Solicitor General

Office of the Solicitor General

25 Grosvenor Street, 18th Floor
Toronto ON M7A 1Y6
Tel: 416 325-0408
MCSCS.Feedback@Ontario.ca

Solliciteur général

Bureau du solliciteur général

25, rue Grosvenor, 18e étage
Toronto ON M7A 1Y6
Tél. : 416 325-0408
MCSCS.Feedback@Ontario.ca

AGENDA ITEM #f

Ontario

132-2021-433
By email

March 1, 2021

His Worship Vic A. Bodnar
Mayor
Municipality of Hastings Highlands
33011 Hwy. 62 North
PO Box 130
Maynooth ON K0L 2S0
vbodnar@hastingshighlands.ca

Dear Mayor Bodnar:

I am writing to thank you for taking the time to speak with me, and members of my staff, during the virtual 2021 Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) annual conference on January 26, 2021.

The ROMA annual conference continues to serve as a valuable forum for municipalities in Ontario to discuss the unique needs of Ontario's rural and northern communities. It was a pleasure meeting with you and your delegation from the Municipality of Hastings Highlands to discuss a number of topics, including your concerns with the *Provincial Animal Welfare Services Act, 2019,* and exotic animals.

I also appreciated hearing your request that the province provide municipalities with a regulation on exotic animals that would allow municipalities to prohibit or regulate them.

As I mentioned at our meeting, the ministry does have a desire to develop an exotic animal regulation. However, as also stressed at the meeting, retroactivity would be an issue. As such, I continue to encourage your municipality to create a bylaw for now in order to address this issue.

Our meeting was productive, and I appreciate the valuable insights you and your delegation provided during our discussion.

Our government understands the importance of working with our municipal partners and we remain committed to serving and meeting the needs of rural and northern communities across Ontario.

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Thank you again for meeting with us at the 2021 ROMA conference and I look forward to continued collaboration between the Municipality of Hastings Highlands and the Ministry of the Solicitor General.

Sincerely,

Sylvia Jones
Solicitor General