

Dear Mayor Ferguson,

I am writing on behalf of the Wellington Community Association (WCA) in response to the County's request for feedback regarding the Terms of Reference for the proposed Water and Wastewater Rates Community Working Group.

The WCA fully supports the formation of a committee with a mandate to provide oversight and input for all matters relating to municipal water in Prince Edward County.

We are pleased that the County recognizes the importance of including water users in determining the future of Prince Edward County's water and wastewater systems, however we do not feel that this input should be restricted to establishing Water Rates. Rather, the Working Group should be engaged in oversight and decision making in relation to all aspects of the existing water system, as well as any planned expansions to the Municipal Water and Wastewater Infrastructure.

In the proposed Terms of Reference, the first paragraph of the mandate should be amended by simply adding the word "and", to read:

*"To provide public engagement and user collaboration regarding the financial sustainability of the County's water and wastewater systems including service delivery, long term planning, asset management, user rates and capital charges, AND to inform the 2027-2031 Rate Study."*

To the same end, the title of the Working Group should also be modified by removing the word "Rates".

We further submit to you that the purpose of the Working Group as noted in the Terms of Reference should be expanded to include the undertaking of a fulsome reevaluation of the costing and sizing of the existing infrastructure and of the proposed new infrastructure projects including population growth projections, development charges and all other financing arrangements that the Municipality intends to utilize to fund the proposed expansion of the Water and Wastewater Infrastructure.

Ideally, the WCA would prefer that instead of a Working Group, the County establish a Public Utilities Commission to oversee and manage the operation and administration of the Prince Edward County Water and Wastewater Systems, and we respectfully request that this alternative be given serious consideration.

The WCA applauds all efforts made by Shire Hall that allow for authentic public consultation, collaboration, engagement, input and involvement in critical municipal matters such as the Water and Wastewater Infrastructure.

We will all share in the benefits of a well-managed, efficient, reliable, affordable, safe and financially sound and sustainable water system.

Thank you for taking the time to consider our recommendations regarding this important matter.

Sincerely,

Joanna Green,

Chair,

Wellington Community Association