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# Queen's Park Update

## ***Cancellation of the Local Planning Appeal Support Centre***

Less than one year into its operation, the Province has announced that the Local Planning Appeal Support Centre (LPASC) is being shut. The LPASC, together with the Local Planning Appeals Tribunal, which replaced the Ontario Municipal Board, resulted from The Building Better Communities and Conserving Watersheds Act, 2017.

LPASC was launched in April 2018 to help people understand and navigate the land use planning and appeal process in Ontario. The LPASC Act, 2017 mandated the establishment and administration of a cost-effective and efficient system for providing support services, and to establish criteria for determining the eligibility of persons to receive the support. The LPASC has until June 30, 2019 to wind down the business. Effective immediately, LPASC will no longer be accepting new requests for professional services from the public.

The Local Planning Appeal Support Centre introduced its interim plan for information and professional services and invited feedback from the community. The Centre draft plan which set out two tiers of support:

Information services – free information and guidance for all individuals and groups interested in understanding or participating in the land use planning and appeal process, and

Professional services – free professional planning and/or legal services for cases dealing with a development application, policy amendment or in support of an LPAT appeal. Clients may have an opportunity to set up a service agreement for professional services if their case meets certain [eligibility criteria], such as the underlying issues are not consistent or do not conform with existing laws, approved planning policies or regulations.

The establishment of the Centre had been warmly welcomed by resident and ratepayers associations across the Province. The Centre conducted a consultation process, asking: “what services would be most important to you?”, and “what additional services could be provided?” Unfortunately the government did not wait for the results of the consultation, choosing instead to cancel the organization.

As Mary Lee, Executive Director of LPASC stated “Land use planning can be complicated, and we are here to help the public engage early in planning and navigate the appeals process as quickly and effectively as possible.” The cancellation is deeply disappointing, and leads to concerns as to what other changes to the Land Use Planning and Appeals system the government may be planning?

FUN has sent a letter to the Provincial Government protesting the closing of the Local Planning Appeal Support Centre (LPASC).

Please e-mail a copy of this Report to anyone that you think might be interested.