

Regular Council Meeting – August 5, 2025

Agenda Item #14.1

Notice of Motion: Councillor P. Banks – Override Mayor Veto re - Confirmatory By-Law 2025-94 (Chantry Office)

Moved By: Councillor P. Banks

Seconded By: _____

WHEREAS Section 284.11 of the *Municipal Act, 2001* permits the Head of Council to veto a by-law only if it interferes with a prescribed provincial priority;

AND WHEREAS By-Law Number 2025-94 does not interfere with any provincial priority, but instead ensures that Council and staff of the Township of Rideau Lakes receive critical information, for which taxpayers have already paid \$138,000 to support responsible, transparent, and evidence-based decision-making;

AND WHEREAS Section 224 of the *Municipal Act, 2001* defines Council's core responsibilities, including to represent the public and consider the well-being of the municipality (224[a]), and to ensure accountability and transparency of municipal operations (224[d.1]);

AND WHEREAS Section 225(c.1) requires the mayor, as Head of Council, to provide information and recommendations to council in support of its responsibilities under Section 224, and the failure to do so undermines these obligations;

AND WHEREAS the mayoral veto in this case is being used to withhold information from council and the public, obstructing transparency, impeding council's ability to govern responsibly, and violating possibly both the letter and the spirit of Sections 224 and 225 of the *Municipal Act*;

AND WHEREAS any member of Council who supports this veto is, by extension, may be in breach of their legal obligations under Section 224, by failing to represent the public interest and support transparent governance;

NOW THEREFORE be it resolved that the Council of the Township of Rideau Lakes hereby overrides the mayoral veto of By-Law Number 2025-94 pursuant to Section 284.11(8) of the *Municipal Act, 2001*;

AND FURTHER that By-Law Number 2025-94 shall be deemed passed;

AND FURTHER that this resolution be forwarded to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Ontario Ombudsman, and the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Ontario for formal review and to reaffirm that Section 284.11 is not to be used to obstruct lawful council oversight or public accountability.