



Norfolk County
Office of the Chief Administrative Officer
Governor Simcoe Square
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February 01, 2026

Honourable Minister Rob Flack
Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

rob.flack@pc.ola.org

Dear Minister Flack,

Re: Request for Provincial Review of Mechanisms to Address Frivolous and Vexatious Actions

On behalf of Norfolk County Council and our residents, I am writing to request that the Province of Ontario undertake a review of existing legislation with the goal of reducing the financial and administrative burden associated with frivolous and vexatious actions initiated by individuals against municipalities.

Municipalities across Ontario, including Norfolk County, face growing challenges related to repetitive, baseless, or bad faith complaints, appeals, lawsuits, Integrity Commissioner complaints, and information requests. While accountability and transparency are essential to good governance, the current legislative framework provides limited tools for municipalities to effectively manage situations where processes are abused in ways that have no reasonable prospect of success or are intended to obstruct municipal operations.

These actions place a disproportionate burden on property taxpayers, who ultimately fund the staff time, legal expenses, and administrative resources required to respond. In Norfolk County, as in many municipalities, these pressures divert limited resources away from essential public services and community priorities.

We respectfully request that the Province consider options such as:

- Enhancing legislative definitions and thresholds for what constitutes frivolous, vexatious, or bad faith actions;
- Providing clearer authority for municipalities and tribunals to screen or dismiss such actions at an early stage;
- Strengthening remedies or cost recovery mechanisms when actions are found to be frivolous or intended to misuse public resources;
- Reviewing provincial complaint, appeal, and freedom of information frameworks to

ensure they discourage abuse while maintaining fair access and accountability.

We believe that a balanced, modernized approach would help protect public resources while preserving residents' legitimate rights to information, recourse, and due process. In a recent case that Norfolk continues to incur costs with, Ontario courts have dismissed a resident's court application as frivolous and subsequently ordered the resident to pay costs equal to a fraction of our actual costs incurred. The same individual has now attempted to appeal those decisions unsuccessfully, once again placing additional financial burden on Norfolk.

Additional costs will be borne to collect amounts owing to the municipality. This is a situation that is becoming far too common and the residents cannot afford this.

Norfolk County would welcome the opportunity to participate in any consultations or discussions the Province may undertake on this matter. We appreciate your consideration and your ongoing work to support effective municipal governance across Ontario.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Al Meneses', with a stylized, cursive script.

Al Meneses
Chief Administrative Officer
Norfolk County