

March 21, 2018

Mayor Dave Augustyn
Pelham Town Hall
20 Pelham Town Square
P.O. Box 400
Fonthill, ON, L0S 1E0

Dear Mayor Augustyn,

I am writing to you and your Council on behalf of Canada's newspapers to express our deep concern over recent actions taken by your municipality against your local newspaper, The Voice of Pelham.

News Media Canada represents over 800 daily weekly and community newspapers in almost every community in Canada and The Voice of Pelham is one of our members. Our membership criteria include a commitment to public interest and civic journalism.

We are deeply concerned that the actions taken by the municipality are counter to fundamental principles of democratic accountability and have no place in Canada in 2018.

One of the key principles of a free and democratic society is that of the press to hold governments accountable. We believe that the actions taken by the municipality infringe upon that right and are preventing the newspaper from doing its job, which is to inform the public.

We would ask that the municipality live up to its legal obligations and allow The Voice of Pelham to fulfill its responsibilities to its readers and to local residents.

Yours truly,



John Hinds
President and CEO

CC: Catherine King, Gary Accursi, John Durley, Peter Papp, Richard Rybiak, James Lane