



Loreena McKennitt

Wise Communities Stratford
Box 933
Stratford, ON
N5A 7M3

Hon. Steve Clark

Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
17th Floor, 777 Bay Street
Toronto, ON
M5G 2E5

VIA EMAIL

January 21, 2021

OPEN LETTER - STRATFORD and MZO

Dear Minister Clark,

On July 10th of last year during your interview with TVO, you stated four times that in order to issue an MZO you require that municipalities must satisfy two requests. One, that there is public consultation when seeking an MZO and two, that a council must vote in favour of it and present a resolution to your ministry. As you stated:

“We’ve worked very collaboratively with municipalities with every MZO I’ve done. I’d put the emphasis not on me, the minister, but on councils. Aside from one in Toronto for Sunnybrook hospital all the other projects were discussed in an open meeting in a council and presented as a resolution to the ministry.”

With that in mind, we are respectfully requesting the documentation which the City of Stratford would have needed to provide in order to comply with your publicly-stated requirements. In particular, we are seeking the date, time and location of the public consultation(s), along with any of the public comments which arose from those meeting(s).

In addition, we would ask for the minutes and any other documents related to the Stratford City Council and/or County Council meeting(s), during which the MZO was discussed and agreed upon prior to making such a request to your ministry. As you also stated during the same TVO interview:

“For now we are quite happy with the dozen or so we have done that have been driven by a local council decision in a public council meeting before it comes to my desk. That makes sure the public is aware there is a request, it communicates there is a priority of council, and then its up to us to decide whether we want to move forward.”

We respectfully request this material no later than Thursday, January 28th, 2021.

In the event that this material is not forthcoming, would we be correct in assuming that it does not exist?

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Loreena McKennitt', with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Loreena McKennitt, CM, OM, CD
Wise Communities Founder

CC: Deputy Minister Kate Manson-Smith
Mayor Dan Mathieson
Mr. Randy Pettapiece - MPP Perth-Wellington

Councillor Brad Beatty
Councillor Graham Bunting
Councillor Jo-Dee Burbach
Councillor Tom Clifford
Councillor David Gaffney
Councillor Bonnie Henderson
Councillor Danielle Ingram
Councillor Martin Ritsma
Councillor Cody Sebben
Councillor Kathy Vassilakos

Warden James Aitcheson - Perth County
Mayor Robert Wilhelm - Perth-South

The Honourable John Nater - MP Perth-Wellington

Mr. Jeff Burch - NDP Critic, Municipal Affairs
Mr. Stephen Blais - Liberal Critic, Municipal Affairs
Mr. Mike Schreiner - Green Party Leader

Mr. Jeffrey Gray - The Globe and Mail
Ms. Javeed Noor - The Toronto Star