



MEMORANDUM



Bill 162: Get It Done Act, 2024

By: Stephanie Fleming

On February 20, 2024, Mr. Prabmeet Singh Sarkaria, the Minister of Transportation, introduced Bill 162, the Get It Done Act, 2024. This is an omnibus bill, proposing changes to a variety of acts, including the *Environmental Assessment Act*, the *Highway Traffic Act*, the *Official Plan Adjustments Act, 2023*, the *Photo Card Act, 2008*, the *Protecting Against Carbon Taxes Act, 2024*, and the *Public Transportation and Highway Improvement Act*. It is currently in the second reading stage and has been referred to the Standing Committee on Heritage, Infrastructure and Cultural Policy for comment.

In terms of municipal law, the most relevant changes to the legislation are those to the *Official Plan Adjustments Act, 2023* and the *Environmental Assessment Act*.

Official Plan Adjustments Act, 2023

The *Official Plan Adjustments Act, 2023* was initially passed on December 6, 2023 to address certain changes made by the previous Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Mr. Steven Clark, to the official plans of several municipalities in the course of making his final decision on same. As the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, he was entitled and required to make this decision under the *Planning Act*.

Some of these proposed changes were quite contentious and this Act was originally proposed by the current Minister for Municipal Affairs and Housing, Mr. Paul Calandra, to address these concerns. At the time this Act was proposed and passed, however, municipalities had not yet

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provided all of their comments in respect of the requested changes, specifically as to whether there were any they wished to retain or alter.

As such, this Bill proposes to incorporate the remaining comments from these municipalities to include those requested changes, through amendments to the Table in section 1 and 2 of the Act. These are municipality-specific and based upon the original decision of Mr. Clark in respect of each official plan for the relevant municipality. These changes are retroactive and are deemed to be in existence as of the date that the official plan was initially passed.

Environmental Assessment Act

The proposed amendment in the Bill is quite minor, clarifying that a municipality may begin to purchase or expropriate land for a project prior to the completion of an environmental assessment.

This is part of a larger change, however, to the environmental assessment process. The intent is to streamline said assessments and help critical infrastructure be built faster. This is not within the parameters of this Bill, however; such processes are found in the accompanying regulations for the *Environmental Assessment Act*. Four new regulations were made on February 16, 2024, as follows: O. Reg. 53/24: General and Transitional Matters, O. Reg. 51/24: Exemptions from the Act and from Part II.1 of the Act, O. Reg. 52/24 (amending O. Reg. 231/08): Transit Projects and Metrolinx Undertakings, and O. Reg. 50/24: Part II.3 Projects- Designations and Exemptions.

These regulations set out the requirements for various types of environmental assessments as well a new system by which various infrastructure projects are classified into different project lists. Certain projects may be required to undertake new or different environmental assessments in order to proceed; others will be exempt from this process altogether. The application process itself may be streamlined depending on the type of project proposed; it is context-dependent.

These regulations are currently in force.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to my contact information at the bottom of the first page.

-SAF