

OMB REFORM CONSULTATIONS

Themes	Responses
OMB's jurisdiction and Power	The OMB makes decisions that municipal councils are unwilling to make due to its low popularity among their constituents. The OMB's powers should not be limited to just the provincial interest because its decisions have been based on the provincial, regional, municipal interest. Its broad powers are needed for it to be flexible and so, the broad jurisdiction of the OMB is necessary.
Citizen Participation and Local Perspective	The OMB has been held at fault for always siding with developers. Part of the reason is that by the time decisions come to the OMB, all the necessary studies from planners, engineers and architects have been completed. Because of this, citizen groups are forced to counteract every aspect of the study and to do that, they have to hire experts in those fields which gets costly for them. For developers, the application for the appeal has to be developed and well thought out. It is difficult for the public to challenge those applications. The process is currently very court like in nature.
Clear and Predictable decision making	A broader perspective in the OMB is also necessary as the current board has too much of a court focus since many of them are lawyers. The process should be a bit more casual and less court like.
Modern procedures and faster decisions	The OMB needs more adjudicators. One of the biggest detriments in appealing a decision to the OMB is the long appeal process. It needs more adjudicators to remove the back log in the appeal process. Long appeals also create a financial burden on the OMB and the developer so having more adjudicators will help in resolving that problem.
Alternative dispute resolution and fewer hearings	A local appeal board should be created at the Municipal level to hear appeals on decisions from municipal council. It would allow for an easier appeal process for developers while allowing citizens a greater range of participation. Under the current system, citizens are limited in partaking in the appeal process because of how costly and time consuming the appeal process is for them. Reform will allow citizens to explain what their concerns are and make it more affordable for all parties. It would also be more casual and effective at allowing public access.