

Date:	June 30, 2025
To:	City Council
Presenter:	Shane Bourke
Subject:	Petition Declaration

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council receive the Declaration of Insufficiency of Petition for information.

SUMMARY:

On June 2, 2025, Administration received a petition containing 32 signatures. The petition read as follows:

"We the undersigned, are giving our support to approach the City of Grande Prairie Council, to address the ongoing feral rabbit issue in the Swanavon area. The destruction of yards, through eating, popping, peeing and worst of all digging. Not only do they wreck the lawn, but they also eat plants and flowers, and their digging is killing shrubs and trees, not to mention the tripping hazard of 6 in and deeper holes in the yards. The financial burden of repairs and replacement, not only to residents, but to the City. Brings the coyotes and foxes into the neighbourhood - potential danger to children and pets. Animosity amongst residents as there is a lot feeding going on, which just increases the numbers. Traffic hazards as people swerve to miss the rabbits or stop to feed the rabbits."

BACKGROUND:

Under Sections 222 to 226 of the *Municipal Government Act* (MGA), a petition must meet specific requirements to be deemed sufficient.

Section 226 requires that the Chief Administrative Officer of the municipality make a declaration to Council regarding the sufficiency of the petition within 45 days of its submission.

ANALYSIS:

The City Manager has reviewed the petition and it is officially declared insufficient. Attached is the formal declaration for Council review.

This petition was found to be insufficient for the following reasons:

- The statement appeared only on the first page (Section 224(1), MGA)
- The petition contained 32 unverified names, which is below the required threshold of 10% of the municipality's population (Section 223, MGA). Additionally, there were no corresponding signatures or witness attestations (Sections 224(2) and 224(3), MGA).
- The petition lacked affidavit pages as required (Section 224(3.1), MGA).
- The petition did not identify a representative for the petitioners (Section 224(4), MGA).
- Petition did not meet the MGA limitations for what can be petitioned for.

NEXT STEPS:

As the petition has been declared insufficient as per MGA s.226(1)(3), no further action is required by Council.

Administration will notify the person who submitted the petition that the petition does not meet the requirements set out in the MGA.