



## **Sessional Paper No. P-237**

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### **P-237 Referendum on municipal administration centre in Tiny Township (Sessional Paper No. 237) (Tabled by MPP Schreiner, Mike (Guelph), 04/22/2024)**

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#### **Response:**

Thank you for your petition seeking a referendum on whether the Township of Tiny should proceed with constructing a new municipal administration centre.

Municipalities are provided with the authority to make decisions on matters within their jurisdiction such as the management of public assets and the financial affairs of the municipality. This includes making decisions on the construction and financing of a new administrative building for the municipality.

Under the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996*, a municipal council may pass a by-law to put a question to its electors that is otherwise compliant with the rules for submitting a question in the Act. If a municipal council submits a question to its electors and at least 50% of eligible voters participate with more than 50% in favour, the results are binding on the municipality.

A municipality does not have to wait until the next regular election to submit a question on the ballot to its electors. It could hold a by-election to allow electors to vote on a specific question.

I believe that local issues are best resolved by municipal councils. Since the decisions related to this matter are local and within the authority of the municipality to make, as Minister, I will not be making an order to require the Township of Tiny to submit a question to its electors as requested.

Elected municipal officials are accountable to their residents for their decisions. I encourage the Tiny Township Council and its residents to continue their dialogue and work together to reach a resolution on this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Paul Calandra".

Hon. Paul Calandra  
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing