

Submitted on Wed, 03/10/2021 - 21:19

Application ID: 30726

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?

Submit material only

Add your information

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

I am submitting material as an individual

Full name

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Paste submission

I wish to register my strong opposition to Schedule 6 of Bill 245, Accelerating Access to Justice Act, 2021. It is shameful that the current government is using the 'cover of Covid' to pass this extraordinary legislation that will markedly reduce the input of citizens and municipalities on a wide range of planning issues. There is no doubt that the intent of the legislation is to permit development with minimal regulation, especially in respect to environmental concerns. This is extremely ill-considered and reckless in light of the crisis we currently face with climate change. It appears that the main impetus for the bill is an attempt to eliminate virtually all the regulatory safeguards currently in place that might prevent the development of Lower Duffins Creek - where there are plans to build a warehouse complex, possibly for Amazon, on a provincially significant wetland site. We need to preserve our wetlands for, among other functions, flood control and to provide a habitat for migratory bird species. The government should heed the

message of the citizen groups which have organized around this issue and withdraw the MZO for this site immediately. This will save us, and future generations, from a terrible mistake. And it should encourage, not actively discourage, this type of informed citizen participation in the future. For democracy, our environment and future generations please remove Schedule 6 from Bill 245.