



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY WARDEN

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December 18, 2013

The Honorable Linda Jeffrey
Minister of Municipal Affairs & Housing
College Park
777 Bay Street, 17th Floor
Toronto, ON M5G 2E5

RE: Resolution opposing the requalification of Municipal Building Officials

Dear Honorable Linda Jeffrey:

In support of the Southwestern Chapter of the Ontario Building Officials Association, The Corporation of the County of Lambton is seeking support in opposing the requalification of Building Officials under the Ontario Regulation 332/12 and the Ontario Building Code.

While we oppose the requalification requirement, we do feel that ongoing training of any changes to the Ontario Building Code is necessary and the Southwestern Chapter of the Ontario Building Officials Association would like to work with the Ministry on such a training initiative.

Please be advised that Council for The Corporation of the County of Lambton at its meeting on November 27, 2013, passed the following resolution:

Whereas, municipal building officials are the main practitioners of the Ontario Building Code (OBC) and use the OBC on a daily basis in the carrying out of their duties;

And whereas Bill 124 that passed in 2005 required all municipal building officials to undertake a series of qualification exams;

And whereas a subsequent regulation 332/12 (knowledge and maintenance examinations) requires our already qualified officials to requalify by taking a similar series of qualification exams again;



And whereas this requalification process will provide municipalities with financial hardships in terms of registration costs, mileage costs, days away from the office to undertake their regular duties in performing timely inspections that is expected by the building industry;

And whereas, municipal building officials acknowledge the need to stay current with legislation and to undergo necessary training to do so;

And whereas, the builders and home owners will suffer slower response time for building permits and inspections until all of the building officials are qualified;

Now, therefore, The Corporation of the County of Lambton, in support of the Southwestern Chapter of the Ontario Building Officials Association resolves:

That any amendments to the OBC include provisions for training opportunities rather than requalification examinations as the means by which building officials remain current of changes to the OBC.

That municipal building officials, as the primary practitioners of the OBC, receive the same treatment as plumbers, electricians, professional engineers and architects with regards to exemption from requalification.

That the negative impact and delays that Ontario regulation 332/12 will have on the issuance of permits, inspections and response times to inquiries by municipal building officials should be taken in to consideration.

That municipalities and taxpayers be spared the cost of 'knowledge and maintenance examinations' under the proposed amendment to the OBC which will provide undue hardship to municipalities through lost productivity, early retirement and costs associated with the 13 categories of examinations required by fully qualified inspectors.

Should any persons have any questions please contact:

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Yours truly,



Todd Case
Warden

cc: All Ontario Municipalities
Association of Municipalities of Ontario