

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Town of Wasaga Beach takes formal position on regional governance review**

**Wasaga Beach** – Today, members of Wasaga Beach Town Council approved the submission of comments to the province’s regional review advisors.

Council’s formal position is that it does not support amalgamation as a solution to the objectives of the regional review.

“We believe the province should recognize the exemplary manner in which Simcoe County and its lower-tier municipalities are administered,” Mayor Nina Bifulchi said. “We are building communities that are, and will continue to, contribute to the economic health of Ontario. What we need at the local level are tools and support to do our work in delivering the services we are mandated to provide. It’s in this aspect the province can play a helpful role.”

In January, the Government of Ontario announced the appointment of two special advisors, Ken Seiling and Michael Fenn, to assist with a review of regional government in the province.

The review involves the governance, decision-making, and service delivery functions of eight regional municipalities and the County of Simcoe, including its 16 lower-tier municipalities, which includes the Town of Wasaga Beach.

The town is an effective and efficient provider of local services. Tax rates are among the lowest of urban municipalities in the county. The town has a long history, dating back to 1974, of improving services and responsibly managing its finances.

“Our success is evident in the significant growth we have experienced over the years,” Mayor Bifulchi said.

In response to the provincial government’s challenge of finding new ways to make better use of tax dollars, municipal staff have identified services currently delivered by the town and the county that could be re-aligned to eliminate duplication and save money.

To learn more about these ideas see the staff report here: <http://bit.ly/2Vc6JHN>.

Council is encouraging residents to visit the regional government review on-line portal at <http://bit.ly/2Jqp2qo> and provide comments to the advisors. They need to hear the views of the town's residents on this important matter.

### **Additional resources**

For more on the regional governance review, see the Government of Ontario's website here: <http://bit.ly/2Jqp2qo>.

The provincial government says it will report its findings from the consultation in the fall of 2019.

Read the town's letter to Steve Clark, minister of municipal affairs and housing, here: <http://bit.ly/2Vrr7tp>.

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### **For media requiring additional information, please contact:**

Michael Gennings  
Communications Officer  
Town of Wasaga Beach  
(705) 429-3844 ext. 2237  
[communications@wasagabeach.com](mailto:communications@wasagabeach.com)  
[www.wasagabeach.com](http://www.wasagabeach.com)