

Vivian Bloom
Mayor



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MEDIA RELEASE

ONTARIO MUNICIPAL BOARD (OMB) UPHOLDS COUNCIL'S DECISION FOR VOTING AT-LARGE

The Municipality of Hastings Highlands received notice this week that the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) has upheld Council's decision to go at-large for the next Municipal Election. An appeal of Council's decision had been launched by former Mayor, Brent Dalglish to remain at the current ward system with three (3) wards with 2 Councillors per ward plus a Mayor elected at-large. A hearing was held in the Emond Hall of Hastings Highlands in November 2017. At that time, the OMB reserved their decision on the matter. The Board's decision was received this week as they had advised that they were aware that an OMB decision was to be made before the end of the year as a Bylaw needed to be in place before the end of the year if there was to be a change for the next year's Municipal Election.

In the decision received, the OMB stated that based on the evidence received there was no clear and compelling reason to interfere with the decision of Council. The decision of the OMB also stated that several options were considered by Council, opportunities for public inputs were given, professional advice was sought and provided, and given the uncontested expert evidence before the Board that the Bylaw will achieve effective representation, the Board finds that the decision of Council was reasonable. The OMB went on to state that the decision made by Council to adopt the Bylaw was fair and reasonable.

"I am thrilled that the Municipality will now achieve voter parity in the next year's Municipal Election" stated Mayor Vivian Bloom.

For further information please contact:

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