

November 16, 2021

Provincial Planning Policy Branch
Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
777 Bay Street, 13th Floor
Toronto, ON M5G 2E5

Sent by email: planningconsultation@ontario.ca

RE: EBR Posting 019-4419
Bill 13 - *Supporting People and Businesses Act*
Comments on the Proposed Changes to the *Planning Act*

On behalf of the City of Thunder Bay, these comments are provided in response to the request for feedback.

The City of Thunder Bay is supportive of the proposed changes to the *Planning Act* under Bill 13. The proposed additional delegations that will enable municipalities to streamline the processing of minor zoning by-law amendments, temporary use by-laws, and lifting of holding symbols are positive changes that offer the opportunity to advance development proposals in a more timely fashion and could work to lighten the busy workloads of municipal councils.

In addition to these, it is suggested that council's also be given the opportunity to delegate authority to grant minor variances under s. 45 of the *Planning Act* to an employee, since the nature of these proposals is similar to minor zoning by-law amendments. Where employees are delegated authority for approvals clear direction on public engagement responsibilities should be provided.

Finally, to ensure accountability it is recommended that the Ministry consider the benefit that staff who are recognized as Registered Professional Planners (RPP) with the Ontario Professional Planners Institute could provide, in making decisions on proposals under the *Planning Act*.

Yours truly,



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