



Weekly Government Relations Report **January 8 – January 11, 2024**

1. Status of Bills

Bill 153, Building Infrastructure Safely Act, 2023

- November 22nd, Introduced.
- November 27th, second reading debate, referred to Standing Committee on Justice Policy

Bill 151, Improving Real Estate Management Act, 2023

- November 16th, Introduced.
- November 21st, Second Reading Debate
- November 22nd, Referred to Standing Committee on Social Policy

Summary of Legislative Debates and Question Period

The legislature is recessed and will next meet on February 20th, 2024.

2. Ministerial Activity & Event Tracking

(a sampling and summary of events and activities of key Ministers in relation to events they conducted to support housing, construction, or related topics).

No Major announcements or Ministerial activity this week.

3. Media Scan

(A sampling of notable media stories involving the housing and land development industry. This is not a comprehensive list of media articles but curated to reflect the highlights.)

[Key take-aways from the 2024 Toronto budget plan \(thestar.com\)](#)

The budget crafted by city staff presented on Wednesday proposes a 2024 spending plan of a whopping \$66.8 billion for city services and capital projects – that's an operating budget of \$17 billion, as well as \$49.8 billion for the 2024-2033 capital budget.

[Receiver appointed to five more Toronto-area housing projects – The Globe and Mail](#)

The legal and financial troubles for Toronto-area condominium developer Vandyk Properties continue in 2024 as delayed orders to appoint a receiver on five more of its building projects have come into effect.

[**Motion to repeal Strong Mayors, Building Homes Act defeated | Sudbury Star \(thesudburystar.com\)**](#)

Kirkland Lake town council defeated a motion asking for the provincial government to repeal the Strong Mayors, Building Homes Act, during its Jan. 9 meeting. Specifically, Coun. Dolly Dikens objects to an amendment to the special powers and duties of the heads of council.

[**Town makes an offer developer can't refuse: heritage trail as access to subdivision \(thepeterboroughexaminer.com\)**](#)

Developer Benny Marotta has decided he would like to take the town up on its offer of an easement that would allow him to use a portion of the Upper Canada Heritage Trail as access from Charlotte Street to his Rand subdivision and the 172 housing units he originally hoped to build.

[**Futuristic towers with over 900 homes to rise above Toronto transit station \(blogto.com\)**](#)

An impressive plan to redevelop City of Toronto-owned lands at a major transit hub was revealed on Tuesday, one that will bring three striking towers and a massive boost of affordable housing to a pocket of the city that has been largely ignored by the ongoing development boom.

[**All eyes on interest rates as real estate market faces uncertain times | Ottawa Citizen**](#)

We're hesitant but purposeful when it comes to Ottawa housing trends for 2024. Here's a look at what several experts think we'll see in the housing market and in our homes.

[**RESCON issues new proposals to stimulate housing - constructconnect.com**](#)

The Residential Construction Council of Ontario (RESCON) has issued a three-step proposal to address continuing housing supply and affordability issues in 2024.

4. GR Activities summary for the week of January 8-11

- Assisted in drafting a letter to Minister Calandra on OHBA's recommendations for Building Code Harmonization and an accompanying briefing note for MMAH staff.
- Counsel is also coordinating meetings for OHBA with MMAH staff, Associate Minister of Housing Rob Flack, and the Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Housing MPP Matt Rae on a variety of subjects.
- Counsel continues to provide strategic advice on the deposit trust and illegal buildings issue, including continued refinement of a draft position paper on illegal building.
- Counsel began working with OHBA on the Job Fund application project for eventual submission to the Ministry of Labour, Immigration Training and Skills Development.
- Ongoing strategic counsel and advice to the Board and staff of OHBA.