

From the OMB to the Local Planning Appeals Tribunal



environmental
defence
INSPIRING CHANGE



Legislative changes that turn the page on land use planning

- 1) Election Finance Reform- no direct funding from Corporations or unions = less undue influence
 - 2) Smart Growth for our Communities Act- Bill 73, municipalities can adjust development charges to be reflective of the costs of growth.
 - 3) The 'new' Local Planning Appeals Tribunal (OMB)
 - 4) Greenbelt, Growth Plan, ORMCP, NEP, CA Act.
-

Three changes to LPAT, OMB

1. Greater deference to authority of local municipal council on planning matters, moving to true appeals body
 2. Restrictions on matters that are appealable, OP's, provincial policy
 3. Increased opportunities for citizen participation- funding, less legalize
-

What you asked for

- ✓ 1) *Defend provincial policy by restricting appeals of provincial interest and attend hearings on matters of provincial interest (unlikely but hopeful)*
 - ✓ 2) *A version of . . . intervenor funding to allow full citizen participation.*
 - ✓ 3) *Restrict appeals of municipal official plans and provincial plans*
 - ? 4) *Limit cost awards to stop intimidation tactics- not directly- fewer appeals = fewer cost awards.*
-

OMB Reforms OGA requested cont'd

- ✓ *5) Increase time limits for municipal planning reports to limit appeals of non-decisions*
 - ? *6) Hearings should be open, transparent, require video recordings and allow media to cover hearings*
 - ✓ 7) Support shorter hearings by encouraging written submissions for minor variances and severance appeals
 - ✓ 8) OMB decisions should be based on the most up-to-date planning documents
-

What's not clear

Will background, composition, diversity of Board change?

Does the legislation limit cost awards?

What's the process for citizens to obtain funding to participate in a hearing, hire planners, lawyers, participate in mediation?

What Citizen Groups can do:

1. Elect people who are committed to environmental protection, encourage correct implementation of plans
 2. Increase your vigilance of Council meetings
 3. Bring climate change into hearings, does application support a walkable community, alternative transportation, protect agricultural land, forests and wetlands as carbon sinks?
 4. Educate, Educate, Educate
-

How You Can Participate

1) Send in comments until August 14, 2017

EBR - 013-0590

Ken Petersen, Manager

Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

777 Bay Street, Floor 13

Toronto ON, M5G 2E5, Phone: (855) 776-8011

2) Participate in Legislative Committee hearings

3) Educate citizens about reforms

Questions

