
My name is Irwin Glasberg and I am the Assistant Deputy Attorney General of the Policy and Innovation Division at the Ontario Ministry of the Attorney General. One of the projects for which we are responsible relates to the modernization of the Provincial Offences Act (POA).

I am writing to provide you with an update on the ministry's exploration of new and innovative ways for Ontarians to resolve traffic tickets and other POA charges.

As you may be aware, last spring the ministry began consulting with stakeholders and the public on the merits of an online administrative monetary penalty (AMP) system to replace in-court procedures for resolving POA charges.

We received a lot of excellent feedback through this process, which led to a round of focussed discussions in fall 2015 with representatives from our municipal and justice sector partners, including the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the City of Toronto, the Municipal Court Managers' Association and the Prosecutors' Association of Ontario, as well as representatives from lawyer and paralegal groups.

Overall, the response we received from all of these groups and individuals indicates that stakeholders and the public strongly agree there is a need to improve the current system for resolving POA charges. In particular, the parties care about:

- Being able to defend and dispute cases
- The ability to present evidence to an independent decision-maker
- Opportunities for effective representation
- Potential impacts to insurance rates
- Ensuring a sustainable and effective municipal court system
- Better access to justice for all Ontarians

We are grateful for all of the feedback we received and we have listened carefully.

Based on this input, we have decided to focus our efforts on improving the existing system for resolving POA charges rather than pursuing an AMP model.

Municipalities will continue to have the option, under existing legislation, to establish AMP systems to support local parking enforcement.

We remain committed to making the process simpler, more accessible and more convenient. This could include exploring opportunities to both streamline court procedures and put some parts of the process online.

The ministry will continue to work with municipal and justice sector partners to explore these opportunities. As municipalities administer the courts that hear POA matters,

your perspective will be essential to ensuring that any changes made are fair, effective and meet the needs of Ontarians.

Should your staff need any further information please feel free to contact Jeremy Griggs, Senior Manager, POA Unit, Court Services Division at: Jeremy.griggs@ontario.ca or 613-536-7253.

Sincerely,

Irwin Glasberg