

GORDON E. PETCH

- Barrister -

REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT | MUNICIPAL LAW | ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

May 3, 2019

VIA E-MAIL: premier@ontario.ca

Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto, ON
M7A 1A1

Attention: Premier Doug Ford

Dear Premier Ford:

Re: Local Planning Appeal Tribunal Changes

Thank you for the dramatic changes to the LPAT legislation. I had been thoroughly engaged with the Liberal initiative along with other senior municipal lawyers to prevent Premier Wynn's new legislative changes-but as usual they had no desire to listen. You and your Staff listened carefully and well understood the problems that required an immediate solution. Well done!

However, as I previously have corresponded to you, there is another immediate step that must be taken if your legislation is to be expertly and responsibly implemented. Such is totally dependant on the leadership of LPAT and the skill of its Members. Many of the complaints about the former OMB, from all stakeholders, is directly related to the qualifications of many, but certainly not all, of its appointees. Too many liberal governments had no respect for the OMB so they looked for ways to cut its influence and costs. This included removing its dedicated Chairman and reducing the tenure and compensation for its Members. The results were easily predictable- many poorly run hearings, questionable decisions and complaints from all sectors of the province.

If your recent improvements to the legislation are to be skillfully implemented, please appoint a Chairman solely for LPAT who can concentrate on improving this appeal tribunal. In addition, improve the tenure and compensation for its Members so you attract the most qualified and only those individuals that see this as an opportunity to enhance their careers-much the same as those

Royal Building
277 Lakeshore Road East, Suite 211
Oakville ON L6J 1H9



Toronto Meeting Rooms
Brookfield Place, 161 Bay Street, Suite 2700
Toronto ON M5J 2S1

TELEPHONE: 416-955-9530 | CELLULAR: 416-720-7103 | EMAIL: gpetch@mlawc.com | FACSIMILE: 416-955-9532

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members of the legal profession who take a reduction in pay to go on the Bench. Only then will your new legislation be properly implemented as I am sure you are hoping for.

Thank you once again for paying attention and responding to the many submissions you have received on this important issue. If I can be of further service, I would be pleased to hear from you or your staff.

Sincerely,



Gordon E. Petch
GEP/dh

cc: Minister Clark via email mah@ontario.ca