



**Greater Ottawa Home Builders' Association**  
Association des constructeurs d'habitations d'Ottawa

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Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing  
Provincial Planning Policy Branch  
777 Bay Street, 13th floor  
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3  
PlanningConsultation@ontario.ca

**Re: ERO 026-0305 Proposed Changes to Various Regulations Under the Planning Act to Facilitate the Electronic Submission of Information and Materials to Approval Authorities and Allow Notices to be Given Electronically to the Province**

Please accept the below from the Greater Ottawa Home Builders' Association (GOHBA) as its submission to the government's request for feedback on *Proposed Changes to Various Regulations Under the Planning Act to Facilitate the Electronic Submission of Information and Materials to Approval Authorities and Allow Notices to be Given Electronically to the Province* (ERO 026-0305).

GOHBA has been the proud voice for the Ottawa home building community since 1951. Our 450+ members include builders, developers, professional renovators, trade contractors, suppliers and manufacturers serving the residential construction and professional renovation industry.

Our comments follow on our submission to 'Newspaper Notice Requirements and Consequential Housekeeping Changes' (ERO 019-8370) and is complementary to and in concert with those of the Ontario Home Builders' Association as the provincial voice of the residential construction industry.

**GOHBA's Position**

GOHBA supports the government's efforts towards building a digital Ontario and the proposed changes to various regulations under the *Planning Act* that would:

- remove the requirement for information and material to include an original or certified copy, and
- allow required notices to be given electronically to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

Eliminating requirements for original or certified paper copies will reduce unnecessary administrative costs, duplication, printing, couriering, and document handling for applicants, municipalities, and approval authorities alike.

It is important to incorporate policies which expedite development application processes and eliminate delays. By modernizing the process, the Ministry is taking proactive steps to identify best practices.

As these changes are implemented, it will be important to ensure that digital systems remain reliable, accessible, and interoperable across jurisdictions to avoid creating new procedural barriers or inconsistencies.

### **Digitization of the Planning Regime Will Support More Housing Supply**

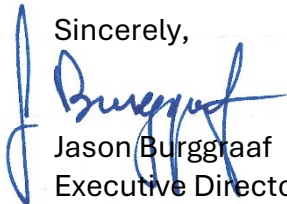
In the context of Ontario's housing supply objectives, reducing administrative and procedural inefficiencies in the planning approvals system is essential. Digital submission and notification processes can help shorten review timelines, reduce duplication, improve inter-agency coordination, and allow staff resources to be focused on substantive planning matters rather than document administration.

GOHBA encourages the Province expand these efforts and work with municipalities and approval authorities toward greater standardization of digital planning submission requirements, formats, and processes across Ontario. Greater consistency would improve efficiency for applicants, reduce administrative burden, and support faster and more predictable approvals.

### **Conclusion**

We thank the Ministry for the opportunity to comment on this proposal and we are pleased to answer questions or provide further information as requested.

Sincerely,



Jason Burggraaf  
Executive Director