

PLANNING, ENVIRONMENT, RESOURCES, LAND DEPUTY MINISTERS' COMMITTEE (PERL) - 2017 PRIORITIES SUMMARY

PRIORITY #	RESULT(S):	CHALLENGE(S):	POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">PRIORITY #1 MUNICIPAL ACT</p>	<p>The Ministry of Municipal Affairs released their changes to the Municipal Act in the fall of 2016. No changes were included in the Municipal Act Review pertaining to Sections 204 to 216 which provides oversight to BIAs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Given that no changes were made to the Municipal Act pertaining to BIAs (Sections 204-216), there have been no updates, revisions or changes to the original challenges presented: Definition of BIAs, BIAs as Local Boards, interpretation of the Municipal Act 204-216. BIAs, through our submission, had an opportunity to strengthen and clarify their role in their municipalities and communities, therefore creating full understanding of their structure/role. Given that the Municipal Act review is behind us, another election year approaches and another 5 years before another review is considered – what advice or interim recommendations could the PERL Deputy Ministers provide? 	<p>Consider partnerships with like organizations (AMO, AMCTO) and the Province to develop one of two strategies in the interim, they are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To develop case studies and best practices which provide Clerks, Councils and BIA Boards of Management some possible solutions and/or direction that provides scenarios they could choose to follow To seek a legal standing on the status of a BIA as a local board, resulting in clarity for Clerks, Council and BIA Board of Management
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">PRIORITY #2 ASSESSMENT: VACANT UNIT REBATE (ATTRACTION REBATE)</p>	<p>The Ministry of Finance is now moving forward with providing municipalities broad flexibility for 2017 and future years. The change was announced in November 2016 and is intended to tailor the vacant rebate and reduction programs to reflect the community needs and circumstances. Municipalities will be required to submit a response to a Ministry of Finance Checklist and a Council Resolution indicating how they will be implementing the changes to the Vacant Unit Rebate and Reduction Programs. OBIAA supports these updated changes and has, in response to the checklist provided to Municipalities, decided to provide responses in the report to echo the question asked on the checklist</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Original challenge: Deteriorating buildings reduce the overall assessment value which can impact the marketable lease rates. BIA's efforts and investment to fill empty spaces is at odds with the vacant unit rebate, which gives incentive to remain vacant. <p>Additionally – where no property standards were in effect, it created an even worse scenario.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instead of 'Vacant Unit Rebate' renaming to 'Attraction Rebate'; and present as an economic development tool for local communities. This tool would facilitate the 30% gain by the municipality and the BIA back into the community to aid revitalization efforts. (similar to Section 37 development process for contribution to green space, park area, etc.) Apply a 'property standards' requirements for each application that must be upheld in order to receive the rebate ongoing as per the allotted timeframe. OBIAA would like to be able to provide education, training and striking a working committee that would include provincial stakeholders, such as representatives from MMAH, EDCO, AMO, AMCTO, BIA representatives and municipal staff, with the objective to create communications materials, sample bylaws (in clear terms) and best practices.

<p>PRIORITY #3 ACCESSIBILITY</p>	<p>The Accessibility projects were deemed so successful that our Advisory Committee recommended that OBIAA consider passing a resolution for the BIAs to include accessibility as part of their strategic plans. With full support, the OBIAA Board resolved that:</p> <p>BIAS WILL INCORPORATE ACCESSIBILITY FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES AS A STRATEGIC FOCUS IN THEIR ANNUAL PLANNING.</p> <p>This was done to encourage the embedding of accessibility in the practices, policies and procedures of Ontario BIAs and to empower BIA staff to increase their engagement with the work of accessibility. We thank the Accessibility Directorate for our past partnership opportunities and look forward to continuing our advances of accessibility issues and opportunities in BIAs.</p>
<p>PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITY #1 RED TAPE CHALLENGE</p>	<p>We understand that 'Red Tape' continues to be identified by our membership as one of the top three hardships. We understand that this government through the Ministry of Economic Development & Growth has established a Task Force to deal with Red Tape, but in review, we noticed that small business is not included: we are recommending that OBIAA be a voice for reducing red tape for small business and Ontario 'Main Streets' (BIAs)</p>
<p>PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITY #2 RETURN ON INVESTMENT OF BIAS: PROJECT PART 2</p>	<p>As indicated above, ongoing data gathering and management are critical to the ongoing success of this project and ensuring it will have future relevance. To continue to determine growth in capacity, OBIAA has to continue to measure and analyze data. As a result, OBIAA would like to submit a second proposal to continue the work to determine:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to close the data gap (e.g. sales, sales tax, gross leasable area) • Tool development for BIAs to use to track their GDP as well as education of BIAs in the use and importance of data collection • Creation or identification of a centralized data portal (who & where) • Funding to reach data that was previously financially unobtainable (e.g. MPAC, Stats Canada) • French translation of the Final Report • Changes to MMAH's Financial Information Report (FIR) and understanding of ongoing analysis of the FIR • Collaboration in capacity building for OBIAA and BIAs in order to continue to support small business and community development