



February 18, 2022

Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
Premier's Office
Room 281
Legislative Building, Queen's Park
Toronto, Ontario M7A 2J3

Sent via email: doug.fordco@pc.ola.org

Re: Dissolution of the Ontario Land Tribunal, Town of Gravenhurst

Dear Premier Ford

At the Town of Gravenhurst Council meeting of Tuesday February 15, 2022, Council passed the following motion:

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 provisions that encourage developments to meet the need for attainable housing in our community;

AND WHEREAS our Official Plan includes provisions that encourage developments to meet certain environmental standards which are voided by the Provincial Policy Statement;

AND WHEREAS our Official Plan is ultimately approved by the District of Muskoka, as delegated from the Province, in accordance with the Planning Act;

AND WHEREAS it is within the legislative purview of Municipal Council to adopt Official Plan amendments or approve Zoning By-law changes that better the community or fit within the vision of the Town of Gravenhurst 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 Town of Gravenhurst 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 Town of Gravenhurst;

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 conformity with municipal Official Plans and consistent with Provincial Planning Policy;

AND WHEREAS all decisions—save planning decisions—made by Municipal Councils 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 municipalities across this Province are repeatedly forced to spend millions of dollars defending Official Plans that have already been approved by the province or their designate 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;

AND WHEREAS the existence of the OLT acts as a barrier that restricts municipalities from protecting the environment from development that is uncharacteristic of its community;



NOW THEREFOR BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Town of Gravenhurst requests the Government of Ontario dissolve the OLT immediately thereby eliminating one of the most significant sources of red tape delaying the development of more attainable housing, and restricting a municipality's ability to enforce self-determined environmentally-friendly development policies in Ontario;
2. 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,
3. A copy of this Motion be sent to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and all Ontario municipalities for their consideration.
4. A suitable alternative appeal process be investigated by the Province utilizing an elected board of appeal

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kayla Thibeault".

Kayla Thibeault
Director of Legislative Services / Clerk
Town of Gravenhurst
KT/ds

cc.

Hon. Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing steve.clark@pc.ola.org

Andrea Horwath, Leader of the Official Opposition horwatha-qp@ndp.on.ca

Mike Schreiner, Leader of the Ontario Green Party Mschreiner@ola.org

Steven Del Duca, Leader of the Ontario Liberal Party info.leader@ontarioliberal.ca

Ontario Members of Provincial Parliament

Large Urban Mayor's Caucus of Ontario info@ontariobigcitymayors.ca

Small Urban GTHA Mayors of Ontario

Regional Chairs of Ontario

Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) resolutions@amo.on.ca

All Ontario Municipalities