



The Honourable Doug Ford  
Premier of Ontario  
Legislative Building, Queen's  
Park  
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1  
VIA EMAIL:  
[premier@ontario.ca](mailto:premier@ontario.ca)

Township of Puslinch  
7404 Wellington Road 34  
Puslinch, ON N0B 2J0  
[www.puslinch.ca](http://www.puslinch.ca)

November 17, 2022

RE: 9.3.3 Report ADM-2022-065 Bill 23 Proposed Changes

Please be advised that Township of Puslinch Council, at its meeting held on November 9, 2022 considered the aforementioned topic and subsequent to discussion, the following was resolved:

**Resolution No. 2022-366:**      **Moved by Councillor Sepulis and  
Seconded by Councillor Bailey**

That Report ADM-2022-065 entitled Bill 23 Proposed Changes and Consent items 6.6 and 6.15 and Correspondence Item 10.4 be received; and

Whereas the Township of Puslinch has received correspondence dated Oct. 25, 2022 from Minister Clark regarding the More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022 (Bill 23); and

Whereas the Township of Puslinch Council recognizes that there is a housing affordability concern in Ontario;

Be it resolved that the Township of Puslinch Council advise the Province that it has significant concerns about the actions contained therein to:

1. Essentially remove meaningful public participation from the land use planning process;
2. Reduce the protection of natural heritage features/natural hazards, and the resulting impact on public health, public safety, and climate change objectives;
3. Reduce the important role of Conservation Authorities in the review of development applications (a loss of technical expertise critical to rural municipalities);



4. Eliminate the long-established regional planning framework in the Province;
5. Streamlining aggregate applications by permitting Ministry staff to make decisions until such time that more information is provided;
6. Financial implications of all of the impacts of Bill 23, by eliminating the long accepted concept of growth paying for growth, and shifting that burden to the tax payer through property taxes;
7. Proposed Heritage Act changes related to timelines to designate properties listed on the Registry with undesignated status undermines the ability of the community to save these structures through community engagement and goodwill; and

Whereas the Township of Puslinch received the presentation from the Mill Creek Stewards;

Be it Resolved, that Puslinch Council request that the Ministry review the presentation by the Mill Creek Stewards; and

Whereas the Township of Puslinch received the Hamilton Conservation Authority Board Resolution and the Halton Conservation Authority correspondence addressed to the Province;

Be it Resolved, that Puslinch Council supports the comments contained therein; and

That the presentation and the Council Resolution be forwarded to Premier Ford, Minister Clark, Speaker Arnott, County of Wellington, AMO, ROMA, Grand River Conservation Authority, Conservation Halton, Hamilton Conservation Authority and all Ontario municipalities.

**CARRIED**



As per the above resolution, please accept a copy of this correspondence for your information and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Courtenay Hoytfox  
Municipal Clerk

CC:

The Honourable Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing [steve.clark@pc.ola.org](mailto:steve.clark@pc.ola.org)

The Honourable Ted Arnott, MPP Wellington-Halton Hills [ted.arnottco@pc.ola.org](mailto:ted.arnottco@pc.ola.org)

The County of Wellington [donnab@wellington.ca](mailto:donnab@wellington.ca)

Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) [amo@amo.on.ca](mailto:amo@amo.on.ca)

Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) [romachair@roma.on.ca](mailto:romachair@roma.on.ca)

Grand River Conservation Authority [planning@grandriver.ca](mailto:planning@grandriver.ca)

Conservation Halton [cpriddle@hrca.on.ca](mailto:cpriddle@hrca.on.ca)

Hamilton Conservation Authority [ereimer@conservationhamilton.ca](mailto:ereimer@conservationhamilton.ca)

All Ontario Municipalities

Mill Creek Steward's Comments On

# Bill 23

Building Homes Faster Action Plan



Mr Mayor, Councillors

May we begin with our deepest sympathies, no I'm kidding, congratulations to you all on your recent election/acclamation. The Mill Creek Stewards believe you're going to have an especially significant and challenging term in office as municipalities try to define their role in the provincial-municipal relationship.

That relationship brings us to the "More Homes Built Faster Action Plan" proposed by the Ontario government and presented to you as Item 6.6 on today's Agenda.

The provincial government is trying to sell this Plan as a means of building homes faster and cheaper by empowering municipalities.

**It does neither. This bill is a wolf in a sheepskin.**

If we start with those innocent looking sheepskins. This plan supports:

- 1) Eliminating/reducing regional planning to allow more local input.
- 2) Streamlining and reducing the costs of development applications.
- 3) "As of right" Additional Residential Units ARUs
- 4) Building more homes near transit corridors.
- 5) Housing targets and helping homebuyers
- 6) Improving the Ontario Land Tribunal.

At least some are creditable goals!

We can't argue with those goals but if we look underneath we see wolves.

- 1) Eliminating regional planning. Does allow more local input but at significantly more local costs. At the same time, by stripping input from Conservation Authorities, the result is no cross-jurisdictional planning, a critical aspect of water, land and environment planning recognized and instituted decades ago and applauded internationally. To add insult to injury this plan requires CAs to define CA land suitable for housing development and removes barriers to their sale.
- 2) Streamlining and reducing application costs. Does allow for faster application approvals but is that the problem? The provincial government's own Housing Task Force in the spring of 2022 identified land availability and development applications as non-issues. Their maps showed the lands adjacent to communities, and still available for development, serve the province's needs for the next 30 years with minimal new lands and no greenbelt land. As well, lands proposed for removal from the greenbelt are farther from infrastructure and would cost municipalities significantly more to develop. It should be noted that there is a shortage associated with housing but its not land. The average house and lot size has doubled in the last twenty years, doubling resource consumption and creating a resource not housing shortage, which explains why so much approved-land sits undeveloped. While reducing application and development costs compromises the generation of critical municipal revenue necessary for essential housing infrastructure development, especially extended development. The province offers no offsets to cover municipality's significant losses in revenue, while at the same time downsizing CAs and regional governments, further increasing the administration costs of local municipalities.
- 3) "As of right" ARUs. A true sheep with no wolf but unnecessary as municipalities like Puslinch have already implemented this aspect in everything but name.
- 4) Building near transit corridors. Again a true sheep but very small compared to the wolves.
- 5) Housing targets and assisting homebuyers. Does help homebuyers through attainable housing targets and development fee exemptions but leaves large loopholes in who can buy attainable housing and especially resell, while fee exemptions include no provincial offsets, once again leaving the tax base of local municipalities to bear the costs.
- 6) Improving the OLT. Does sound positive but it's limited to eliminating third party i.e. community groups like ours from appealing any Official Plan or Zoning bylaw amendments while permitting industry to appeal. This is at the same time as the province has removed regional planning and the right of appeal from regional governments and right of input from CAs.

And sadly the province already has specific targets for these wolves:

Pitting its wolves against two Greenland agreements covering the Golden Horseshoe. The province seeks to reverse both agreements. In the case of both agreements, the means for amendments already exist. Its just criteria that protect critical aspects of the broader community need to be met first. The province claims these criteria that protect the environment, natural features and farmland are too slow but slower is not slow and slower is the way that democracy, government by the people, works to balance risk for the broad community.

Pitting wolves against the Greenbelt itself, where the province is seeking to remove large swaths of protected land, while promising to offset it with land elsewhere. No belt can do its job if its chewed in pieces and the Greenbelt is no different, especially when the offset lands are distant, less than presented and being recycled as they were trumpeted months ago. As stated previously, these lands are not even needed and the province was very clear prior to the election that the no land would be removed from the Greenbelt. At the same time the substitute restricted development lands are being passed to distant municipalities like Puslinch at no gain.

Pitting its wolves against two specific higher tier municipalities, Hamilton and Kitchener-Waterloo, whose land planning guided by referendums met provincial targets but ran counter to provincial wishes. In this case the province promises low tier municipalities the power to ignore higher tier planning. One of the most significant problems resulting from this Bill is the elimination of cross-jurisdictional planning associated with regional governments (higher tier) and our unique conservation authorities (watersheds).

Pitting its wolves against wetlands, farmland and natural heritage features is of particular concern to our group. The province has supplied little wolf detail in its Action Plan except in the case of wetlands through its "Proposed Changes to OWES". These changes are a preview of what we can expect with respect to all other areas of planning. The core of this proposal is reducing bureaucracy and its costs by eliminating provincial oversight. I refer you to the paper appendix where original text is in black and removed or added text is blue. Removed text has a line through it, which is most of the text. In essence little has been added and much taken away in the name of streamlining. This reduction doesn't empower municipalities. It is a crass means of cutting provincial costs, downloading research on municipalities and minimizing the effectiveness of land planning oversight: all while appearing to substitute municipal oversight, i.e. empowerment. Municipalities will either face significant additional planning staff costs or face approving by default, all applications for development.

Specifically the province proposes to almost totally eradicate Ministry input into land planning when it comes to evaluating farmland, water courses, natural heritage features, wetlands and endangered species. Unfortunately as a replacement it only offers municipalities one option: subjective evaluations done without the benefit of objective report frameworks (page 1), significantly reduced detail including references (page 2,3), potentially done by unskilled workers supervised at a distance, done without the benefit of experienced Conservation Authority and Ministry personnel and considered complete when presented to the appropriate planner regardless of comprehensiveness (page 4).

**This is not municipal empowerment**, just a means to chaos, chaos that disempowers municipalities in every case where the municipalities and province disagree.

Finally in finishing our review, we must comment on the cynical use throughout both Bill 23 and the OWES Plan, of the "offsets" concept. This offset concept sounds innocent but in effect it eliminates any protection municipalities may have still hoped to extend to their water sources, farmlands, wetlands, natural heritage

features, species habitats and greenlands. Worst is the offset fund aspect, which allows developers to circumvent substitution and simply pay for destruction. When destruction engenders millions of dollars, a few thousand dollars is a small price for developers to pay.

**Bill 23 is not municipal empowerment but nuclear disempowerment. It won't build homes faster or cheaper but will have catastrophic effects on our environment including our Mill Creek.**

We have no doubt the Township's staff have prepared a comprehensive review of this Plan but we felt given this Action Plan's massive and immediate impact even as far as the Provincial Policy Statement, required we add our voice in person.

We are especially concerned by its plan to deny community groups like ours the right to participate in planning decisions and further the right to appeal planning decisions if we somehow manage to learn about them.

Please consider a strong response to the province's request for input on this proposed Plan. Thank you for your time and attention.

Note this legislation while eliminating the right of community groups like ours to appeal municipal decisions, doesn't eliminate the right of industry (aggregate, housing etc.)

Note this legislation tries to distract from municipalities that are already resolving housing shortages with densification at much lower cost and speedier resolution.

Note the extremely short timeline for comment on this Bill as well as the shortened timelines on all ERO comment periods, reflects a provincial agenda while significantly stressing our municipal staff.

Note greenbelt lands and wetlands have already been bought cheaply by speculators anticipating government proposed changes, meaning the whole concept of greenbelt, i.e. its permanency, is being destabilized.

Note this legislation not only eliminates the requirement for CA input for development applications but forbids it, i.e. a gag order. "Required to look at watershed protection only without reference to development".

Note this legislation put the existence of the Provincial Policy Statement, the foundation of lower tier government planning, in question, as it over-rides the PPS on farmland, wetlands, natural heritage sites, species protection etc.



A Healthy Watershed for Everyone

Via Email: [gschwendinger@puslinch.ca](mailto:gschwendinger@puslinch.ca)

November 7, 2022

Glenn Schwendinger, CAO/Clerk  
Office of the CAO/Clerk  
Township of Puslinch Office  
7404 Wellington Road 34  
Puslinch, Ontario  
N0B 2J0

**Re: Hamilton Conservation Authority Board Resolution re. Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry proposals in support of Bill 23 More Homes Built Faster: Ontario's Housing Supply Action Plan 2022-23**

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Dear Mr. Schwendinger,

On November 3, 2022, the Hamilton Conservation Authority (HCA) Board of Directors passed the following unanimous resolution:

**BD12, 3113**

**MOVED BY: Jim Cimba  
SECONDED BY: Brad Clark**

**THAT the following key points regarding the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry proposals in support of Bill 23 More Homes Built Faster: Ontario's Housing Supply Action Plan 2022-23 be sent to HCA's member municipalities:**

- **Proposed changes should take into account a watershed-based approach to balance growth with the environment and public health and safety.**
- **CAs should continue with the ability to review and comment on natural heritage in permitting and planning applications and retain responsibility for**



**Natural Hazard approvals to ensure safe development.**

- **We request continued collaboration with the Province in regard to the proposed changes and support Conservation Ontario's call to engage with the established multi-stakeholder Conservation Authorities Working Group (CAWG) that helped guide the Province in its implementation of the last round of changes to the CA Act.**
- **Municipalities should retain the option to enter into MOUs with CAs for municipally requested advisory services.**
- **Permit CAs to work towards cost recovery targets so that development pays for development.**
- **The Province should recognize the importance of CA lands and ensure clear policies to protect them.**

**CARRIED**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lisa Burnside". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lisa Burnside  
CAO, Hamilton Conservation Authority

The Honourable Doug Ford  
Premier of Ontario  
Legislative Building, Queen's Park  
Toronto, ON, M7A 1A1  
[premier@ontario.ca](mailto:premier@ontario.ca)

The Honourable Steve Clark  
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing  
College Park 17th Floor, 777 Bay St,  
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3  
[steve.clark@pc.ola.org](mailto:steve.clark@pc.ola.org)

The Honourable Graydon Smith  
Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry  
Whitney Block, 99 Wellesley St W,  
Toronto, ON M7A 1W3  
[minister.mnrf@ontario.ca](mailto:minister.mnrf@ontario.ca)

The Honourable David Piccini  
Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks  
College Park 5th Floor, 777 Bay St,  
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3  
[david.piccinico@pc.ola.org](mailto:david.piccinico@pc.ola.org)

October 31st, 2022

Dear Premier Ford, Minister Clark, Minister Smith and Minister Piccini,

We are writing to you in response to Bill 23, the *More Homes Built Faster Act*, which was announced on Tuesday, October 25th, 2022, specifically regarding Schedule 2.

We agree that there is a housing supply and affordability issue in Ontario that needs to be pragmatically addressed. We support the government's commitment to reducing unnecessary barriers to development and streamlining processes. We share this commitment and publicly report on the standards of service delivery to illustrate our goal of providing the best customer service to the municipalities, communities, residents and developers we serve.

We will do our part to help the Province meet its goal of building 1.5 million homes in Ontario over the next ten years. We think your stated outcomes are important but are concerned that your proposed legislative changes may have unintentional, negative consequences. Rather than creating the conditions for efficient housing development, these changes may jeopardize the Province's stated goals by increasing risks to life and property for Ontario residents.

## 1. Potential sweeping exemptions to transfer CA regulatory responsibilities to municipalities

Conservation Halton would like to understand the government's intentions with this proposed exemption. It is unclear whether it will be limited to certain types of low-risk development and hazards, or if the purpose is to transfer Conservation Authorities (CA) responsibilities to municipalities on a much broader scale. While the government wants to focus CAs on their core mandate, this proposed sweeping exemption signals the exact opposite. As proposed in the legislation, the CA exclusions will nullify the core functions of CAs and open up significant holes in the delivery of our natural hazard roles, rendering them ineffective. This will negatively

impact our ability to protect people and property from natural hazards, which seem to be more and more prevalent with extreme weather events.

Without limitations or further scoping, these proposed changes signal the likelihood of future delegation of CA permitting roles to municipalities that have neither capacity nor expertise in water resources engineering, environmental planning and regulatory compliance. This will result in longer response times and increased costs and impede the government's goal of making life more affordable.

Municipalities will also assume sole liability for the impact of development on natural hazards within municipal boundaries and on neighbouring upstream and downstream communities, which is a significant and new responsibility that they have never had to manage.

***Key Recommendations:***

- Address this risk expressly – keep all hazard-related responsibilities with CAs.
- Engage with the existing multi-stakeholder Conservation Authorities Working Group (CAWG) to ensure there is a streamlined, consistent and scoped process for CAs to help the Province achieve its housing goals while ensuring costs are low, the process is fast and Ontario taxpayers are protected.

**2. Proposed change that would prohibit CAs from entering into MOUs with municipalities for other services (e.g., natural heritage reviews, select aspects of stormwater management reviews, etc.)**

Conservation Halton has demonstrated that we can deliver these services efficiently without lengthening the approvals process. There is no evidence that municipalities can do this faster or cheaper. Bill 23 as currently written, precludes municipalities from entering into agreements with CAs to provide advice on environmental and natural heritage matters. They will have to coordinate with neighbouring municipalities and the Province on a watershed basis, rather than taking advantage of expertise already available within many CAs.

***Key Recommendations:***

- Municipalities should retain the option to enter into MOUs with CAs, with clearly defined terms, timelines and performance measures, as allowed under Section 21.1.1 (1) of the CA Act.
- Work with the CAWG to develop guidance for commenting and exploring the option of limiting CAs from commenting beyond natural hazards risks except where a CA has entered into an agreement or MOU.

**3. Proposed change to freeze CA fees**

This proposal has no guidelines on the timing or permanence of the fee freeze. Conservation Halton has already undertaken an extensive cost-based analysis that has been benchmarked against other development review fees to ensure our fees do not exceed the cost to deliver the service. We meet regularly with developer groups and municipalities to ensure our fees, processes and service standards are transparent, consistent and fair. We hope that you will be guided by your already approved fee policy that Conservation Halton supports, otherwise this change will impose additional costs on municipalities.

***Key Recommendation:***

- Require CAs to demonstrate to the Province that permit and planning fees do not exceed the cost to deliver the program or service and only consider freezing fees if CAs are exceeding 100% cost recovery.

**4. Wetland Offsetting**

Wetlands play a critical role in mitigating floods. Further wetland loss may result in serious flooding, putting the safety of communities at risk. Wetlands are a cost-effective strategy for protecting downstream properties. The

government must be prudent when considering changes like offsetting, which could negatively affect the ability of wetlands to reduce flooding and confuse roles in wetland management and protection between municipalities and CAs.

Conservation Halton is disciplined and focused on providing mandatory programs and services related to natural hazards. We have a transparent and proven track record of providing regulatory services that are streamlined, accountable and centred on rigorous service delivery standards. Our commitment focuses on stakeholder engagement, from meeting homeowners on-site to engaging with the development community to better understand perceived barriers. This approach helps us find innovative solutions for continued and safe growth in the municipalities we serve.

To ensure the most effective implementation of this Bill, we believe it is critical that the government presses pause on the proposed changes we have highlighted and meet with us to clarify and consider more effective alternatives. It is our hope that we can work with you again to safeguard the best possible outcomes for the people of Ontario.

You had such great success through the multi-stakeholder CA Working Group, which your Progressive Conservative government created and which Hassaan Basit, President and CEO of Conservation Halton, chaired. We strongly suggest continuing this engagement and we stand ready to help.

Sincerely,

Gerry Smallegange



Chair  
Conservation Halton Board of Directors

Mayor Gordon Krantz




Town of Milton  
Conservation Halton Board member

Mayor Rob Burton, BA, MS



Town of Oakville  
Conservation Halton Board member

Mayor Marianne Meed Ward



City of Burlington  
Conservation Halton Board member

cc:

MPP Ted Arnott  
MPP Parm Gill  
MPP Stephen Crawford  
MPP Effie Triantafilopoulos  
MPP Natalie Pierre  
MPP Donna Skelly  
MPP Deepak Anand  
MPP Peter Tabuns



# COUNTY OF WELLINGTON

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## COMMITTEE REPORT

**To:** Chair and Members of the Planning Committee  
**From:** Sarah Wilhelm, Manager of Policy Planning  
Jameson Pickard, Senior Policy Planner  
**Date:** Thursday, November 10, 2022  
**Subject:** **Bill 23 – More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022**

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### 1.0 Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of proposed changes recently introduced by the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing through the “More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022” (Bill 23) aimed at increasing housing supply in Ontario.

This report comments on parts of the amendments related to the land use planning and development approvals process and also highlights other changes under consideration that have impacts across County Departments, Member Municipalities and Conservation Authorities. The Treasury Department will report separately to the Administration, Finance and Human Resources Committee on the potential impacts related to development charges.

### 2.0 Background

The Provincial Government has proposed sweeping changes to multiple statutes, regulations, policies and other matters to help achieve the goal of building 1.5 million homes in Ontario over the next 10 years. Bill 23 impacts nine statutes, including major changes to the Planning Act, Development Charges Act and Conservation Authorities Act. The Government is moving fast and the changes are far reaching.

### 3.0 Major Themes

The proposed changes focus on the following major themes:

- building more homes;
- streamlining processes; and
- reducing costs and fees to build houses.

The Government has posted material for comment on the Environment Registry of Ontario and the Ontario Regulatory Registry about the proposed legislative and regulatory changes (see Appendix A for list). Planning staff have reviewed and summarized information to assist the County and Member Municipalities in their review of the material (Appendix B) but encourage those interested to review the proposed changes in their entirety.

Key changes are listed below.

### 3.1 Building More Homes

In an effort to build more homes, the Province has proposed the following changes:

<b>Additional Residential Units (ARUs)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• allow landowners to have up to 3 residential units per lot without the need for a zoning by-law amendment in municipally-serviced urban residential areas</li><li>• would permit 3 units in the main dwelling (including 2 ARUs) or a combination of 2 units in the main dwelling (including 1 ARU) and another ARU in an ancillary building</li><li>• zoning by-laws cannot set a minimum unit size or require more than one parking space per unit, but other zoning rules would apply</li></ul>
<b>Housing targets to 2031</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• set housing targets to 2031 for 29 “large and fast-growing” municipalities in Southern Ontario (not applicable to Wellington County)</li></ul>
<b>Major transit stations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• build more homes near major transit stations (not applicable to Wellington County)</li></ul>
<b>Conservation Authorities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• identification of Conservation Authority lands suitable for housing</li></ul>

### 3.2 Streamlining

The Provincial Government is looking to streamline a wide range of policies and procedures to reduce the time it takes for new housing to be built.

<b>Public Involvement</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• remove “third party” appeal rights for all planning applications (this would include appeals by the public)</li><li>• remove the public meeting requirement for draft plan of subdivision approvals</li></ul>
<b>Conservation Authorities (CAs)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• remove Conservation Authority appeal rights for planning applications, except where the appeal would relate to natural hazards policies</li><li>• limit Conservation Authority responsibilities to review and comment on planning applications (either on behalf of a municipality or on their own) to focus on natural hazards and flooding</li><li>• change the Provincial wetland evaluation system, including shifting responsibility for wetland evaluation to local municipalities</li><li>• establish one regulation for all 36 CAs in Ontario</li></ul>

<b>New Provincial Planning Document</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>eliminate duplication between the Provincial Policy Statement (PPS) and A Place to Grow (Growth Plan), by combining them into one document and providing a more flexible approach to growth management</li> </ul>
<b>Planning Responsibilities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>shift planning responsibilities from some upper-tier municipalities to lower-tier municipalities (not applicable to Wellington County)</li> </ul>
<b>Site Plans</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>exclude projects with 10 or fewer residential units from site plan control</li> <li>exclude exterior design of buildings from site plan control</li> </ul>
<b>Heritage</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>add more stringent requirements related to municipal heritage registers and timing of designation</li> </ul>
<b>Rental Unit Demolition and Conversion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>impose limits and conditions on the powers of a local municipality to prohibit and regulate the demolition and conversion of residential rental properties</li> </ul>

### 3.3 Reducing Costs and Fees

Reductions in costs and fees are mainly focused in the following areas:

<b>Development Charges and Parkland Dedication</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>exempt non-profit housing developments, inclusionary zoning residential units (not applicable to Wellington County), and affordable, additional and attainable housing units from development charges and parkland dedication</li> <li>discount development charges for purpose-built rentals</li> <li>remove costs of certain studies from development charges</li> <li>reduce alternative parkland dedication requirements</li> </ul>
<b>Conservation Authorities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a temporary freeze on CA fees for development permits and proposals</li> </ul>
<b>Other</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>review of other fees charged by Provincial ministries, boards, agencies and commissions</li> </ul>

### 3.4 Additional Matters

Beyond the proposed land use planning changes, other key changes include to:

- enable the Ontario Land Tribunal (OLT) to speed up processing of appeals
- provide the OLT with discretionary power to order the unsuccessful party at a hearing to pay the successful party's costs

- provide a potential rent-to-own financing model
- increase penalties under the New Homes Construction Licensing Act of up to \$50,000

## 4.0 Conclusion

Ontario is in the midst of a housing crisis. While there are no simple solutions to the problem, action is required. Several of the Government's initiatives support recommendations of the County's Attainable Housing Strategy such as:

- streamlining the land use planning approval process;
- reducing/exempting certain development charges and parkland dedication requirements;
- introducing an attainable housing category; and
- considering a potential rent-to-own financing model.

While the above proposals will likely increase the supply of housing, more information is needed to better understand how related cost reductions will be passed on to potential home buyers.

The County has previously commented to the Province about duplication between the Provincial Policy Statement and the Provincial Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe Area and welcome the creation of one streamlined Provincial Planning document and a simplified process for comprehensive growth reviews. Planning staff do, however, have concerns about how this might impact the municipal comprehensive review (MCR) work completed to date.

We have significant concerns about actions to:

- essentially remove meaningful public participation from the land use planning process;
- reduce the protection of natural heritage features/natural hazards, and the resulting impact on public health, public safety, and climate change objectives;
- reduce the important role of Conservation Authorities in the review of development applications (a loss of technical expertise critical to rural municipalities); and
- eliminate the long-established regional planning framework in the Province.

Staff note that there is a substantial amount of material posted for consultation and little time to respond (most comments are due late November or early December). Unfortunately, this timeframe does not allow for many newly elected Councils (including Wellington County) to meet and discuss their comments. We understand that more information is to follow as Bill 23 also introduces the potential for additional policies and regulations. Therefore, the full impact of the proposed amendments is unknown.

## 5.0 Next Steps

At the time of writing this report, the Bill has passed second reading and is at the Committee stage in the Legislature. Staff will continue to monitor the proposed legislation as it moves through the legislative process. Staff will engage with AMO and other organizations to provide input and will report at a later date when the legislation comes into effect and/or additional policies and regulations are made available.



## Recommendations

That the report “Bill 23 – More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022” be received for information.

That this report be forwarded to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing on behalf of the County of Wellington and circulated to member municipalities for their consideration prior to Environmental and Regulatory Registry Provincial comment deadlines.

Respectfully submitted,

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'SW'.

Sarah Wilhelm, BES, MCIP, RPP  
Manager of Policy Planning

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jameson Pickard'.

Jameson Pickard, B. URPL, RPP, MCIP  
Senior Policy Planner