



**MORE NEIGHBOURS
TORONTO**

Dear Members of City Council,

RE: MM.42.26 - EmpowerTO: It's time to Free Toronto from the Ontario Land Tribunal

About More Neighbours Toronto

[More Neighbours Toronto](#) is a volunteer-only organization of housing advocates that believe in building more multi-family homes of all kinds for those who dream of building their lives in Toronto. We advocate for reforms to increase our city's ability to build more homes in every neighbourhood. We are a big-tent organization with members across the political spectrum who are committed to counterbalancing the anti-housing agenda that has dominated Toronto's politics, created an affordability crisis, has cost burdened a new generation of aspiring residents. We are firmly committed to the principle that housing is a human right and believe Toronto should be inclusive and welcoming to all.

Position

More Neighbours Toronto opposes the motion to abolish the Ontario Land Tribunal ("OLT"). We ask that you **vote against this motion, or at least refer it to the Executive Committee for further consideration.**

Ontario is experiencing a housing crisis that extends beyond the City of Toronto. While some may pretend otherwise, city planning policies and decisions within Toronto are negatively affecting the entire region. Tens of thousands of people are [priced out of Toronto](#) each year just to find a home they can afford. Often, people priced out of Toronto go on to live in sprawl, destroying farmland and harming the environment. The housing crisis is a regional issue that needs regional solutions and regional accountability. The OLT ensures that the City of Toronto is accountable to people who were forced to move far away to places like London, or Niagara falls, not just the pervasive hyper-local and NIMBY interests within Toronto that seek to block new housing at all costs.

The development application process in Toronto is already political. Developers and residents lobby local councillors and staff to "put their thumb on the scale." The outcome is good for no one: less housing gets built, and the intensely complicated process favours large developers who can afford many consultants to get their applications through, at the expense of smaller developers. Conversely, the OLT issues rulings based on facts, not politics. Few would argue that we need more politics in planning: abolishing the OLT would do exactly that.

Regards,

Jacob Dawang
More Neighbours Toronto