Township of North Kawartha
280 Burleigh Street, PO Box 550, Apsley, ON K0L 1A0
Tel: 705-656-4445 | 1-800-755-6931 | Fax: 705-656-4446
www.northkawartha.ca

Report to Council

To: Mayor and Council Members

From: Kelly Picken, Clerk

Date: December 1, 2026

Subject: Closed Meeting Investigator

Recommendation:

That council direct the Clerk to move forward with appointing The Ombudsman as their Closed Meeting Investigator and repeal By-Law 2014-0113.

Background:

By-Law 2014-0113 appointed Local Authority Services (LAS) as the Investigator pursuant to Sections 8,8,10 and 239.1 of the Municipal Act, 2001, as amended.

Analysis:

LAS is concluding their closed meeting investigator program at the end of 2026.

Many Peterborough County municipalities are defaulting to the Ombudsman.

The Ombudsman has been the default municipal closed meeting investigator since Jan 1/08. On Jan 1/16, Bill 8, the *Public Sector and MPP Accountability and Transparency Act,* amended the *Ombudsman Act* and the *Municipal Act, 2001,* expanding the Ombudsman's broad investigative powers beyond governmental organizations to include municipalities. The Ombudsman website states that it has more than half of Ontario's 444 municipalities using the Ombudsman as their closed meeting investigator.

To appoint the Ombudsman as our closed meeting investigator we do not have to do anything as they are the default investigator for municipalities that have not appointed one, however we will notify the Ombudsman that we will be using them as our closed meeting investigator and update our website clearly identifying them as our closed meeting investigator and provide information on how to contact their office. There is no contract and we could appoint a different closed meeting investigator at any time.

Financial Implications:

The Ombudsman does not charge municipalities or those making complaints any fees for this service.

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Strategic and/or Other Plans:

3. Governance – Maintain a Strong, Accountable Municipal Government

Consultant(s) Sourced:

None

Attachment: