

**Ministry of
Municipal Affairs**

Office of the Minister

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**Ministère des
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December 15, 2017

Dear Heads of Municipal Councils:

We are pleased to provide an update on Bill 59, Putting Consumers First Act (Consumer Protection Statute Law Amendment), 2017. Bill 59 made amendments to the City of Toronto Act, 2006 and the Municipal Act, 2001. Upon proclamation, these amendments will allow local municipalities to regulate the location and number of payday loan establishments. We would like to inform you that the government has proclaimed these sections into force effective January 1, 2018.

During consultations to inform the development of Bill 59, the government heard from municipalities that there was interest in an expanded municipal authority to regulate payday lenders. As a government we have listened. We thank municipal leaders for your contributions to protecting consumers and your communities.

Additional regulatory changes to strengthen protection for consumers using payday loans and cheque-cashing services will come into force on July 1, 2018 and include the following:

- It will be mandatory for payday lenders to provide borrowers with an extended payment plan if borrowers take out three or more loans with the same lender within a 63-day period.
- Payday lenders can only lend up to 50 per cent of a borrower's net pay per loan.
- The cost of borrowing a payday loan must be disclosed as an annual percentage rate in advertisements and agreements.
- The maximum fee for cashing government-issued cheques will be capped at \$2 plus one per cent of the face value of the cheque, or \$10, whichever is less.
- It will be mandatory for cheque cashing service providers to provide a receipt when cashing government-issued cheques.

If you have any questions about the amendments, you may contact Ann Misetich, Manager of Consumer and Business Policy via email at Ann.Misetich@ontario.ca or by telephone at 416-326-8868.

Thank you for your continued support of strengthening financial protection for consumers in Ontario's communities. We look forward to continuing to work with you on this important initiative in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tracy M. Charles", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Tracy MacCharles
Minister of Government and Consumer Services

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Mauro", with a stylized, cursive script.

Bill Mauro
Minister of Municipal Affairs

c: Municipal Clerks/CAOs