

**To:** Mayor and Members of Council, MODY  
**Submitted by:** Madelyn LeMay, LPP, MCIP  
**Date:** February 25, 2026 Council Meeting  
**Subject:** Amendments to Public Participation Program Policy  
Council Report

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**1. LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY**

Municipal Government Act (MGA) Section 204 and 205.

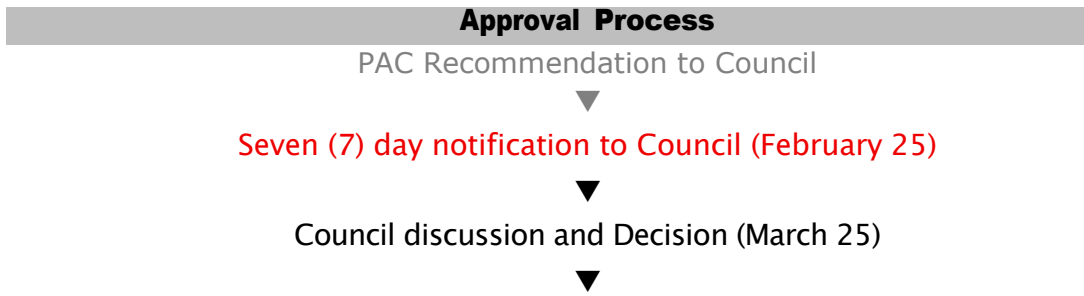
**2. PAC RECOMMENDATION**

*... that Council amend the Public Participation Program Policy by removing the requirement that notice of a public hearing be published in a newspaper circulating in the area, in a manner substantively the same as Attachment E to the staff report to PAC dated February 17, 2026.*

**3. BACKGROUND**

The proposed amendment originates from changes to the requirement for notice of amendments to planning documents established in the MGA. The Planning Advisory Committee considered the proposed changes at its regular meeting on February 17, 2025 and recommended in favour of the proposed amendment.

**4. NEXT STEPS**



**5. ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment A PAC Report February 17, 2026

Report prepared by: Madelyn LeMay, LPP, MCIP  
Report reviewed by: Victoria Brooks, CAO

**To:** Planning Advisory Committee (PAC)  
**Submitted by:** Madelyn LeMay, LPP, MCIP, Backharbour Consulting  
**Date:** February 17, 2026  
**Subject:** Public Participation Program (PPP) Policy Proposed Amendment:  
Recommendation Report to PAC

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## **1.0 LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY**

Municipal Government Act (MGA) Sections 204 and 205.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATION**

Should the Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) wish to forward a positive recommendation, the following motion would be in order:

*... that Council amend the Public Participation Program Policy by removing the requirement that notice of a public hearing be published in a newspaper circulating in the area, in a manner substantively the same as Attachment E to the staff report to PAC dated February 17, 2026.*

## **3.0 BACKGROUND and DISCUSSION**

S. 204 of the MGA (Appendix A) requires Council to have a Public Participation Program Policy (PPPP). The present PPPP was approved by Council on April 27, 2022. At that time, the MGA required notice of a public hearing to be placed in a newspaper circulating in the area, and this is reflected in the PPPP.

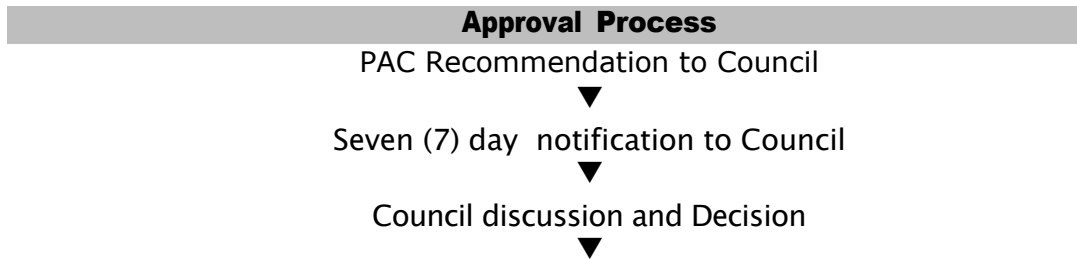
Since that time, s.205 of the MGA has been amended. Notices may now be placed on the Municipal website rather than in the newspaper, with very similar conditions applying (Appendix B).

The 2022 MODY PPPP (Appendix C) requires notice to be placed in a newspaper. At the moment it is very difficult to find a newspaper which could be used. Most of the local newspapers have closed over the past few years; circulation of the remaining local paper is uncertain; and the Chronicle Herald is more expensive for applicants and not received by all households in the Municipality.

In order to place notices for an amendment to the Municipal Planning Strategy, an amendment is needed to the PPPP.

#### 4.0 NEXT STEPS

Since the PPPP is a policy, it must be adopted as provided in MGA:



#### 5.0 Appendices

Appendix A	MGA s.204
Appendix B	MGA s.205
Appendix C	2022 Public Participation Program Policy
Appendix D	Draft Amendments (red and <del>strikeout</del> )
Appendix E	Draft Amendments

Report Prepared by: Madelyn LeMay

Report Approved by: Victoria Brooks, CAO

**Appendix A**  
**Taken from MGA February 9, 2026**

**Public participation program**

204 (1) A council shall adopt, by policy, a public participation program concerning the preparation of planning documents.

(2) A council may adopt different public participation programs for different types of planning documents.

(3) The content of a public participation program is at the discretion of the council, but it shall identify opportunities and establish ways and means of seeking the opinions of the public concerning the proposed planning documents.

**Appendix B**  
**Taken from MGA February 9, 2026**

**Requirements for adoption of planning documents**

205 (1) A council shall adopt, by by-law, planning documents.

(2) A by-law adopting planning documents shall be read twice

(3) Before planning documents are read for a second time the council shall hold a public hearing.

(4) A council shall complete the public participation program before either placing the first notice for a public hearing in a newspaper circulating in the municipality or posting notice of the public hearing on the municipality's website.

(4A) A notice published on the municipality's website under subsection (4) must include the date the notice is posted and remain posted until the public hearing has been completed.

(5) The notice for the public hearing is sufficient compliance with the requirement to advertise second reading of a by-law.

(6) Second reading shall not occur until the council has considered any submissions made or received at the public hearing.

(7) Only those council members present at the public hearing may vote on second reading of the planning documents.

(8) A council shall adopt planning documents, at second reading, by majority vote of the maximum number of members that may be elected to council.