

The Corporation of the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake Information Report to Council

SUBJECT: ERO Posting 019-6619 – Municipal Reporting on Planning Matters
DATE: 2023-03-21
REPORT #: CDS-23-056
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BACKGROUND INFORMATION

This report has been prepared to provide Council information on the proposed Minister's Regulation under the *Planning Act*. The regulation was posted on the Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO) on February 6, 2023, and it was open for comments until March 8, 2023.

The posting includes a list of municipalities to which the regulation will apply. Niagara-on-the-Lake is not included on the list; however, the information provided indicates that the Minister may amend the regulation to include additional municipalities as needed.

As proposed, the regulation would require municipalities to collect and regularly submit data on planning applications/matters. The Province would use this information to monitor the Housing Supply Action Plan commitments and measure progress toward constructing 1.5 million new homes over the next ten (10) years.

The new regulation has been introduced to increase transparency around land use planning approvals by allowing the Ministry to track application timelines, identify streamlining opportunities, and collect data needed to make evidence-based planning and housing policy decisions.

Generally, the information/data collection proposed by the regulation is information municipalities currently track as part of their planning processes. Municipalities would be required to report on planning application approvals for:

- Official plan amendment applications,
- Zoning by-law amendments,
- Plans of condominium,
- Plans of subdivision,
- Site plan applications,
- Severances (consents),

- Minor variances, and
- The number of housing units built as-of-right.

Reporting on the above planning approval information would be completed quarterly, beginning June 30, 2023. More details can be found in **Appendix I – Proposed Data to be Reported**.

In addition, selected municipalities will be required to report information on the following:

- Areas identified as strategic growth areas (e.g., Glendale)
- Areas subject to intensification targets,
- Employment areas and employment area conversions,
- Existing water and wastewater infrastructure, and
- Major transit station area boundaries.

Finally, municipalities would be required to collect and submit all required data from the past five (5) years, from 2018 to 2022.

The Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake currently tracks information on application volume. For example, Table 1 below details the number of applications processed in 2021 and 2022.

Table 1: Applications Processed in 2021 and 2022

Application Type	2021	2022
Official plan amendments	5	5
Zoning by-law amendments	13	26
Plans of condominium (new)	0	1
Plans of subdivision (new)	0	3
Site plan applications	22	12
Severances (consents)	21	33
Minor variances	42	48
Number of housing units built as-of-right	n/a	n/a

Planning Staff has not historically tracked all the application data currently under consideration.

NEXT STEP / CONCLUSION

Planning Staff supports a uniform, province-wide growth monitoring and tracking methodology. Staff will be collecting application data as part of a monitoring program to track growth and the implementation of the policies of the new Official Plan (once approved). Staff will report on growth monitoring to Council annually or more frequently if the Province imposes requirements on the Town.

As noted, the Town is not included in the list of municipalities required to report. Staff reviewed the ERO posting but did not submit comments.

ATTACHMENTS

- **Appendix I – Proposed Data to be Reported**