



TOM MRAKAS
MAYOR

For Immediate Release
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MAYOR MRAKAS' STATEMENT ON BILL 185 – REMOVAL OF YORK REGIONAL PLANNING RESPONSIBILITIES

"The Town of Aurora is fully prepared to move forward with the removal of York Regional planning responsibilities by July 1, 2024, as directed by the Province through Bill 185, the "Cutting Red Tape to Build More Homes Act".

The provincial government introduced Bill 185 on April 10, 2024. Amongst other matters, the Bill specifically directs that York Region is to no longer have planning responsibilities as of July 1, 2024.

This concept of "upper-tier municipalities without planning responsibilities" is not new though. The notion was first introduced as early as 2022 under Bill 23, with the goal of the Province's legislation being to remove barriers to the approval and construction of housing by avoiding duplication of work and expediting the development review process.

Town of Aurora staff have known about these changes and have taken proactive steps since 2022 to fully prepare and be ready to move forward without Regional planning responsibilities.

The Town's updated Official Plan has appropriately built in Regional policies and interests, the development review process has been enhanced, and new local projects are being pursued to promote housing creation and responsible growth management in line with the goals and objectives of the Province.

It is recognized that the Region will still have a role to play in the delivery of infrastructure and other key services, but ultimately when it comes to planning, the Town of Aurora is fully capable of managing its responsibilities independent of the Region."

- 30 -

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