



July 4, 2022

The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building, Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1
Sent via email: premier@ontario.ca

Dear Premier:

RE: RESOLUTION – Annual Emergency Exercise Exemption

The Council of the Corporation of Tay Valley Township at its Council meeting on June 21st, 2022 adopted the following resolution:

RESOLUTION #C-2022-06-16

“THAT, the Council of the Corporation of Tay Valley Township supports the resolution from the District Municipality of Muskoka requesting the province to amend Ontario Regulation 380/04 under the Emergency Management and Civic Protection Act to provide an exemption to the annual exercise requirement for municipalities that have activated their Emergency Control Group and/or Emergency Response Plan in response to an actual emergency that year.”

ADOPTED

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned at (613) 267-5353 ext. 130 or clerk@tayvalleytwp.ca.

Sincerely,

Amanda Mabo, Acting CAO/Clerk

/Enclosure



cc: Hon. Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Hon. Michael Kerzner, Solicitor General
John Jordan, MPP Lanark-Frontenac-Kingston
All Municipalities of Ontario



Office of the District Chair

SENT VIA EMAIL (premier@ontario.ca)

June 1, 2022

The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

Dear Premier Ford,

RE: Annual Emergency Exercise Exemption

On behalf of The District Municipality of Muskoka, I am writing to express key concerns regarding the requirement for Ontario municipalities to conduct an annual practice exercise for a simulated emergency incident as prescribed by Regulation 380/04. The simulations aim to validate response plans and procedures, train staff and identify areas of improvement to ensure emergency response is delivered at optimal levels. Exemptions are not currently permitted under this legislation. While the District of Muskoka acknowledges and supports the need for emergency exercises, Muskoka District Council strongly encourages the amendment of Regulation 380/04 to permit exemptions for municipalities who have responded to an actual emergency during the respective calendar year. A copy of the District's Health Services Committee resolution, as adopted by Muskoka District Council, is attached as Appendix I.

In 2021, The District's Emergency Control Group (ECG) convened twenty-four (24) times amounting to approximately 435 hours spent on emergency related activities. One of these incidents involved a watermain break in the Town of Bracebridge. Murray Advisory Services performed a critical analysis of the event and confirmed that the goals of an emergency exercise were achieved. The firm's final report included twelve (12) recommendations that helped improve the outcomes of a second water disruption event in the Town of Gravenhurst a few weeks later.

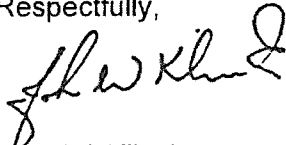
Despite the volume of actual emergencies managed by the ECG, the District of Muskoka must still conduct an annual exercise to remain compliant with the Regulation. This is not an efficient use of municipal resources and does not serve as a useful training mechanism for staff who have been over-extended by the emergency situations they have managed over the past year.

THE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY OF MUSKOKA
70 Pine Street, Bracebridge, Ontario P1L 1N3
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Email: info@muskoka.on.ca Website: www.muskoka.on.ca

The Solicitor General granted a one-time exemption to municipalities in 2020 recognizing that municipalities were actively engaged in and managing various COVID-19 related initiatives. If pandemic management warrants an exemption to the annual simulation, surely there must be grounds to grant an exemption for the management of other emergency situations.

On behalf of Muskoka District Council, your consideration of this matter is appreciated.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John W. Klinck', written in a cursive style.

John W. Klinck

District Chair

THE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY OF MUSKOKA

Cc: Honourable Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Honourable Sylvia Jones, Solicitor General
Norm Miller, MPP Parry Sound-Muskoka
All Municipalities in Ontario