

**Ministry of  
Municipal Affairs**

Provincial Planning Policy  
Branch  
777 Bay Street, 13<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Toronto ON M5G 2E5  
Tel. 416-585-6014  
Fax 416-585-6870

**Ministère des  
Affaires municipales**

Direction des politiques provinciales  
d'aménagement  
777, rue Bay, 13<sup>e</sup> étage  
Toronto ON M5G 2E5  
Tél. 416-585-6014  
Télééc. 416-585-6870

**Ministry of  
the Attorney General**

Agency and Tribunal Relations  
Division  
720 Bay St, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Toronto ON M7A 2S9  
Tel. 416-326-3723  
Fax 647-723-2051

**Ministère du  
Procureur général**

Direction des relations avec les  
organismes et les tribunaux  
720, rue Bay, 3<sup>e</sup> étage  
Toronto ON M7A 2S9  
Tél. 416-326-3723  
Télééc. 647-723-2051

**Date:** February 27, 2018

**Subject:** Proclamation of the *Building Better Communities and Conserving Watersheds Act, 2017* changes to the land use planning and appeal system

We are writing to provide an update on the *Building Better Communities and Conserving Watersheds Act, 2017*, which was passed by the Legislature on December 12, 2017.

**In Effect Date**

The changes the Act makes to the land use planning and appeal system will come into effect on April 3, 2018, as specified by proclamation.

This includes changes to:

- establish the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal (the Tribunal) as the province-wide appeal body for land use planning matters;
- improve the hearing process at the Tribunal;
- establish the Local Planning Appeal Support Centre to provide legal and planning support services to eligible Ontarians for matters before the Tribunal;
- limit the Tribunal's ability to overturn municipal decisions that adhere to municipal official plans, provincial plans and the Provincial Policy Statement;
- give municipalities more control over local planning, resulting in fewer decisions being appealed; and
- shelter certain major planning decisions from appeal.

These changes are in response to the province-wide consultation undertaken as part of the [Ontario Municipal Board Review](#).

## Regulations

To facilitate implementation of the *Building Better Communities and Conserving Watersheds Act, 2017*, several new and amended regulations have been proposed.

Proposals for the regulations under the Act were posted on Ontario's Regulatory and Environmental Registries for a 45-day public consultation period from December 7, 2017 to January 21, 2018.

We anticipate providing you with an update on the proposed regulation changes and finalized approach to transition in the near future.

## Questions

If you have any questions about the changes to the land use planning and appeal system, please email [OMBReview@ontario.ca](mailto:OMBReview@ontario.ca).

Sincerely,

Laurie Miller, Director  
Provincial Planning Policy Branch  
Ministry of Municipal Affairs

Mariela Orellana, Director (Acting)  
Agency and Tribunal Relations Branch  
Ministry of the Attorney General