



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 26, 2016

At the Association of Municipalities Conference in 2015, municipalities were advised that the electrical distribution sector in Ontario is going through fundamental changes through the privatization of Hydro One, the “905 mega merger” and the introduction of additional regulations to govern the sector. This has led to municipalities that own local distribution companies (LDC) exploring various options moving forward to ensure the electrical needs of their communities are met in an affordable manner.

Wasaga Distribution (WD), and its affiliate company Wasaga Resources (WR), are owned by the taxpayers of Wasaga Beach, as represented by Council. These companies are responsible for the delivery of electricity to almost 12,000 households and the installation of infrastructure to deliver electricity. In 2015, as stated in the Ontario Energy Board’s Efficiency Ratings, Wasaga Distribution was once again recognized as the second most efficient LDC in the Province (in Group 1 - utilities with total costs 25% below predicted levels).

The Boards of Directors for WD and WR are well informed and aware of the changes taking place in the Electricity Distribution Sector. Representatives from the two Boards attended a meeting of Wasaga Beach Council in January, 2016 to inform and educate members of Council on the changes and the potential impact on local utilities such as Wasaga Distribution.

From that meeting, Council directed the CAO to oversee a review of the changes occurring in the sector in Ontario as they may impact Wasaga Beach ratepayers. Options to best manage and deal with changes taking place in the Ontario sector will form part of the review being conducted by WD and WR. On May 17, 2016 representatives from WD and WR updated Council on their progress and plan to provide a full report to Council in July, 2016. This report will be made public, and ratepayers will be asked for their comments.

Mayor Brian Smith commented that “No decisions have been made pertaining to the future of Wasaga Distribution. Taking into consideration changes to the Electricity Distribution Sector, and to ensure the best interest of taxpayers, ratepayers and the broader community, Wasaga Beach Council has asked that a review be undertaken to determine the best options regarding the future delivery of electricity.”

-30-

For media requiring additional information, please contact:

Jenny Legget
Communications and Special Projects Coordinator
Town of Wasaga Beach
(705) 429-3844 ext. 2285
j.legget@wasagabeach.com
www.wasagabeach.com