



**THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF SARNIA  
City Clerk's Department**

255 Christina Street N. PO Box 3018  
Sarnia ON Canada N7T 7N2  
519-332-0330 (phone) 519-332-3995 (fax)  
519-332-2664 (TTY)  
[www.sarnia.ca](http://www.sarnia.ca) [clerks@sarnia.ca](mailto:clerks@sarnia.ca)

February 15, 2022

The Honourable Doug Ford  
Premier of Ontario  
Legislative Building  
Queen's Park  
Toronto ON M7A 1A1

Dear Premier,

**RE: Dissolve Ontario Land Tribunal**

At its meeting held on February 7, 2022, Sarnia City Council adopted the following resolution with respect to the Ontario Land Tribunal:

***Whereas Municipalities across this province collectively spend millions of dollars of taxpayer money and municipal resources developing Official Plans that meet current Provincial Planning Policy; and***

***Whereas an Official Plan is developed through months of public consultation to ensure, "that future planning and development will meet the specific needs of (our) community"; and***

***Whereas our Official Plan includes zoning provisions that encourage development of the "missing middle" or "gentle density" to meet the need for attainable housing in our community; and***

***Whereas our Official Plan is ultimately approved by the province; and***

***Whereas it is within the legislative purview of Municipal Council to approve Official Plan amendments or Zoning By-law changes***

***that better the community or fit within the vision of the City of Sarnia's Official Plan; and***

***Whereas it is also within the legislative purview of Municipal Council to deny Official Plan amendments or Zoning By-law changes that do not better the community or do not fit within the vision of the City of Sarnia's Official Plan; and***

***Whereas municipal planning decisions may be appealed to the Ontario Land Tribunal (OLT; formerly the Ontario Municipal Board or "OMB"), an unelected, appointed body that is not accountable to the residents of the City of Sarnia; and***

***Whereas the OLT has the authority to make a final decision on planning matters based on a "best planning outcome" and not whether the proposed development is in compliance with municipal Official Plans and Provincial Planning Policy; and***

***Whereas all decisions—save planning decisions—made by Municipal Council are only subject to appeal by judicial review and such appeals are limited to questions of law and or process; and***

***Whereas Ontario is the only province in Canada that empowers a separate adjudicative tribunal to review and overrule local decisions applying provincially approved plans; and***

***Whereas towns and cities across this Province are repeatedly forced to spend millions of dollars defending Official Plans that have already been approved by the province in expensive, time consuming and ultimately futile OLT hearings; and***

***Whereas lengthy, costly OLT hearings act as a barrier to the development of attainable housing;***

***Now Therefore Be It Hereby Resolved That The City of Sarnia requests the Government of Ontario to dissolve the OLT immediately thereby eliminating one of the most significant sources of red tape delaying the development of more attainable housing in Ontario; and***

***Be It Further Resolved That a copy of this Motion be sent to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, the Minister of***

***Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Leader of the Opposition, the Leaders of the Liberal and Green Party, all MPPs in the Province of Ontario; the Large Urban Mayors' Caucus of Ontario, the Small Urban GTHA Mayors and Regional Chairs of Ontario; and***

***Be It Further Resolved That a copy of this Motion be sent to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and all Ontario municipalities for their consideration.***

Your favorable consideration of this request is respectfully requested.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Amy Burkhart'.

Amy Burkhart  
City Clerk

Cc: Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing  
Leader of the Opposition  
Leaders of the Liberal and Green Party  
MPPs in the Province of Ontario  
Large Urban Mayors' Caucus of Ontario  
Small Urban GTHA Mayors and Regional Chairs of Ontario  
AMO  
All Ontario Municipalities