

Ministry of
Municipal Affairs
and Housing

Office of the Minister

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JUL 22 2019

19-3577

Rick O'Connor
Clerk and City Solicitor
City of Ottawa
110 Laurier Avenue West
Ottawa ON K1P 1J1

Dear Rick O'Connor:

Thank you for your correspondence regarding the comprehensive ward boundary review in the City of Ottawa. I appreciate you sharing this information.

The Province of Ontario recognizes municipalities as responsible and accountable governments. As you know, the *Municipal Act, 2001* provides municipalities with the authority to divide or re-divide the municipality into wards or to dissolve the existing wards. Ward boundary changes are subject to appeal to the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal.

Local governments deliver critical services to residents. It is in everyone's interest that they are efficient and respect taxpayers' hard-earned money. I therefore encourage the City to consider this perspective as part of the review process.

Our government is willing to work with our municipal partners to find savings in their budgets while protecting front-line services that residents depend on. To accomplish this, we have recently introduced the Audit and Accountability Fund, which will support municipalities in conducting third-party reviews to find smarter ways to deliver services that support their communities and respect taxpayer dollars.

If you wish to discuss any examples of other reviews or seek other assistance with your review, I encourage you to speak to staff in the ministry's east region office in Kingston. You may wish to contact Mr. Stephen Seller, Acting Senior Municipal Financial Advisor at Stephen.Seller@ontario.ca or by phone at 1-800-267-9438 ext.128.

Once again, thank you for bringing this information to the attention of the government. Please accept my best wishes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steve Clark', written over a white background.

Steve Clark
Minister