

THE MAYOR & COUNCIL, Town of Mississippi Mills

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THE INFORMATION & PRIVACY COMMISSIONER, Province of Ontario
Attention: Maria Tzimas, Mediator <Maria.Tzimas@ipc.on.ca>
Tribunal Services Department
2 Bloor Street East, Suite 1400
Toronto, Ontario M4W 1A8
(1-800 387 0073)

January 28, 2007

RE: MMRA support of FOI Appeal MA06-423

On behalf of the Board of Directors and members of the Mississippi Mills Residents Association (MMRA), I am writing to indicate our support of this Appeal by Daniel Coates made on behalf of a number of concerned residents, as submitted to the Information & Privacy Commissioner.

The appeal is based on the following facts, as we understand them to be. It would appear that:

- the attorney's letter concerning the White Tail Ridge subdivision was provided to a member of the public, namely the developer of this very subdivision;
- the Town appears to have made no request, nor received any assurance, that the developer would keep the contents of the letter confidential;
- the Mayor and members of the Town's staff have acknowledged these facts in public, at a Public Meeting convened by the Town; and
- Mr Daniel Coates' request to obtain access to this information has been declined by the Town.

We feel it is clear that in releasing this letter to a member of the public the Town has waived solicitor-client privilege and thus placed this document in the public domain. To date, the Town has refused to release this letter to any other member of the public including residents directly affected by this development.

The MMRA strongly supports transparency and openness in the affairs of our municipal government, believing that elected officials should only withhold information from the electorate in the rarest of justifiable circumstances. This is a fundamental democratic principle. There are members of Mississippi Mills Council who have, at various times, spoken up in support of this principle.

In that vein, we urgently ask each and every member of Council to reconsider the decision to withhold this information and immediately state their position and act to release this document.

Yours sincerely,

Arnie Francis
President
Mississippi Mills Residents' Association (MMRA)
"Striving to promote a shared vision for Mississippi Mills"
www.mmra.ca