



Ontario Association of
Landscape Architects

A component organization of the
Canadian Society of Landscape Architects

April 1, 2021

Hon. Steve Clark
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
17th Floor, 777 Bay Street
Toronto, ON M5G 2E5

Dear Minister Clark,

Re: MZOs and the Provincial Policy Statement (PPS) – urged not to proceed with Schedule 3, Bill 257

I am writing to you today on behalf of the Ontario Association of Landscape Architects (OALA). Landscape architecture is the profession which applies artistic and scientific principles to the planning, design and management of both natural and built environments. The OALA continues to support the advancement of service to the public and the profession with over 2,000 members.

Many of our members have reached out to express their strong objections with the proposed legislative amendment to the Planning Act that would retroactively remove the requirement for Ministerial Zoning Orders (MZOs) to be consistent with the Provincial Policy Statement (PPS), except in the Greenbelt [Schedule 3 of Bill 257].

Our members are concerned that without requirements to protect Ontario's natural areas, features and functions, including Provincially Significant Wetlands, there will be a loss of irreplaceable natural heritage systems and subsequent increased flooding and erosion. We believe that natural heritage also plays an important role in the health and well-being of residents and the economy of a community and these are key to the rebuilding and recovery of Ontario.

Landscape architects work extensively to restore and protect natural heritage systems and develop innovative design approaches for protecting natural environmental features and building sustainable neighbourhoods. They also recognize the role these systems play in the development of strong communities and a strong economy.

In preparing this letter we have consulted with other stakeholders including the Ontario Professional Planning Institute (OPPI) and we are supportive of the position they shared with you in their letter dated April 1, 2021.

Promoting, improving and advancing the profession of landscape architecture and maintaining standards of professional practice and conduct consistent with the need to serve and to protect the public interest.



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The OALA supports the economic recovery focus the Government is seeking to achieve however, we believe that consideration of the PPS, specifically the protection of our natural heritage, is vital to the prevention of future flooding and erosion and the promotion of strong communities, a strong economy, and a clean and healthy environment. The PPS provides provincial policy direction on key land use planning issues that affect communities, including protection of the environment and resources (such as wetlands and woodlands) that underpin vital and healthy building of Ontario's growth and economy.

We urge you not to proceed with the legislative amendment contained in Section 3 of Bill 257. The OALA would be pleased to offer our expertise and participate in future consultations on achieving outcomes that support good planning.

Sincerely,
ONTARIO ASSOCIATION OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Aina Budrevics'. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Aina Budrevics
OALA Executive Director

Cc: The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier
The Honourable John Yakabuski, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry
The Honourable Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance
Kate Manson-Smith, Deputy Minister, Municipal Affairs and Housing
Councillor Johanna Downey (Greenbelt Council Member)
Edward McDonnell, CEO, Greenbelt Fund
Susan Wiggins, Executive Director, Ontario Professional Planners Institute
[OALA Council Members](#)