



The Corporation of the Township of Georgian Bay

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MNRF - CFLPB - Crown Lands Policy Section
300 Water Street
5th Floor, North Tower
Peterborough, ON
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Canada

April 11 2023

RE: Proposal to amend Ontario Regulation 161/17 to the Public Lands Act to change the requirements related to floating accommodations.

This letter has been drafted by the Township of Georgian Bay to support the proposed amendment to Ontario Regulation 161/17 of the Public Lands Act to exclude floating accommodations from being placed or used for overnight accommodation on water over Ontario's public lands.

As the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) is the governmental agency responsible for managing the use of Ontario's public lands under the Public Lands Act and its regulations, it is significant that through this amendment, the MNRF is seeking to help municipalities deal with the concerns surrounding the use of floating accommodations.

The Township of Georgian Bay stands by the proposal to exclude floating accommodations, float homes, or barges with residential units or camping facilities from *The Public Lands Act* and *Ontario Regulation 161/17* which currently states that any person can place or use a camping unit for private, non-commercial purposes on public lands, including lands covered by water, if they meet certain conditions.

In the information sessions provided by the MNRF, questions were raised by many individuals about these floating accommodations that claim to be "vessels" with approval from Transport Canada or by attaching outboard motors to them. This information was brought forward due to the concerns that these individuals would find a way around the new proposed amendment. The Township of Georgian Bay was pleased to be made aware that these forms of identification would not allow for floating accommodations to get around this enforcement and that the definitions set

out for the floating accommodations would be applied regardless of other legislation.

Environmental implications from floating accommodations are also a considerable concern from the Township of Georgian Bay. The Township commends the MNRF for taking into consideration the many environmental issues these floating containers can cause such as greywater discharge and disturbance of fisheries/wildlife.

Following the support for this new amendment, the Township does understand that the enforcement of the floating accommodations will be enforced by the MNRF. The Township of Georgian Bay would like to provide the following questions in conclusion for reviewal by the MNRF as this process proceeds:

- Will the MNRF have the enforcement capacity for all concerns pertaining to floating accommodations?
- It is mentioned in the proposal that this does not include provincial parks and conservation reserves or federally managed lands like parts of the Trent Severn Waterway. Has there been conversation with other levels of government to speak to these specific areas if this new amendment possibly pushes the floating accommodations to these areas?

The Township of Georgian Bay looks forward to hearing further feedback from the MNRF as they move forward with this amendment to the Public Lands Act.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Mariotti", with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

Greg Mariotti
Chief Administrative Officer