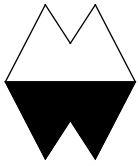


**Date of Decision:** Mar 18, 2024  
**Date of Notice:** Mar 28, 2024  
**Last Date of Appeal:** Apr 17, 2024



# THE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY OF MUSKOKA

## NOTICE OF ADOPTION

Pursuant to Subsection 17(23) of the Planning Act  
**Amendment 58 to the Muskoka Official Plan**  
*(Public Participation and Consultation)*

A decision was made by Muskoka District Council to pass [District By-law 2024-08](#), adopting Amendment 58 to the Official Plan of the Muskoka District Area (i.e. Muskoka Official Plan)

### Purpose and Effect of the Official Plan Amendment

The purpose of the Official Plan Amendment is to add alternative public consultation measures to allow for efficient and effective public notification of Planning Act applications, in the absence of a locally circulated print newspaper. The District shall use a variety of communication methods to seek input on planning matters and to provide information to the public. The district shall choose the most appropriate method of communication, which may include any or all of the following:

- i. Personal service or prepaid first class mail;
- ii. e-mail;
- iii. public notice signs;
- iv. surveys, electronic or mail-out;
- v. neighbourhood open houses and/or public information centres;
- vi. neighbourhood working groups or focus groups;
- vii. information meetings;
- viii. statutory public meetings;
- ix. electronically circulated newspaper;
- x. District website or internet engagement platforms; and/or,
- xi. Any other methods as deemed necessary by the District Clerk.

A copy of [By-law 2024-08](#), which includes the amendment, is attached.

### Public Comments Considered

Fifteen (15) written submissions were received regarding the proposed amendment. A summary of the comments received and how they were considered or addressed is included in Community and Planning Services Report, [CPS-2-2024-4](#) dated February 22, 2024.

### When and How to File an Appeal of the Decision

A notice of appeal to the Ontario Land Tribunal (OLT) (formerly Local Planning Appeal Tribunal (LPAT)) of the decision must be received by The District Municipality of Muskoka no later than 20 days from the date of this notice, as shown above as the last day of appeal. The appeal must:

- i) set out the specific part(s) of the Official Plan Amendment to which the appeal applies;
- ii) set out the reasons for the appeal; and
- iii) be accompanied by the fee prescribed under the Ontario Land Tribunal Act in the amount of \$1,100.00 payable to the Minister of Finance.

A notice of appeal should be filed with:

**Amy Back, Clerk**  
**District Municipality of Muskoka**  
**70 Pine Street, Bracebridge,**  
**ON Canada, PIL 1N3**

## **Who Can Appeal a Decision**

Only individuals, corporations or public bodies may appeal a decision of the Council of The District Municipality of Muskoka to the Ontario Land Tribunal. A notice of appeal may not be made by any unincorporated association or group. However, a notice of appeal may be filed in the name of an individual who is a member of the association or group on its behalf.

No person or public body shall be added as a party to the hearing of the appeal unless, before the Official Plan Amendment was adopted, the person or public body made oral submissions at a public meeting or written submissions to The District Municipality of Muskoka or unless, in the opinion of the Ontario Land Tribunal, there are reasonable ground to add the person or public body as a party.

## **When the Decision is Final**

The proposed Official Plan Amendment is exempt from approval by the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, and the decision of Muskoka District Council is final if a notice of appeal is not received before or on the last day for filing a notice of appeal.

## **Additional Information**

**For additional information about the Amendment or your appeal rights, contact Sarah Campbell, Planner at (705) 645-2100 ext. 4128 or 1-800-461-4210 (in the 705 area code), or [sarah.campbell@muskoka.on.ca](mailto:sarah.campbell@muskoka.on.ca).**

THE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY OF MUSKOKA

BY-LAW 2024-08

Being a by-law to adopt Amendment 58 to the Official Plan of Muskoka District Area (Public Participation and Consultation)

WHEREAS the Community and Planning Services Committee has recommended to the Council of The District Municipality of Muskoka that Amendment 58 to the Official Plan of the Muskoka District Area ("Official Plan Amendment 58") be adopted;

AND WHEREAS the Council of The District Municipality of Muskoka has fulfilled the applicable requirements of Sections 17, 22, 34 and 53 of the Planning Act, R.S.O. 1990., as amended;

AND WHEREAS the Council of The District Municipality of Muskoka is satisfied that the proposed Official Plan Amendment 58 attached hereto is suitable for adoption;

AND WHEREAS pursuant to Section 17(9) of the Planning Act and O. Reg. 525/97 amendments to the Official Plan of the Muskoka District Area do not require the approval of the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing;

AND WHEREAS it is desirable to adopt the proposed Official Plan Amendment 58;

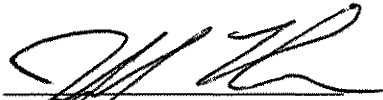
THEREFORE the Council of The District Municipality of Muskoka ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

1. The proposed amendment to the Official Plan of the Muskoka District Area consisting of the text as attached hereto as Schedule "A" shall be and is hereby adopted as Official Plan Amendment 58.
2. The Commissioner of Community and Planning Services, or their delegate, shall be and is hereby authorized, directed and empowered to give notice of the decision in accordance with Section 17(23) of the Planning Act and sign all such declarations as may be necessary to comply with O. Reg. 543/06 and Section 17(28) of the Planning Act.
3. Official Plan Amendment 58 shall come into force and take effect in accordance with the provisions of the Planning Act.

**Enacted and Passed** this 18<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2024.

THE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY OF MUSKOKA

Per:

  
District Chair J. Lehman

  
District Clerk A. Back

**Schedule 'A'**

**Amendment 58  
to The Muskoka Official Plan  
(Public Participation and Notification)**

**SECTION 1. TITLE AND COMPONENTS OF THE AMENDMENT**

Section 5 herein shall constitute Amendment 58 to the Official Plan of the Muskoka District Area.

Sections 1, 2, 3 and 4 herein do not constitute part of the Amendment but provide more detailed information respecting the Amendment.

**SECTION 2. BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE OF THE AMENDMENT**

**2.1 PURPOSE**

The purpose and effect of proposed Muskoka Official Plan Amendment 58 (OPA 58) is to add alternative public consultation measures, in accordance with Section 17(19.3) of the Planning Act to allow for efficient and effective public notification of Planning Act applications, in the absence of a locally-circulated print newspaper.

**2.2 BACKGROUND**

Public involvement is critically important when considering applications made under the Planning Act. The District is committed to ensuring that community members are engaged, informed and well-served by the community consultation process. Additionally, the District actively encourages and welcomes collaboration with residents and stakeholders in the decision-making process.

The Planning Act contains standard provisions for circulation requirements that municipal planning staff must follow when processing applications. Section M9 of the District of Muskoka Official Plan (MOP) includes language on the appropriate methods to notify and disclose Planning Act applications to the public, as prescribed by the Planning Act. The local print newspaper, which was recognized as the appropriate method to notify stakeholders of District-wide public processes, is no longer in circulation. Accordingly, an amendment to the MOP is required to establish alternative consultation methods.

**SECTION 3. LAND SUBJECT TO THE AMENDMENT**

The policies in this Amendment apply to the District of Muskoka in its entirety, where applicable.

**SECTION 4. IMPLEMENTATION AND INTERPRETATION**

The changes to the Muskoka Official Plan as described in this amendment shall be implemented in accordance with the applicable policies in Section A (Plan Basics: Applicability, Purpose, and Organization of the Official Plan) and Section M (Implementation and Administration) of the Plan.

**SECTION 5. THE AMENDMENT**

5.1 Amend Section M.9 d) by deleting the subsection in its entirety and replacing it with the following text:

- d) The District shall use a variety of communication methods to seek input on planning matters and to provide information to the public. Depending on the issues, and in accordance with the Planning Act and associated regulations, the District shall choose the most appropriate method of communication, which may include any or all of the following:
  - i. personal service or prepaid first class mail;

- ii. e-mail;
- iii. public notice signs;
- iv. surveys, electronic or mail-out;
- v. neighbourhood open houses and/or public information centres;
- vi. neighbourhood working groups or focus groups;
- vii. information meetings;
- viii. statutory public meetings;
- ix. electronically circulated newspaper;
- x. District website or internet engagement platforms; and/or,
- xi. any other methods as deemed necessary by the District Clerk.

5.2 Amend Section M9 i) by adding the words "for proponents" immediately after "guidelines".