997*, the *Environmental Assessment Act*, the *Expropriations Act*, the *Municipal Act, 2001*, the *Ontario Heritage Act* and the *Planning Act* where the Act or the regulations made under it require that notices be published in a newspaper having general circulation in a municipality. The amendments allow the publication to be done in a newspaper that is published at regular intervals of a month or less, rather than published at regular intervals of a week or less, as is currently the case.

An Act to amend various Acts with respect to the publication of notices in newspapers**Preamble**

Increasingly, community, rural and agricultural newspapers, most of which are locally owned, face increased costs of production and are forced to engage in cost-cutting efforts. One such example is limiting the frequency of their publication to bi-weekly or monthly. This arises particularly with community newspapers in northern and rural Ontario. However, newspapers that limit the frequency of their publication to bi-weekly or monthly no longer meet the requirements of the definition of “newspaper” in section 87 of the *Legislation Act, 2006*, so municipalities are not able to post certain required legal notices in them.

Not only are these community newspapers losing out on a potential source of revenue that would help support Ontario’s local businesses, but this also makes it difficult for municipalities to inform local populations in rural or remote areas of important local news. Many of the residents of those municipalities rely on their local community papers as their only source of relevant, local community information.

Therefore, Her Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Ontario, enacts as follows:

CITY OF TORONTO ACT, 2006

1. Section 232 of the *City of Toronto Act, 2006* is amended by adding the following subsection:

Definition

(1.1) In clause (1) (a),

“newspaper” means a document that,

- (a) is printed in sheet form, published at regular intervals of a month or less and circulated to the general public, and
- (b) consists primarily of news of current events of general interest.

DEVELOPMENT CHARGES ACT, 1997

2. Section 12 of the *Development Charges Act, 1997* is amended by adding the following subsection:

Publication in newspaper

(1.1) If the regulations require the council to give notice of the meeting or meetings by publication in a newspaper, the council shall do so in a document that,

- (a) is printed in sheet form, published at regular intervals of a month or less and circulated to the general public; and
- (b) consists primarily of news of current events of general interest.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT ACT

3. Section 1 of the *Environmental Assessment Act* is amended by adding the following subsection:

Definition

(1.1) In the regulations,

“newspaper” means a document that,

- (a) is printed in sheet form, published at regular intervals of a month or less and circulated to the general public, and
- (b) consists primarily of news of current events of general interest.

EXPROPRIATIONS ACT

4. (1) Subsection 1 (2) of the *Expropriations Act* is repealed and the following substituted:

Service

(2) Any document required by this Act to be served may be served personally or by registered mail addressed to the person to be served at the person’s last known address, or if that person or person’s address is unknown, by publication at three successive times in a newspaper that is published at regular intervals of a month or less and circulated to the general public in the locality in which the land concerned is situate.

Date of service

(3) Service is deemed to be made,

- (a) in the case of service by registered mail, on the second day after the day of mailing; and
- (b) in the case of service by publication, on the date of the third publication.

(2) Subsection 6 (1) of the Act is repealed and the following substituted:

Steps before inquiry

(1) Upon applying for an approval under section 4, an expropriating authority shall serve a notice of its application for approval to expropriate upon each registered owner of the lands to be expropriated and shall publish the notice three successive times in a newspaper that is published at regular intervals of a month or less and circulated to the general public in the locality in which the lands are situate.

MUNICIPAL ACT, 2001

5. Subsection 1 (1) of the *Municipal Act, 2001* is amended by adding the following definition:

“newspaper”, except if the context requires otherwise, means a document that,

- (a) is printed in sheet form, published at regular intervals of a month or less and circulated to the general public, and
- (b) consists primarily of news of current events of general interest; (“journal”)

ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT

6. Section 1 of the *Ontario Heritage Act* is amended by adding the following definition:

“newspaper” means a document that,

- (a) is printed in sheet form, published at regular intervals of a month or less and circulated to the general public, and
- (b) consists primarily of news of current events of general interest; (“journal”)

PLANNING ACT

7. Section 1 of the *Planning Act* is amended by adding the following subsection:

Definition

(6) In the regulations,

“newspaper” means a document that,

- (a) is printed in sheet form, published at regular intervals of a month or less and circulated to the general public, and
- (b) consists primarily of news of current events of general interest.

COMMENCEMENT AND SHORT TITLE

Commencement

8. This Act comes into force on the day it receives Royal Assent.

Short title

9. The short title of this Act is the *Supporting Ontario's Community, Rural and Agricultural Newspapers Act, 2019*.