

Ministry of
Municipal Affairs

Office of the Minister

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Ontario

JUL 13 2016

16-70300

Dear Head of Council:

I am pleased to announce that Ontario has commenced a review of the scope and effectiveness of the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB), an important part of the province's land use planning system.

The government is now accepting feedback on a number of topics, which are based on input regarding the OMB's role in Ontario's land use planning system. This includes the feedback received during extensive public and stakeholder consultations on the Smart Growth for Our Communities Act (Bill 73), the update to the Long-term Affordable Housing Strategy and the Co-ordinated Land Use Planning Review.

The government is working to develop proposed recommendations to improve how the OMB works within the broader system of land use planning by releasing a consultation paper in the fall of 2016 for further comment.

In the meantime, the government would like to hear your views on the following topics:

- **Jurisdiction and powers:** this could include what matters can be appealed and who may appeal them, the use of local appeal bodies and how much deference should be given to municipal decisions.
- **Meaningful citizen participation and local perspective:** this could include who has access to hearings, how to ensure the ability of the public to participate, how to ensure that the process is affordable, unrepresented parties and the role of the citizen liaison office.
- **Clear/predictable decision making:** this could include how to ensure fairness, adjudicator education and training and standardized decision format(s).
- **Hearing procedures and practices:** this could include the formality of hearings, how expert evidence is heard and what evidence should be allowed at hearings.
- **Alternative dispute resolution:** this could include the use of mediation or other alternatives to traditional hearings or adversarial procedures as part of the appeal system.
- **Timely processes and decision making:** this could include the timelines for scheduling hearings and the issuing of decisions.

If you would like to comment or share your insights on the topics above, please direct them to: OMBReview@ontario.ca.

Comments and suggestions received during all stages of the review, as well as comments already received, will be used to help inform the government of what changes may be needed. There will be further opportunity for input when the consultation paper is released in the fall.

I look forward to our continued collaboration and hearing your views and recommendations as the OMB Review progresses.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mauro", written in a cursive style.

Bill Mauro
Minister