



**THE ANNEX
RESIDENTS'
ASSOCIATION**

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theara.org

His Worship John Tory
Mayor, City of Toronto
and
Members of Toronto City Council
100 Queen St. W.
City Hall, Second floor

November 21, 2022

Re: Ontario Bill 39 – Better Municipal Governance Act, 2022

We are writing to voice our opposition to Bill 39 and, more specifically, to ask you to challenge this blatant attack on the democratic process.

Canadians embrace living in a democratic country, one that requires a majority of 50% + 1 to enact a law. Yet here in Ontario, Bill 39 proposes that the mayors of Toronto and Ottawa be granted the power to table and pass by-laws with the support of **just one-third of Council**. All it would take to unleash this power is for the province to pass a regulation establishing provincial priorities and for the Mayor to have the opinion that the by-law "could potentially advance" one of those priorities.

Why is the Ford government doing this?

Appearing as it does on the tail of Bill 23, it is clear that Bill 39 is designed to facilitate the Ford government's developer-friendly agenda, riding roughshod over duly elected municipal representatives. As constituted, it renders our mayor mere proxy for the premier. There is no longer much point to having a municipal council.

Good governance is based upon such cornerstones as freedom of speech, inclusiveness, equality, consent of the governed and an engaged citizenry. Instead, this Bill promotes back-room deals that lack transparency and accountability, it disenfranchises representatives and citizens, and it will ultimately produce poor and rigged decisions. This is NOT what we want nor what we deserve.

We urge you to stand up and fight against this. Please do everything in your power to reject this atrocious Bill. We ask that **you stand together with your fellow democratically elected representatives, that you repudiate Bill 39** and in doing so that you **protect the democratic governance of our city**.

Sincerely,

Rita Bilerman
Chair, Annex Residents' Association