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MAYOR

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## **MAYOR MRAKAS CALLS FOR REFORM OF THE ONTARIO LAND TRIBUNAL**

“Far too often we hear governments talk about “cutting red tape”, “streamlining the approval process” for new housing. I agree. But the way to achieve that is to, finally, recognize the authority of Municipalities to uphold their Provincially approved Official Plans.

If we had a process that recognized the authority of municipalities in land use planning decisions, then thousands of housing units could be built immediately. Permits could be issued tomorrow! Much needed supply could be increased by simply building what is allowed. No more endless battles, pitting developers against communities, over and over and over again at a cost of millions of dollars and untold wasted time.

Sure a property owner has rights; it’s their property after all. But they purchased the property knowing what can be – and can’t be – built... so build what is allowed and let’s get shovels in the ground to increase and diversify our housing stock today.

If the Applicant wants a zoning change? well then, work with the Town and residents to put forward a development that enhances our community not just their bottom line.

The current situation in municipalities across our Province is simply untenable.

The time for change is now.

If a provincial government is serious about cutting red tape, streamlining the planning process and increasing housing supply, the simple solution is to limit the scope of powers of the Ontario Land Tribunal and recognize the authority of municipalities to uphold their Official Plans. #OLTRreform.”

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