



So You Want to Run For Council?

Visit [www.MunicipalEducation.ca](http://www.MunicipalEducation.ca) to learn more and register today!



## Goodbye OMB ... Eventually.

In December 2017, Ontario passed the “*Building Better Communities and Conserving Watersheds Act 2017.*” This bill overhauled the province’s land use planning appeals system, replacing the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) with the **Local Planning Appeal Tribunal (LPAT)**.

This Act:

- reduces the number and types of matters which can be appealed;
- limits the grounds of appeal that can be advanced before the LPAT;
- eliminates the introduction of new information (no more *de novo* hearings; i.e. hearings re-done with *new* information), and limits who can participate in LPAT’s written or oral hearings. Notably, any appeal will be based only on the information considered in the original planning decision – requiring proactive diligence by community members!

**What this means to you:** Property owners should understand how local planning decisions are made as these decisions have significance for our lakes and our properties.

Decisions made at the local municipal level will now have greater impact than under the current system as decisions are not going to be as easily appealed (although appealing under the OMB does take resources that are not always available, the option to appeal currently does exist).

Under the proposed changes, the option to appeal planning decisions will be reduced. This could be both positive and negative for interested parties depending on the local decision made. We do know that it will become **increasingly important for property owners to ensure that they participate in the local planning decision making process**, including providing input into the Official Planning process, and **most importantly, becoming involved in the municipal election process.**

For more information, see: [www.foca.on.ca](http://www.foca.on.ca)

**Note:** Although this new Act has been passed, it will not be in effect until it is “enacted” by the province. The date for this is not yet determined as there may be new responsibilities of local governments which must be established to allow this process to continue via the introduction of LPAT.

If you are interested in running in the October 22 election, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) has provided an online course, “**So You Want to Run for Council**” which will provide an overview of what you need to know before you decide to run for municipal office and what you should know to begin your candidacy.

The course costs \$75 and takes about 90 minutes. Also, you will have access to the course for a 30 day period.

Nominations may be made by completing and filing in the office of the Clerk, nominations on the prescribed form and accompanied by the prescribed nomination filing fee of \$200.00 for the Head of Council (mayor) and \$100.00 for all other offices.

For more information about running in North Kawartha, see the municipal website, which is at: [northkawartha.on.ca](http://northkawartha.on.ca) and search for the **Candidates** page.

For more details about the online course from AMO, go to [municipaleducation.ca](http://municipaleducation.ca) and click on the **Catalog** link. It deals with 18 topics from *Behaviour in public meetings to What you should know before you run for office.*

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