

## CANADIAN MUNICIPAL SCAN

### Related Notices of Motion

#### City of Toronto

**Background:** On 2018 July 23, Toronto City Council adopted MM44.35: Use of the Public Right of Way for Display of Graphic Images, which directed staff in Transportation Services to provide a report on current by-laws intended to prevent interference with the public right-of-way caused by the display of temporary signs that contain graphic images. The member motion describes these signs as containing "graphic and/or disturbing images which appear to be intended to shock, alarm, or cause dismay".

On 2017 December 5, Toronto City Council adopted MM35.10: Distribution and Display of Graphic Images, which directed staff in Municipal Licensing & Standards division and Transportation Services to provide a report on options to regulate the distribution of print materials to private residences, and temporary signs that contain graphic images on the City's right-of-way.

**Current Status:** On 2019 October, Toronto City Council received an update on these motions through a Temporary Signs Bylaw Review report. Work has started on addressing MM35.10. Through a public consultation process, Toronto Administration received a considerable amount of feedback related to sign content however, further work needs to be done to review correspondence received through their public feedback process and evaluate recent developments in Canada with respect to the display of graphic images and inaccurate/misleading information in the public realm. It is expected that staff will be in a position to report back to City Council in 2020 Q2.

#### Town of Oakville

**Background:** On 2018 August, Oakville Council approved a motion that includes: *"...that Council direct the Director of Municipal Enforcement, in consultation with the Town Solicitor, to assess options to: ...Regulate the display of banners/signs in public places as well as the distribution of print materials to private residences that contain extremely graphic images intended to shock, alarm, or cause dismay, including the potential for the prohibiting of the public display and distribution of such print materials for the purposes of addressing the potential of such display to cause harm to members of the public, especially children; and Report back to Council in 2019"*.

**Current Status:** 2018 August a letter was sent to the attorney general urging the Province to implement some regulation around the issue. The Notice of Motion report back has been extended to 2019 Q4 due to workload constraints and awaiting information from an external resource.

#### City of Hamilton

**Background:** Anti-abortion protesters were holding graphic abortion signs at a Secondary school, graphic abortion flyers were delivered to homes, banners with graphic images on highways, and on trucks. In June 2014, Motion 7.7 Regulations Respecting Advertising and Communication was carried regarding banners on overpasses to regulate the graphic images asking the federal and provincial government to pass laws/regulations to control the images.

**Current Status:** The resolution was forwarded to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario. There is no current update available.

### Related Council Decision

#### City of Oshawa

**Background:** In 2018, Oshawa Councillors were asked to consider banning graphic anti-abortion posters in residential areas.

**Outcome:** Oshawa Council chose not to address the issue at the local level and voted to refer the issue to higher levels of government to the Federal and Provincial attorneys general.