



**Ontario**  
Home Builders'  
Association

## *OMB Overhaul Compromises Smart Growth*

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### **Local Politics will Undermine Provincial Policy**

**(Toronto) May 16, 2017** – The Ontario Home Builders' Association (OHBA) is very concerned that proposed reforms to the Ontario Municipal Board, announced today by the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Attorney General, will make it much more difficult to bring new housing supply to communities across Ontario.

"If this new Tribunal puts local politics ahead of Smart Growth planning, it will only serve to empower NIMBY councils to make planning decisions to get re-elected," said OHBA CEO Joe Vaccaro. "The role of the OMB has always been to take the politics out of local planning and ensure that decisions are made based on evidence, 'good planning,' and conformity to provincial policy."

An independent, third-party, land use appeals process is essential to ensure the implementation of the Provincial Policy Statement and that intensification targets in the Growth Plan are achieved. Provincial planning policy requires municipalities to optimize Ontario's existing infrastructure to create vibrant, livable communities.

"To give more weight to local politics will detract from provincial goals. For more than 10 years, the provincial government has been demanding the increase of density and intensification in existing communities across Ontario. It is difficult to understand how the Province hopes to achieve Smart Growth goals by weakening the OMB when councilors are pushing back on intensification," said Vaccaro. "If this new Local Planning Appeal Tribunal is simply going to be a rubber stamp for obstructionist councils, then the Province's demand to optimize housing supply and provide diverse housing options will fail."

Provincial planning policy directs more growth into existing communities through intensification and higher density targets. OHBA is concerned that the changes announced today will undermine the provincial government's own planning policies.

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#### About OHBA

The Ontario Home Builders' Association is the voice of the residential construction industry in Ontario representing 4,000 member companies organized into 29 local associations across the province. The industry contributes over \$56 billion dollars to Ontario's economy, generating \$19.8 billion in wages and employing more than 336,000 people across the province.

*For further information or to arrange an interview with OHBA CEO Joe Vaccaro,  
please contact Valerie Lam-Bentley [valerie@ohba.ca](mailto:valerie@ohba.ca) 647-255-3875*



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20 Upjohn Road #101, North York, Ontario M3B 2V9 (416) 443-1545 Toll Free: 800-387-0109 email: [info@ohba.ca](mailto:info@ohba.ca)