

Tribunals Ontario
Assessment Review Board

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Tribunaux décisionnels Ontario
Commission de révision de l'évaluation foncière

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September 15, 2020

TO: ARB Stakeholders
Counsel of the Assessment Bar
Property Tax Representatives
Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC)
Municipalities

RE: ARB Changes - Status

We are writing to provide an update on the changes that were expressed through memos dated July 3rd and November 22, 2019, along with additional news regarding a stakeholder committee that will be formed.

What's New!

The ARB has heard from the Stakeholders regarding having a committee formed to deal with the resolution of appeals. The Board has decided to move forward with this request and a call for members will be going out in the very near future.

We are very excited about moving forward with the new Appeals Management Committee and look forward to engaging with many of you through this process.

Update on Changes:

Further to the memos dated July 3rd and November 22nd, many of the changes came into effect January 1, 2020 and there has been huge success in the resolution of appeals through:

- the assignment of the hearing month
- legacy appeals strategy, we have seen a reduction of 50% of the appeals that were identified in January 2020
- dismissal process
- staggered disclosure timeframe in the summary stream.

To provide you a snapshot of the current appeals and properties, currently the Board has as of September 1, 2020 58,851 appeals against 14,012 properties.

Over the last several months the ARB has experienced several changes, and based on what we have heard, what we have come to learn through this last year, and the postponement of the 2021 taxation year, we have decided to not proceed with the Rule change to Rule 18(d) – Grounds of an Appeal.

Next Steps:

The Board continues to focus on improving service delivery by continuous enhancement to the Rules of Practice and Procedure and our processes. Some of the changes that we are currently embarking on are as follows:

- Rules of Practice and Procedure – providing further clarity, updating rules, removing the term “mediation” and changes to the schedule of events.
- Schedule of Events timelines – reduction of the timelines to 40 weeks beginning with any new appeals that are filed with the Board for taxation 2021
- Expert Report List – The Board requested information on the status of expert reports and will be scheduling if appropriate settlement conferences and/or hearings to assist the parties in resolving the appeals

The Board will be posting the Rules for comments in the coming weeks and encourages your suggestions at that time.

Please continue to visit the [ARB website](#) for updates.

We look forward to working with you in resolving appeals, and we appreciate your commitment and dedication to the Board’s process.

Thank you

Maureen Helt
A/Associate Chair

Kelly Triantafilou
Registrar