

Agenda item 5: Ontario Municipal Board Review

Community groups and individuals with an interest in civic issues or in land use planning are encouraged to participate in a review of the OMB conducted by the provincial government. Submissions are to be received by December 19, 2016. The province has organized a “town hall” on the review to be held in Ottawa on Thursday, November 9 (see <http://www.mah.gov.on.ca/Page15024.aspx> for details).

A review was announced in the summer and the province received unstructured comments prior to formally launching the review with a consultation paper accessible at <http://www.mah.gov.on.ca/Page14965.aspx>. The consultation paper includes 24 questions and to facilitate response to those questions, FCA-FAC has prepared a document with the questions in simple text format which you can open in any word processing package and use as a template in sending in your views. The template is at <http://fca-fac.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/OMBquest.txt>. The province has also provided a feedback form on the web for submission electronically at <http://www.mah.gov.on.ca/Page15023.aspx>

It is recommended that you first read the consultation document, and then you might wish to explore comments made by others. A series of links to various comments is below.

Ontario Municipal Board Review – comments and links**Consultation paper by the Provincial Government**

<http://www.mah.gov.on.ca/Page14965.aspx>

General discussion of OMB

Torontoist magazine provides an introduction to the OMB and earlier proposals for change <http://torontoist.com/2015/08/torontoist-explains-the-ontario-municipal-board/>

Environmental Defence publishes a call for OMB reform from the Executive Director of Concerned Residents Association of North Dumfries

<http://environmentaldefence.ca/2016/01/15/time-reform-omb-stop-punishing-public-participation/>

Jamie Liew (uOttawa) and Michael Powell (Dalhousie CA) write an op-ed for the Ottawa Citizen on experience with the OMB

<http://ottawacitizen.com/opinion/columnists/liew-and-powell-citizens-need-a-more-equal-playing-field-at-the-ontario-municipal-board>

Submissions by groups and individuals prior to release of the consultation paper

Six Ottawa Councillors write to outline issues they seek addressed in the OMB review <http://rileybrockington.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/Letter-OMB-20-sep-16.pdf>

Greenspace Alliance comments on the forthcoming review

<http://greenspace-alliance.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/OMB-Reform-4Aug2016-final.pdf>

AMO (Association of Ontario Municipalities) supports the Review, comments on the scope of the review, issues a discussion paper and a quick guide to the review

<https://www.amo.on.ca/AMO-Content/Policy-Updates/2016/OMBReview>

[https://www.amo.on.ca/AMO-Content/Policy-](https://www.amo.on.ca/AMO-Content/Policy-Updates/2016/MinistersAnnounceConsultationonScopeandProcesseso)

[Updates/2016/MinistersAnnounceConsultationonScopeandProcesseso](https://www.amo.on.ca/AMO-Content/Policy-Updates/2016/MinistersAnnounceConsultationonScopeandProcesseso)

[https://www.amo.on.ca/AMO-](https://www.amo.on.ca/AMO-PDFs/Reports/2016/OMBReformMaturingRolesDiscussionPaper201606.aspx)

[PDFs/Reports/2016/OMBReformMaturingRolesDiscussionPaper201606.aspx](https://www.amo.on.ca/AMO-PDFs/Reports/2016/OMBReformMaturingRolesDiscussionPaper201606.aspx)

<https://www.amo.on.ca/AMO-PDFs/Reports/2016/OMBConsultationQuickGuide20161019.aspx>

Gary Sealey sent in personal comments

<http://fca-fac.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/OMBRseal.pdf>

Alex Cullen sent in personal comments

<http://fca-fac.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/OMBRcul1.pdf>

Bob Brocklebank sent in personal comments

<http://fca-fac.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/OMBRbroc.pdf>

Civic Hospital Neighbourhood Association made a submission

<http://fca-fac.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/OMBRchna.pdf>

Katimavik-Hazeldean Community Association made a submission

<http://fca-fac.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/OMBRkati.pdf>

Report on OMB reform by Regional Planning Commissioners of Ontario

http://www.rpco.ca/files/RPCO_OMB_REFORM_Final_Report_2016_09_1.pdf

Media coverage of announcement of review and town halls

York Metroland newspaper reports on OMB review Town Hall in Newmarket

<http://www.yorkregion.com/news-story/6919953-newmarket-omb-reform-town-hall-meeting-has-residents-calling-for-transparency/>

Ottawa Metro describes past OMB decisions affecting Ottawa and calls for assumption of greater responsibility by the municipality

<http://www.metronews.ca/views/ottawa/collins-ottawa/2016/06/28/how-should-an-ontario-municipal-board-be.html>

Mohammed Adam of the Ottawa Citizen comments on the OMB Review

<http://ottawacitizen.com/opinion/columnists/adam-beware-of-the-wynne-governments-latest-promise-to-review-the-omb>

CBC Toronto covers OMB Review citing concern of specific home owners

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/ontario-municipal-board-omb-review-1.3793066>

Toronto Star article on Minister Mauro's release of consultation paper

https://www.thestar.com/news/city_hall/2016/10/05/province-proposes-limiting-powers-of-ontario-municipal-board.html

Global News highlights Attorney-General Naqvi concerns that status quo is unacceptable

<http://globalnews.ca/news/2984461/ontario-municipal-board-under-review-for-efficiency-accessibility/>

London Free Press reports City of London call for OMB changes

<http://www.lfpress.com/2016/08/19/make-omb-give-more-weight-to-city-council-process-london-urges-review>

Cambridge Times editorial calls for limits to OMB

<http://www.lfpress.com/2016/08/19/make-omb-give-more-weight-to-city-council-process-london-urges-review>

Barrie Examiner columnist lists issues relevant to OMB review

<http://www.thebarrieexaminer.com/2016/10/10/land-use-body-getting-a-closer-look>

Condo magazine discusses the OMB review

<http://condo.ca/omb-reforms-coming-public-invited-participate-dec-19/>

Other comments on the Review

Borden Ladner Gervais (law firm) provides a summary of issues in the OMB review

http://www.blg.com/en/newsandpublications/publication_4693

Wood Bull (legal firm) and Bruce Krushelnicki, former Director of Planning for Burlington presentation (undated) regarding reform of the OMB

<http://www.woodbull.ca/docs/default-source/publications/ontario-municipal-board-reform>