May 6, 2021

Dear Members,

Re: POA Streamlining and Modernization

In response to the increased pressures resulting from COVID 19, MCMA is seeking the support of POA Courts to actively lobby the Province for immediate regulatory and legislative changes. As you know, our ability to respond to Increasing caseload and declining fine revenue is limited. These proposed changes will enable flexibility for municipalities to respond to local pressures.

It is important that we leverage this opportunity to create a modern, efficient, and sustainable justice system that meets the needs of court users. The proposed changes include:

1. Halting the proclamation of the Early Resolution reforms included in Bill 177 Stronger Fairer Ontario Act and take immediate action to streamline and modernize this section of the legislation.
2. Enacting changes to the Provincial Offences Act and any related regulations to permit the prosecutor and defendant or legal representative to agree, at any stage of a proceeding, to a resolution in writing for proceedings.
3. Requesting the Ministry of Transportation in consultation with Municipalities, consider suspending the imposition of demerit points for persons who pay their ticket in cases where they have no previous relevant convictions.
4. Make regulatory changes to allow for camera-based offences to be administered through the administrative monetary penalties.

The MCMA board has prepared some templated documents to assist in your efforts. Attached you will find: Draft Council Resolution, draft council report for ER Courts and some key messages to support discussion. We understand that support for one or all may vary depending on individual priorities and appreciate your consideration.

Should you have any questions or would like to discuss further please feel free to reach out to any member of the MCMA board.

Lisa Brooks
MCMA President