

August 21, 2026

To: Senior Management Team

Re: Election Advisory #8: Lame Duck Council

Pursuant to Section 275 of the *Municipal Act*, 2001, (the “Act”), **Town of Tecumseh Council is officially in “Lame Duck Status” and therefore subject to certain “Restricted Acts” from today’s date until the newly elected Council takes office.**

The Restricted Acts during Lame Duck Status prescribed by the Act are the following:

Section 275 (3) of the Act stipulates that if a Council is in Lame Duck, the Council shall not take any of the following actions:

- a) The appointment or removal from office of any officer of the municipality.
- b) The hiring or dismissal of any employee of the municipality.
- c) The disposition of any real or personal property of the municipality which has a value exceeding \$50,000 at the time of disposal; and
- d) Making any expenditure or incurring any other liability which exceeds \$50,000.

Limited exceptions apply where the matter was already included in the most recently adopted budget, where there is an emergency, or where authority had already been delegated before nomination day.

Strong Mayor Restrictions during Lame Duck Status:

The head of council may only propose a budget for the year immediately following a regular election *in the year to which that budget applies*. For example, a Strong Mayor may not otherwise propose a post-election budget before the incoming council takes office.

A Strong Mayor is further restricted from:

- Appointing a Chief Administrative Officer (s. 284.5 of the Act)
- Restructuring the organization of the municipality (s. 284.6 of the Act)
- Proposing by-laws that would authorize the disposal of property or expenditures exceeding \$50,000 (s. 284.11.1 of the Act), unless already included in the adopted budget.

Delegation of Authority:

Councils are permitted to delegate authority of the duties listed in Section 275(3) to maintain operations during established Lamé Duck Council periods.

[By-Law 2025-021](#), being a by-law to delegate certain authorities during the “Lame Duck” Council Period during the 2026 Municipal Election was passed by Council on December 9, 2025, and provides:

“1. **That** if Council is in a restricted position from Nomination Day and/or Election Day until the Inaugural Meeting of the New Council on November 17, 2026, at such time or being at such alternative date and time upon which the New Council is deemed as organized, then Council delegates the following authorities to take action during such time, where necessary, as follows:

1.1.1 **That** the Chief Administrative Officer and Treasurer be hereby jointly delegated authority as the financial signing authorities for expenditures, outside the current approved budgets, exceeding \$50,000.

1.1.2 **That** the Chief Administrative Officer and the Treasurer be hereby jointly delegated authority to execute an agreement of purchase and sale, pertaining to the disposition of any real or personal property of the municipality which has a value exceeding \$50,000 at the time of disposal.

1.1.3 **That** the Chief Administrative Officer be hereby delegated authority to:

- i. repeal by-laws appointing Officers of the Corporation who have ceased employment;
- ii. appoint or remove from office of any officer of the municipality;

- iii. hire or dismiss any employee of the Corporation if the authority is not otherwise granted under the Town's Hiring Policy.
- 2. **That** the sitting Council shall be informed by way of an information report at the next Regular Meeting of Council or a Special Meeting of Council should a delegated authority be therefrom exercised."

If you have any questions regarding this provision, please contact the Municipal Clerk.