

**Ministry of
Municipal Affairs
and Housing**

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Ontario

234-2023-5547

November 16, 2023

Dear Sir, Madam

Subject: Proposed Legislation to Reverse Previous Decisions on Municipal Official Plans/ Official Plan Amendments

Further to my letter on November 2, 2023, I am writing to you to advise that on November 16, 2023, the Ontario government introduced legislation that, if passed, would reverse the official plan decisions made in November 2022 and April 2023 affecting the cities of Barrie, Belleville, Guelph, Hamilton, Ottawa and Peterborough, the regional municipalities of Halton, Niagara, Peel, Waterloo and York, and Wellington County.

The proposed legislation would wind back ministerial changes to official plans and official plan amendments, except in circumstances where construction has begun or where doing so would contravene existing provincial legislation and regulations or for public health and safety. This includes winding back changes to urban boundaries while maintaining protections for the Greenbelt.

The proposed *Planning Statute Law Amendment Act, 2023*, if passed, would:

- Enact the Official Plan Adjustments Act, 2023, which would:
 - Reverse decisions affecting 12 municipalities' official plans, issued on November 4, 2022 and April 11, 2023;
 - Approve the municipally-adopted official plans, retroactive to the date of the ministerial approval (November 4, 2022 or April 11, 2023);
 - Require decisions on outstanding applications and appeals to conform with the legislatively-approved official plans and amendments;
 - Modify limited portions of the council-adopted official plans to address potential conflicts with legislation/regulations; and
 - Introduce immunity provisions to help mitigate legal risk for municipalities and the province resulting from this legislation.
- Amend the *Planning Act* to introduce immunity provisions to help mitigate legal risk for municipalities and the province in the making, amending, or revoking of minister's zoning orders.

Additionally, the proposed legislation would amend the *Planning Act* to introduce immunity provisions related to the making, amending or revoking of minister's zoning orders. While no specific changes to MZOs are currently being made, this provision would help mitigate risk should revocations be necessary as the ministry reviews a use it or lose it policy.

Request for Feedback

In my letter of November 2, 2023, I have asked municipalities to provide input by December 7th. In addition, the ministry is seeking input on the proposed legislation and potential implementation considerations associated with matters arising from the reversal of the official plan decisions.

Comments can be sent through the Environmental Registry of Ontario or the Regulatory Registry postings or by email to mmahofficialplans@ontario.ca.

More information on the legislative proposal can be found on the Environmental Registry of Ontario and the Regulatory Registry at:

- [Environmental Registry of Ontario: Planning Statute Law Amendment Act, 2023](#)
- [Regulatory Registry: Planning Statute Law Amendment Act, 2023](#)

I look forward to receiving your feedback on this proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Paul Calandra".

Hon. Paul Calandra
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing