

# Memo

To: Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism

From: Planning, Development and Building Services, Legal and Finance  
Departments, Town of Oakville

Date: November 24, 2022

Subject: ERO number 019-6196 Proposed Changes to the Ontario Heritage Act and its regulations: Bill 23 (Schedule 6) – the Proposed More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022

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## Comments

The Town of Oakville is aligned with the province's goal of building 1.5 million homes over the next 10 years. The town also supports the purpose and intent sustaining the province's land use planning framework exemplified in the *Planning Act* and the 2019 Growth Plan, including the:

- protection of ecological systems, including natural areas, features and functions
- conservation of features of significant architectural, cultural, historical, archaeological or scientific interest;
- integrated planning, adequate provision and efficient use of communication, transportation, sewage and water services, waste management systems and public service facilities;
- orderly development, protection and achievement of safe, healthy & complete communities;
- adequate provision of a full range and mix of housing, including affordable housing with the prioritization of intensification in strategic growth areas;
- protection of the financial and economic well-being of the province and its municipalities;
- promotion of development that is designed to be sustainable, to support public transit and to be oriented to pedestrians; and
- integration of climate change considerations into land use planning and growth management

Land use planning for growth and development that supports economic prosperity, protects the environment and helps communities achieve a high quality of life remains pivotal for the Town of Oakville and the Province of Ontario.

Town staff submits the following comments to the province on ERO number 019-6196:

### **Ontario Heritage Act, Section 27, Register**

- Town staff supports the change to an accessible register on municipal websites
- Town staff are seeking clarification on the following matters:
  - Will there be an opportunity to provide input on the type of listing criteria if Reg. 9/06 is not used?
  - Will there be an opportunity to assist in the refinement to the proposed approach for retroactive objections to a listing?
- In the context of the provincial interest from the *Planning Act* for the “conservation of features of significant architectural, cultural, historical, archaeological or scientific interest”, could the province clarify how local municipalities will balance the new requirements for removing properties from the municipal register within two years if not designated?

### **Ontario Heritage Act, Section 29, Designation by municipal by-law**

- If the proposed requirement for meeting two or more criteria prescribed in Regulation 9/06, can the province clarify that this will not affect existing designation by-laws?
- In the context of the provincial interest from the *Planning Act* for the “conservation of features of significant architectural, cultural, historical, archaeological or scientific interest”, could the province clarify how this will be balanced with the new requirement that a property must be listed on the Register prior to a prescribed event OPA, ZBA, Subdivision application? In many cases, cultural heritage resources are first identified when a development application is submitted.

### **Ontario Heritage Act, Section 41, Designation of heritage conservation district**

- Could the province clarify if there will be an opportunity to review the proposed criteria in order to inform the town’s work on heritage conservation districts?