

June 25, 2026

Via Email

The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
premier@ontario.ca

Re: Review of the Ontario Land Tribunal and Enhancing Deference to Municipal Planning Decisions

Please be advised that at its meeting held on June 22, 2026, the Council of the Town of Whitby adopted the following as Resolution # 166-26:

Whereas local councils are elected by residents to make planning decisions that reflect the needs and priorities of their communities;

Whereas municipalities rely on extensive public consultation, professional planning advice, engineering studies, and technical reports when making land-use decisions;

Whereas the Ontario Land Tribunal (OLT) has the authority to overturn municipal planning decisions, often requiring municipalities to spend significant taxpayer dollars defending decisions that have already undergone a thorough local review process;

Whereas lengthy and costly appeals can delay housing projects, consume municipal resources, and reduce the ability of municipalities to focus on delivering services to residents; and,

Whereas local governments should have greater certainty and authority when decisions are consistent with approved Official Plans, provincial policies, and sound planning principles.

Now Therefore be it Resolved:

1. That the Government of Ontario be requested to review the role and mandate of the Ontario Land Tribunal to ensure greater respect for municipal planning decisions that are supported by evidence, public consultation, and approved planning policies;

2. That the Province consider amendments to the Planning Act and Ontario Land Tribunal Act to provide stronger deference to municipal decisions that align with provincial planning frameworks and Official Plans;
3. That the Province improve transparency and accountability within the Ontario Land Tribunal by requiring clear and detailed reasoning when municipal decisions are overturned;
4. That the Province explore measures to reduce the financial burden on municipalities defending planning decisions before the OLT, helping to protect taxpayer dollars and improve the efficiency of the planning process; and,
5. That Staff be directed to circulate this resolution to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Local Members of Provincial Parliament, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), and all Ontario municipalities for consideration and support.

Should you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact the Office of the Town Clerk at 905-430-4300.



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