

## **Unionville Residents Association**

### **Comment on Bill 23 (More Homes Built Faster Act 2022) – Planning Appeals (ERO 019-6163)**

November 20, 2022

The Unionville Residents Association is one of Markham's largest and most active RAs. While we have a great many concerns with many of the provisions in Bill 23, we will limit our comments in this submission to one item – appeals of planning matters.

The Bill limits 3<sup>rd</sup> party appeals for all planning matters to “key participants (applicant, Province, public bodies, utility providers)” , **which appears to not include RAs**. We strongly oppose this. Our association has been involved in about 10 appeals to the Ontario Land Tribunal or its predecessor agencies in the past 10 years. We've always behaved respectfully, never missed deadlines and never delayed proceedings. Almost all of the appeals have settled. Our organization has added value by boosting participatory democracy and increasing citizen buy-in of these settlements. The very fact of having the appeal as an option has also in many cases expedited settlement prior to reaching the OLT.

Please ensure that accredited citizen groups and resident associations can continue to have a voice in appealing planning matters.