

## **Backgrounder** ***Registered Professional Planners Act, 2017*** **April 12, 2017**

First Reading was given on April 12, 2017, for the *Registered Professional Planners Act, 2017*, and is scheduled for Second Reading in the Ontario legislature by MPP Peter Milczyn on May 11, 2017.

### **Key Points on Why the Proposed Act Matters for Communities in Ontario**

- Since 1994, when the *Ontario Professional Planners Institute Act* was passed, the planning landscape has changed dramatically and has become much more complex.
- This 1994 private legislation was the first in Canada to protect the title “Registered Professional Planner/RPP,” however, many other provinces have since passed public legislation regarding the regulation of the planning profession that goes well beyond the OPPI Act. Where we were once at the forefront, we are now quite behind.
- Public legislation would formally make the planning profession accountable to the government and the people of Ontario.
- Public legislation will further raise awareness of the importance of planning and the role of the planning profession in creating and fostering healthy communities.
- Planning in Ontario has far-reaching implications for our communities and should have more current legislation that better protects the public. The timing of our proposed legislation is particularly important given that our members are instrumental in implementing the upcoming changes to Provincial planning legislation.
- MPP Peter Milczyn’s sponsorship of the Bill is the result of lengthy consultations with many MPPs from all three political parties and their staff. OPPI representatives have also met stakeholders, such as the regulators of related professions and associations and has received positive responses.

## **Key Aspects of the Proposed Act**

- The proposed public Act replaces the current private legislation making the planning profession more accountable to the government and to the people of Ontario.
- The proposed Act would not hinder anyone from practicing planning or giving opinions, however, certain clauses would not allow them to hold themselves out to be a professional planner (not only RPP) or provide a professional opinion on planning matters. This key point will ensure consumer protection in the public interest as well as provide title protection for professional planners. The title “Registered Professional Planner/RPP” would remain protected and reserved for use by practicing Full Members of OPPI. The title “professional planner” would also be protected (except when used in obviously-different contexts, e.g. a financial professional planner in a bank).
- Employers would continue to choose whether they want to require membership or RPP status as a requirement for a position. Changes in title and/or compensation would not be a result of the passage of this proposed Act.
- OPPI already, by by-law, carries out many of the duties of a regulator. Those duties and how these are carried out would simply be specified more precisely by the proposed Act.
- Public member(s) on Council would be a new mandatory requirement under the proposed Act.
- OPPI will continue to improve and enhance Professional Standards.
- The accreditation process for the university planning programs and the certification process for Candidate Members would not change as a result of passage of this proposed Act.

## **Status and Next Steps**

In the coming months, OPPI will continue its outreach to MPPs, members, stakeholders and the public.

It is anticipated that after First and Second Reading that the Bill will be referred to committee for further consideration and then be reported back to the House for Third Reading and passage.

## **Questions?**

If you have questions about the Bill, please feel free to contact the Registrar, Brian Brophey, at [standards@ontarioplanners.ca](mailto:standards@ontarioplanners.ca) or 416-483-1873 x 229.

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