

# Memorandum to the Council of Corporation of the Municipality of Temagami

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**Subject:** Municipal Land Use By-Law Public Consultation

**Memo No:** 2025-M-020

**Date:** January 23, 2025

**Attachment:** Draft By-Law, Draft Survey

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## Recommendation

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council receives Memo 2025-M-020 including the attached Draft Land Use By-law and the Draft Survey as presented;

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council approves the use of an online webinar, followed by an online survey as attached to seek public input on the Municipal Land Use By-Law.

AND FURTHER THAT Council Direct staff to prepare a summary of the comments to be discussed at the March Working Session Meeting.

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## Executive Summary

This memorandum outlines proposed methods to gather public input on the recently updated Municipal Land Use By-law. The recommended approach combines digital and in-person strategies to ensure accessibility, inclusivity, and detailed feedback. These methods aim to address diverse community needs and effectively inform potential adjustments to the by-law.

## Background

The Municipal Land Use By-law regulates and controls the use of municipal land, including provisions for permits, enforcement, and applicable fees. The Municipal Land Use By-law has evolved significantly since its introduction in 2019 as the Encroachment By-law, when concerns were raised about its name and scope. In 2020, debates centered around excluding the Temagami Access Point from its application. Further concerns emerged in 2021 and 2022 regarding the implementation of fees, prompting revisions. By 2024, updated fee structures and procedural amendments were approved by Council, addressing earlier criticisms. Now, in 2025, the by-law is being revisited, and the Municipality is preparing to engage the public through consultation to ensure it reflects community needs and expectations.

## Rationale

Proposed Feedback Methods:

### Online Surveys

Pros: Cost-effective, broad reach, accessible for most residents.

Cons: May exclude individuals with limited internet access.

Response Rate: Estimated 5-20%, contingent on promotion efforts.

### Town Hall Meetings

Pros: Facilitates detailed discussions and builds community trust.

Cons: Limited to those available to attend.

Response Rate: Estimated 5-15%, dependent on publicity and accessibility.

## Focus Groups

Pros: Enables in-depth, targeted discussions with key stakeholders.

Cons: May lack broader community representation.

Response Rate: High (80-100%) within selected participants.

## Online Webinars

Pros: Convenient and interactive, allowing for real-time engagement.

Cons: Technical barriers and scheduling conflicts may limit participation.

Response Rate: Estimated 10-25%, depending on timing and promotion.

## **Legal Compliance and Relevant Acts**

The proposed public consultation methods comply with Section 9(1) of the Municipal Act, 2001, which supports broad municipal authority to engage stakeholders in decision-making processes. The consultation process aligns with principles of transparency, inclusivity, and accountability.

## **Implementation Plan**

Key Steps:

1. Schedule interactive webinars to present by-law highlights and answer questions regarding the by-law or implementation. Record sessions for subsequent distribution and review.
2. Launch electronic surveys via email, social media, and the municipal website. Include clear, accessible language and a deadline for responses.
3. Compile Comments for Council Consideration and bring to a Working Session Meeting.
4. Make any required revisions to the By-law as directed by Council.
5. Bring Back to Council for Final Approval and Commence advertising and implementation.

## **Conclusion**

The proposed consultation strategy integrates multiple feedback channels to ensure a better understanding and robust public input on the Municipal Land Use By-law. This approach aligns with Council's commitment to fostering an engaged and informed community.