

23 March 2026

The Hon. Rob Flack Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
College Park 17th Floor
777 Bay Street, Toronto, ON M7A 2J3
Sent by email to: minister.mah@ontario.ca

Dear Minister Flack:

Re: Bill 9, *Municipal Accountability Act, 2025*

On behalf of the Ontario Municipal Administrators' Association (OMAA), and our member Chief Administrative Officers across the province, I want to express our appreciation for your government's continued efforts to strengthen accountability and integrity in local government through *Bill 9, the Municipal Accountability Act, 2025*.

While OMAA supports the intent of Bill 9, we are concerned that the current version does not incorporate significant feedback offered by municipal associations during Standing Committee hearings. With the Bill now ordered for Third Reading, we respectfully urge the government to make modest yet meaningful amendments that would enhance its effectiveness—particularly as Ontario prepares for municipal elections this fall. This is an important opportunity for the government to demonstrate leadership on local governance and to advance a strong, credible framework for safe and respectful workplaces.

OMAA and its members are eager to be partners in developing practical and enforceable anti-harassment legislation for Ontario's municipalities. To that end, we ask that the following four recommendations be integrated prior to passage:

- **Establish a standard list of penalties**, modelled on those in the *Education Act (2023)*, including censure, suspension from meetings or committees, ineligibility to chair committees, and, in the most serious cases, removal from office.
- **Adjust the removal-from-office threshold** from a unanimous vote to a supermajority (two-thirds), ensuring fairness, functionality, and the ability to act in serious cases.
- **Introduce defined timelines** for discipline and hearing processes, similar to those outlined in Regulation 404/23 under the *Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019*.
- **Mandate annual training** in anti-harassment and discrimination for all members of council, their staff, and local boards.

These recommendations represent a balanced and actionable path forward. They reinforce fairness, accountability, and consistency—principles that build public confidence in elected officials and support a respectful environment for everyone working in municipal government.

Minister, this Bill offers an opportunity for a governance “win” — one that signals the government’s commitment to integrity and civility in local political life. OMAA stands ready to collaborate with your office to refine implementation details and support training and education across Ontario’s municipalities.

Thank you for your attention on this important issue.

Sincerely,



Michael DiLullo, MPA
OMAA Chair and CAO of Haldimand County

CC: Robert Dodd, Chief of Staff, Robert.Dodd@ontario.ca
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