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Town of Aurora

## Committee of the Whole Report

No. CS26-011

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**Subject:** Disclosure of Documents Related to Victoria Hall Refurbishment

**Prepared by:** Anne Kantharajah, Town Clerk

**Department:** Corporate Services

**Date:** May 12, 2026

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### Recommendation

1. That Report No. CS26-011 be received for information.

### Executive Summary

On March 31, 2026, Council directed staff to compile and release publicly all documentation related to the Victoria Hall Refurbishment budget increase without contravening the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, procurement integrity requirements, contractual confidentiality obligations, or legal privilege. The direction also required staff to bring a staff report to Council by May 2026 confirming the list of documents released and unreleased.

The purpose of this report is to provide Council the documents released and listing any unreleased documents with an explanation of the applicable reasons for requiring continued nondisclosure.

- The *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (the "Act") governs access to records held by municipalities and other local public sector institutions in Ontario.
- Each document was reviewed to identify mandatory exemptions, where disclosure is prohibited by law, and discretionary exemptions, where staff have the discretion to withhold information but must first consider whether disclosure is appropriate in the circumstances.

### Background

On March 31, 2026, Council direction to staff to:

- 1) Compile and release publicly all documentation related to the Victoria Hall Refurbishment budget increase, including but not limited to:
  - a) Engineering and structural reports;
  - b) Architectural and design consultant reports;
  - c) The Class D cost estimate dated December 1, 2025, and any subsequent cost estimates;
  - d) Project scope documents and supporting technical studies;
  - e) Internal staff reports or memoranda that informed the revised project scope or cost estimates;
  - f) Any additional documentation relied upon in preparing the report recommending the budget increase; and
  
- 2) That the release does not contravene the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, procurement integrity requirements, contractual confidentiality obligations, or legal privilege; and
  
- 3) Report back to Council by May 2026 confirming the documents being released and listing any unreleased documents with an explanation of the applicable reasons for requiring continued nondisclosure.

The purpose of this report is to provide Council the documents released and listing any unreleased documents with an explanation of the applicable reasons for requiring continued nondisclosure.

## Analysis

**The *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (the "Act") governs access to records held by municipalities and other local public sector institutions in Ontario.**

The Act is based on the principle that municipal information should generally be available to the public, subject to certain mandatory or discretionary exemptions in the Act or any other legislation.

These exemptions recognize that certain records such as personal information, confidential third-party business information, solicitor-client privileged material, or sensitive negotiation and litigation records cannot be disclosed creating a balance between transparency with legal obligations.

Each document was reviewed to identify mandatory exemptions, where disclosure is prohibited by law, and discretionary exemptions, where staff have the discretion to withhold information but must first consider whether disclosure is appropriate in the circumstances.

Following Council direction, staff compiled all documents related to the Victoria Hall Refurbishment as specified in Attachment 1 – Records Index.

In reviewing the documents for mandatory exemptions, staff considered exemptions under s.9 (relations with other governments), s.10 (third party information) and s.14 (personal privacy) of the Act. If grounds for a mandatory exemption exist, the record was not released.

In exercising discretionary exemptions, staff considered the municipality's:

- procurement integrity requirements;
- contractual confidentiality obligations;
- legal privilege; and
- whether the disclosure is in the general public interest in transparency.

Where identified, staff did not disclose the information.

### **Advisory Committee Review**

None.

### **Legal Considerations**

This report is provided in accordance with Council's direction of March 31, 2026, respecting the public release of documentation related to the Victoria Hall Refurbishment budget increase. As a municipality, the Town is subject to confidentiality and non-disclosure obligations under the Act, as outlined throughout this report, and may also be subject to applicable contractual obligations with third-parties.

### **Financial Implications**

None.

## Communications Considerations

The documents fully or partially released to the public are now available on the Town of Aurora's [Public Record repository](#).

## Climate Change Considerations

The recommendations from this report do not impact greenhouse gas emissions or impact climate change adaptation

## Link to Strategic Plan

This report supports the Strategic Plan goal of "Support an Exceptional Quality of Life for All" by promoting service accountability, excellence and innovation.

## Alternative(s) to the Recommendation

There are no alternatives to the recommendation in this report.

## Conclusions

Staff undertook this review as directed by Council to release documents related to the Victoria Hall Refurbishment, and provide Council the listing any unreleased documents with an explanation of the applicable reasons for requiring continued nondisclosure.

## Attachments

Attachment 1 – Records Index

## Previous Reports

None.

## Pre-submission Review

Reviewed by AMT on May 5, 2026.

## **Approvals**

**Approved by Patricia De Sario, Director, Corporate Services/Town Solicitor**

**Approved by Doug Nadorozny, Chief Administrative Officer**