



March 25, 2024

Hon. Laurie Scott, Chair
c/o Isaiah Thorning
Standing Committee on Heritage, Infrastructure and Cultural Policy
99 Wellesley Street W, Room 1405
Toronto, ON M7A 1A2

Sent electronically

RE: Bill 162, *Get it Done Act*

The Residential and Civil Construction Alliance of Ontario (RCCAO) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments to the Standing Committee on Heritage, Infrastructure and Cultural Policy regarding Bill 162, *Get it Done Act*.

RCCAO is an alliance of key labour and management stakeholders from the residential and civil construction sector. RCCAO's members build the critical infrastructure that all Ontarians rely on. Our goal is to work in cooperation with government to offer realistic solutions to challenges facing the construction industry and which also have wider societal benefits.

Our membership includes the Greater Toronto Sewer and Watermain Contractors Association; Heavy Construction Association of Toronto; International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 793; Joint Residential Construction Association; LiUNA Local 183; Ontario Formwork Association; and Toronto and Area Road Builders Association.

RCCAO welcomes the Government of Ontario's continued focus on critical infrastructure and ensuring that the provincial regulatory landscape facilitates the construction of more homes and infrastructure assets. Bill 162 contains necessary and long overdue reforms to the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (MCEA) process.

For too long, the MCEAs have been a scattershot process that have been a significant driver of procurement costs in Ontario. This has led to regulatory duplications, project delays with no discernible benefit, and impeded the ability to build and maintain critical infrastructure across the province. These reforms, if enacted, offer a predictable environment assessment process that upholds environmental protections, eliminates costly uncertainty from the EA process, and provides predictable timelines and requirements to enable better maintenance and construction of critical infrastructure across Ontario.

Creating a consistent, clear and streamlined EA process will eliminate duplication, provide clear expectations regarding consultations and define timelines for critical infrastructure work while maintaining environmental protections.

RCCAO [research](#) has consistently shown that the MCEA process in Ontario takes too long and costs too much for taxpayers. Given the volume of evidence of the serious implications of the time and cost delays associated with the MCEA process, we are pleased to see the government continue its modernization efforts of the MCEA process.

RCCAO has long been a leading voice in Ontario advocating for reforms to the MCEA process. Our research contains numerous examples of infrastructure projects where the added time and MCEA-related study costs outstrip the capital construction costs of the project itself. Two such examples that illustrate the need for reform are two bridge projects in Caledon:

- A box culvert style bridge that took 2.5 years to build:
 - Capital costs: \$489,000
 - Study costs: \$494,000

- Another box culvert style bridge, going from an existing one-lane to a two-lane (Winston Churchill, Town of Erin):
 - Capital costs: \$600,000 (came in under budget)
 - Study costs: \$1,100,000

The EA process has, for too long, resulted in costly and time-consuming delays for the construction of low-risk municipal infrastructure. It has stifled industry's ability to grow at the pace necessary to keep up with the demand for housing and population growth in the province. Streamlining this process to eliminate the duplication of approvals and to allow projects to proceed as planned by the respective municipalities will go a long way towards remedying this problem.

RCCAO will continue to advocate for sensible reforms to improve the operating environment for Ontario's construction industry. Public policy that better aligns with on-the-ground realities will ensure the province and municipalities maximize available resources to build and maintain critical infrastructure across Ontario.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments to the Standing Committee and look forward to continuing our engagement with the Government of Ontario as it works to address the infrastructure needs of the province.

Sincerely,



Nadia Todorova
Executive Director

Copy to:
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