



THE CORPORATION  
OF  
THE TOWN OF HALTON HILLS

**Resolution No.:**

**Title:** Provincial Court Backlog

**Date:** December 13, 2021

**Moved by:** Councillor C. Somerville

**Seconded by:** Councillor J. Fogal

---

**Item No.**

WHEREAS due to the COVID-19 pandemic, The Ontario Court of Justice significantly revised its procedures and schedules, adopting a reduced operational schedule which began on March 16, 2020;

AND WHEREAS all in-person appearances scheduled in municipally-administered Provincial Offences courts and all Provincial Offences Act appeals to a judge of the Ontario Court of Justice were adjourned until January 22, 2021;

AND WHEREAS the Ontario Court of Justice introduced remote hearings through video and audio conference which included both trial and non-trial proceedings;

AND WHEREAS the Chief Justice made an Order pursuant to s. 85 of the *Provincial Offences Act* extending timelines until November 1, 2021 relating to POA appeals under the *Act* that would have expired on or after March 15, 2020;

AND WHEREAS despite the efforts of the Ontario Court of Justice to continue court services throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, an incredible backlog of cases has occurred;

AND WHEREAS the backlog of cases along with extreme lack of judicial resources has caused rolling closures of POA courts and in turn hearing cancellations with no availability to secure and reschedule dates in the foreseeable future;

AND WHEREAS these closures have inevitably caused delays in a number of prosecutions making it difficult to move matters forward at appropriate speeds;

AND WHEREAS these delays have had a significant impact on the Town's ability to initiate court action and move toward compliance on several serious enforcement matters including zoning infractions;

AND WHEREAS 276 parking infraction notices are awaiting trial and are expected be cancelled due to these delays in the POA courts which will result in significant revenue loss to the Town as the courts have indicated parking trials will not resume until in person hearings can recommence which is not anticipated for another full year;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Council for the Town of Halton Hills requests the Chief Justice to quickly resolve the lack of judicial resources in the POA courts to allow for important hearings to be scheduled and heard in a timely manner to allow for fast resolution of serious matters;

AND FURTHER THAT a copy of this resolution be forward to Lise Maisonneuve Chief Justice in the Ontario Court of Justice, the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, the Honourable Ted Arnott, MPP Wellington-Halton Hills, the Small Urban GTHA Mayors, Halton Region, Town of Milton, Town of Oakville, the City of Burlington.

---

Mayor Rick Bonnette