

HALTON MUNICIPAL LEADERS SPEAK OUT ON LPAT ELIMINATION

MELANIE HENNESSEY
mhennessey@metroland.com

Regional council has a message for the province: The Local Planning Appeal Tribunal (LPAT) has got to go.

In a unanimous vote July 10, the Halton politicians passed a motion that calls for the elimination of the recently reconfigured provincial system that has the power to override local planning decisions, deeming it "an antiquated body that slows delivery and adds costs to housing supply via expensive and drawn out tribunal hearings."

The resolution was the subject of much discussion at Wednesday's council meeting. Here are the top three comments from Halton political leaders:

Burlington Mayor Mari-

anne Meed Ward (brought motion forward)

"If it (the LPAT) served a purpose, it was about 150 years ago. It is no longer a relevant part of any democratic, advanced province or country. We're the only one in Canada with such a tribunal, yet communities are successfully being built across the country.

The mere existence of this tribunal adds time and costs to housing - the one thing this government has said it's trying to address, and all of us have been trying to address in the face of rapid population growth. It has to stop. We need to start a movement to finally get this tribunal eliminated."

Halton Hills Mayor Rick Bonnette (seconded motion)

"Folks, we've become slaves to the lawyers and the consultants (hired for LPAT hearings) and their

cash box. That's right, we've become slaves. Whenever there's a hearing, we have to come up with experts, we have to hire solicitors. We asked the region and its municipalities, what were the costs (at LPAT hearings) just going back three years, and collectively we have spent \$5 million. That's a lot of money."

Oakville Mayor Rob Burton

"Queen's Park should look at their reflection if they want to find the cause of delay and expense preventing more affordable housing, and the LPAT is one of the big causes."

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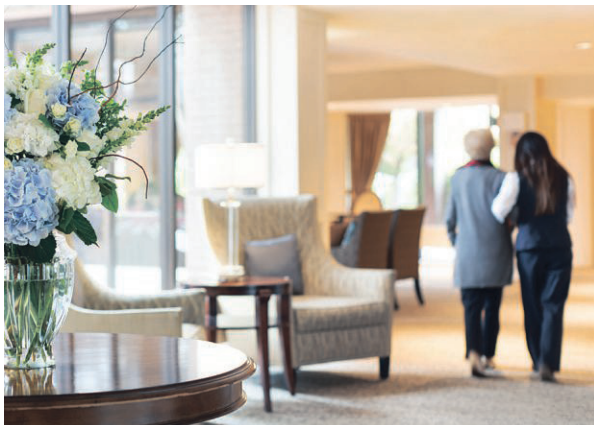


Halton Region photo

Halton Hills Mayor Rick Bonnette seconded the motion from Burlington Mayor Marianne Meed Ward to stop imposing the former OMB rules on the LPAT, and ultimately do away with the tribunal system.

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