



**BUILDING A GREATER GTA**  
Building Industry and Land  
Development Association

February 2, 2012

Mayor Ford and members of City Council  
City of Toronto  
100 Queen Street West  
Toronto, Ontario  
M5H 2N2

***Re: February 6 & 7 Toronto City Council Meeting, Agenda Item PG 9.11- Removing Toronto from the Jurisdiction of the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) and Asking the Province of Ontario to Abolish the OMB***

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Dear Mayor Ford and members of City Council,

The Building Industry and Land Development Association is in receipt of the Staff Report for City Council Agenda Item PG 9.11 Removing Toronto from the Jurisdiction of the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) and Asking the Province of Ontario to Abolish the OMB - Motion MM11.7 Referred by City Council on September 21 and 22, 2011, and we offer the following comments for your consideration at the February 6 & 7 City Council meeting.

In principle, BILD strongly supports the necessity of the Ontario Municipal Board, by providing an impartial adjudicative tribunal, further removed from local political pressures.

The recommendations of this report are especially alarming, as the cost to the City of Toronto taxpayers would significantly increase with the abolishment of the OMB.

As you may recall, in 2010 when City staff were asked to provide the anticipated costs of creating a local appeal board for the City, it was determined that this would amount to \$1.8 million per year (in 2010 dollars), with an additional \$261,050 in start-up costs, which translated to \$6,200 per application to achieve full cost recovery. It is also important to remind Council that staff themselves were incredibly cautionary to Committee and Council about the complex administrative process involved in establishing a local appeals body.

BILD is also quite surprised that Council would embark on this sort of a discussion at this time, since the City is going through an extensive budgetary processes to look at cost savings.

It is essential that individual Council members thoughtfully consider the financial and administrative burden they are applying to their ratepayers by supporting this report. Especially, in the absence of any true consultation with the building and land development industry, as interested and greatly affected stakeholders, we recommend that this report not be approved at Council today.

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BILD strongly encourages City Council to dismiss the recommendations of this report in an effort to maintain administrative justice and not increase the cost of doing business and living in the City of Toronto.

We appreciate the opportunity to submit comments to you, and trust that you will take our recommendations into full consideration.

Sincerely,



Danielle Chin, MCIP, RPP  
Municipal Government Advisor

Cc: *Leona Savoie, BILD Toronto Chapter Co-Chair*  
*Steve Deveaux, BILD Toronto Chapter Co-Chair*  
*Paula Tenuta, Vice-President Policy & Government Relations BILD*  
*Joe Vaccaro, Acting President, BILD*  
*BILD Toronto Chapter Members*