



Discussion Paper
Toronto Resident Community Boards
Rev. June 2019

DRAFT LEGISLATION

Toronto Municipal Code

CHAPTER 25 – CITY GOVERNMENT IN THE COMMUNITY

TORONTO RESIDENT COMMUNITY BOARDS

P. Moulder, April 2014 / Rev. June 2019





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INTRODUCTION

The City of Toronto Act, Sections 141 through 147, provide the “Power to establish city boards”.

<https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/06c11>

In the late 1960’s New York City created Community Boards “to encourage and facilitate coterminous community districts and service districts to be used for the planning of community life within the city, the participation of citizens in city government within their communities, and the efficient and effective organization of agencies that deliver municipal services in local communities and geographic areas.”

In 1961, the concept of community planning received an enormous boost from Jane Jacobs's classic, “The Death and Life of Great American Cities”. Her recommendations were taken up in the 1963 New York City Charter. The Charter extended the neighborhood-governance concept to the other boroughs, establishing "Community Planning Boards" with advisory powers throughout the city. These boards eventually became known simply as "Community boards."

New York City Community Boards have functioned satisfactorily for the past 50 years, and the legislation governing the New York City Community Boards is found in the New York City Charter, Chapter 70. This chapter is the model and basis for similar draft legislation found in this document to be added to the City of Toronto Municipal Code to provide Community Boards for the residents of Toronto.

Formalizing “community consultation practices” is now an imperative for the City of Toronto, and this can be done through the implementation of Resident Community Boards. In fact, there is probably no better way to ensure “community consultation” is done well, is respectful to residents, and has positive impact on our communities and city management and operations. Local residents and taxpayers are always the “primary stakeholders” when local issues arise.

To assist your review of the draft legislation for Toronto Community Boards, **Part I** of this Discussion Paper contains “Frequently Asked Questions” (FAQ) and attempts to anticipate the important questions residents would have on this topic.



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Part 2 contains the draft legislation for Toronto Community Boards and the clauses in the document are referenced in the FAQ section.

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An additional resource for residents review is the NYC 2010 Handbook for Community Board Members. It has been extensively expanded and edited over the many years since its first edition in 1978. Most importantly, it has been read and used as a reference by thousands of community board members over the past four decades. It, no doubt, will assist in the future creation of a Handbook for Toronto Resident Community Boards.

<http://www.nyc.gov/html/mancb3/downloads/resources/handbook%20for%20community%20board%20members.pdf>

Toronto Resident Community Boards will greatly assist residents and neighbourhood associations, as well as City Council and staff, through the legislated organization of input by residents directly into the Decision-Making Process by City Council that is coordinated, inclusive, transparent, efficient, well-informed and effective.

The Toronto Official Plan (OP), Zoning By-laws, Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe (GPGGH) and Provincial Policy Statement (PPS) and other legislation are “plain language” legislation created with input from residents.

There are opportunities for online education on planning Legislation, together with classroom education, which would benefit residents, council members, planners, city staff, appeal board members, and developers.
