

Submitted on Mon, 03/08/2021 - 09:15

Application ID: 30246

Submitted values are:

Bill or item of business: **Bill 245, Accelerating Access to Justice Act, 2021**

Choose a topic

Do you know the bill title or business (e.g., pre-budget consultations) you'd like to speak or submit material about?

Yes

Choose an application

Which application would you like to submit?

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Are you submitting material as an individual or on behalf of an organization?

I am submitting material as an individual

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Paste submission

Schedule 6 and 10 of the Bill have serious implications for Ontario's administrative justice system, and impair accountability for environmental decision-making and adversely affect the quality and credibility of tribunal proceedings and outcomes. In particular, it will result in loss of specialized subject-matter expertise within the five tribunals, allow the use of hearings, practices or procedures that are ill-conceived alternatives to traditional adjudicative or adversarial procedures, unduly restrict judicial reviews or appeals for certain OLT decisions, and deprive non-parties of the opportunity to make oral submissions to the OLT.

In addition, Schedule 10 of the Bill eliminates ministerial appeals from ERT decisions made

under environmental legislation.

These impacts, as well as other related measures by the Ontario government that have undermined access to justice for Ontarians, are discussed in more detail below.

No environmental non-governmental organizations that regularly participate in appeal proceedings provided input on this and there should have been prior consultation with interested or affected stakeholders about the need for, and the proposed content of, Schedules 6 and 10 of the Bill before they were introduced for First Reading.

I believe the Ford Government is trying to circumvent public interest and consultation for their own benefit. Merging these existing bodies into a single Tribunal will result in the loss of institutional expertise and undermine the capacity to effectively adjudicate cases.

I do not support this and recommend that Schedule 6 and 10 be withdrawn from Bill 245.