

Council Watch: CAO to get Blank Cheque for Spending on Feb 25th | 21 Feb 2025

1 message

Democracy Caledon <info@democracycaledon.org>

Fri, Feb 21, 2025 at 9:58 PM

Reply-To: info@democracycaledon.org

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Democracy Caledon Alarmed by Council's Proposal to Give Town's CAO Blank Cheques for Spending up to \$500,000 per Contract

Democracy Caledon is gravely concerned by Caledon Council's recent decision to dramatically increase the spending limit of the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) from \$50,000 to as much as \$500,000 without Council approval.

This move, proposed in an amendment to the Purchasing Bylaw and set for ratification by Council next Tuesday February 25th, is another example of the significant erosion of democratic controls and fiscal accountability at the Town.

[Read Press Release HERE](#)

This decision, if ratified next week, sets a dangerous precedent for unchecked spending and reduced Council oversight in Caledon's future.

Caledon residents are urged to voice their concerns to Council prior to and at the February 25th Council meeting.

[Send Mayor & Council a Letter](#)

Council allowing the CAO to approve 'non-standard' procurements up to half a million dollars each is a dangerous concentration of power that undermines transparency and accountability to Caledon taxpayers.

The proposed Purchasing By-law amendment was initially set at a \$1 million limit.

Many concerns were raised by Councillors DeBoer, Early, Kiernan and Sheen at Council's General Committee on February 4th, resulting in a further amendment that reduced the limit to \$500,000.

Democracy Caledon says this procurement spending by staff is still excessive, especially when compared to other municipalities. The Region of Peel, with a population of 1.5 million, caps such spending at \$250,000, while King Township on our eastern border caps it at \$100,000.

We recommend a more reasonable limit of \$100,000 for CAO-approved non-standard procurements.

Democracy Caledon asks why Caledon CAO Nathan Hyde needs up to \$500,000 per external contract to spend without oversight.

Mayor Annette Groves' unsubstantiated claims of staff frugality and savings are not enough to warrant such a dramatic increase in staffs' spending authority.

Council is abdicating and outsourcing its responsibility to oversee significant expenditures of taxpayer money, raising serious concerns about governance in Caledon.

Please attend the Feb 25th Council Meeting at 7 p.m. to demonstrate to Council that residents are paying attention.

Link to the Council Agenda is below, see [Agenda Item 22.4 BL-2025-013](#):

“a by-law to amend Bylaw 2019-24, being a by-law to establish the procurement of goods and services”

Please also consider delegating to voice your concerns to Council. We've provided a link to a tip sheet on delegating.

Feb 25
Agenda

How to
Delegate

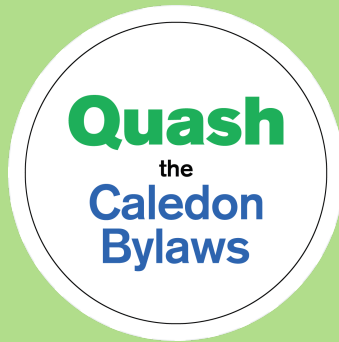
Video Available for
Jan 29 2025 Webinar: Caledon for the
Community



link to video

If you were not able to attend or want a recap of the information presented, please click the link above.

Please also subscribe to our YouTube Channel



The 2024 Charitable Donation Deadline was extended to February 28th, please use the opportunity to support the

QUASH THE CALEDON BYLAWS

LEGAL CHALLENGE

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS! ❤️

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A view of the Peel Plain, valuable farmland. Photo Credit: Pete Paterson Photography

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