

Ministry of  
Municipal Affairs  
and Housing

Office of the Minister

777 Bay Street, 17<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Toronto ON M5G 2E5  
Tel.: 416 585-7000

Ministère des  
Affaires municipales  
et du Logement

Bureau du ministre

777, rue Bay, 17<sup>e</sup> étage  
Toronto ON M5G 2E5  
Tél. : 416 585-7000



C 6

COMMUNICATION

SP CW (WS) – January 17, 2019

ITEM - 1

Ministry of Economic Development,  
Job Creation and Trade

Office of the Minister

18<sup>th</sup> Floor  
777 Bay Street  
Toronto ON M7A 1S5  
Tel.: 416 326-8475

Ministère du Développement économique,  
de la Création d'emplois et du Commerce

Bureau du ministre

18e étage  
777, rue Bay  
Toronto ON M7A 1S5  
Tél. : 416 326-8475

18-1368

Dear Head of Council:

We are pleased to announce that the government has introduced Bill 66 – the proposed Restoring Ontario's Competitiveness Act, 2018. We wanted to take the opportunity to address some concerns that have been expressed.

In particular, Schedule 10 of the Bill proposes changes to the *Planning Act* that would create a new economic development tool, the open-for-business planning by-law. The tool would be available to all local municipalities to ensure they can act quickly to attract businesses seeking development sites by streamlining land use planning approvals.

It would also support the government's 1-year service standard for provincial approvals related to these land use planning proposals.

Municipalities would be able to consider using the proposed tool if a major new employment use is proposed and certain prescribed provincial criteria are met.

Our government is committed to cutting red tape and shortening the time it takes to build projects that create jobs, but this will not be done at the expense of the Greenbelt or other provincial interests like water quality or public health and safety.

Before being able to use the tool, municipalities would need to receive provincial endorsement. A municipality's request to use the tool would be thoroughly reviewed in order to protect provincial interests, such as the Greenbelt, the environment, and public health and safety. The province's endorsement to use the tool could also include conditions that would need to be adhered to by a municipality. Where risks to public interests exist, the province could decide not to authorize the use of the tool.

In addition to the proposed changes to the *Planning Act*, the government is consulting on the content for a new Minister's regulation that would identify proposed criteria for the use of the new tool. The proposed regulatory approach would require information to be submitted to the province including land use planning information to help determine how the proposal is in keeping with provincial land use policies and plans and how any adverse land use planning impacts would be mitigated.

Other examples of proposed requirements include evidence that the new major employment proposal would meet a minimum job creation threshold, information regarding any effects on provincial interests, proposed servicing of the proposal (e.g. sewer and water) and any effects on public health and safety.

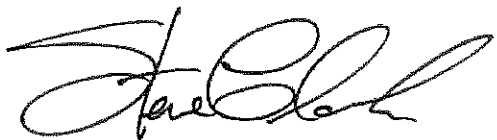
The government intends to take further action to streamline development approvals through a broader review of the system. This new tool would be a first step in a larger government initiative to achieve this end.

For a copy of Bill 66 – the proposed Restoring Ontario's Competitiveness Act, 2018 and to monitor the status of the Bill through the legislative process, please visit the Legislative Assembly of Ontario website: [www.ola.org/en/legislative-business/bills/parliament-42/session-1/bill-66](http://www.ola.org/en/legislative-business/bills/parliament-42/session-1/bill-66).

Comments on the proposed legislative and regulatory changes can be made through the Environmental Registry website (EBR Posting # 013-4125 at [ero.ontario.ca/notice/013-4125](http://ero.ontario.ca/notice/013-4125), EBR Posting # 013-4239 at [ero.ontario.ca/notice/013-4239](http://ero.ontario.ca/notice/013-4239)) or by email to [PlanningConsultation@ontario.ca](mailto:PlanningConsultation@ontario.ca) until January 20, 2019.

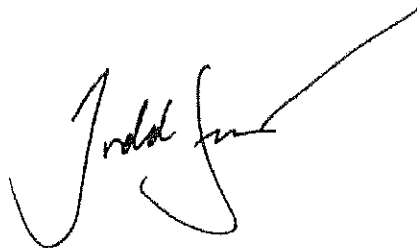
We welcome your feedback on this important initiative.

Sincerely,



Steve Clark  
Minister of Municipal  
Affairs and Housing

c: Municipal Clerk



Todd Smith  
Minister of Economic Development,  
Job Creation and Trade