



TOWN OF MINTO

MEETING DATE: March 5, 2024
REPORT TO: Mayor and Council
SERVICE AREA: Clerks
SUBJECT: CL 2024-002 Sunday Gun Hunting

RECOMMENDATIONS:

THAT the Council of the Town of Minto receive report CL 2024-02 regarding Sunday Gun Hunting.

AND WHEREAS hunting in Ontario is regulated by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry.

AND WHEREAS individual municipalities may decide whether to permit Sunday gun hunting.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry be notified that the Town of Minto supports and authorizes Sunday gun hunting in the Town of Minto in accordance with the provincial legislation.

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that staff requests the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry to amend the appropriate regulation to include the Town of Minto in the list of municipalities that authorize Sunday gun hunting in Ontario.

BACKGROUND:

A delegation came forward at the February 20, 2024 Council meeting requesting that the Town of Minto allow Sunday Gun hunting. Many pieces of correspondence and a petition were received as well requesting the same.

Section 66 of the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act states that: “A person shall not carry or discharge a firearm, other than a long-bow or cross- bow, for the purpose of hunting on a Sunday, in any area lying south of the French Mattawa rivers except those municipalities listed in Part 7 of Ontario Regulation 663/98 made under the Act”.

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) is responsible for the approval/regulation of Sunday Gun Hunting in Municipalities within Ontario. Municipalities who wish to support Sunday Gun Hunting within their municipality must provide MNRF with a written resolution to that effect. MNRF would then process a regulatory amendment to Ontario Regulation 663/98 under the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act to allow for Sunday Gun Hunting in the specified municipality. MNRF process these regulatory changes twice annually.

COMMENTS:

If the Town of Minto were to allow Sunday Gun Hunting, all the same regulations and rules regarding hunting within Ontario would still apply. Hunters must still have a tag when necessary, registration of their firearms, a hunting license, and the explicit permission of private landowners to hunt on their property, amongst other regulations. Sunday Gun Hunting simply allows for the regulated hunting season to also be conducted on Sunday, the same as any other day during the hunting season. It is important to note that the restriction only applies to firearms (guns) and not to bow hunters (long-bow or cross-bow), so this change will allow for hunters who use guns to also hunt on Sunday.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

There are no financial considerations.

STRATEGIC PLAN:**Goal 2: Quality of Life**

Provide a holistic quality of life which supports the mental, physical, and social health of our community.

PREPARED BY: Annilene McRobb, Clerk

RECOMMENDED BY: Mark Potter, Interim Chief Administrative Officer