

## TRIBUNAL WATCH ONTARIO

<https://tribunalwatch.ca/>

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### Statement regarding Recruitment of Chair for Ontario Land Tribunal

Tribunal Watch Ontario is monitoring the recruitment of a Chair for the Ontario Land Tribunal (OLT). We applaud the [posted advertisement](#) for the position that describes the OLT as an “independent and impartial” tribunal and seeks a candidate with leadership, experience and aptitude to lead this consolidated adjudicative body that affects the lives of many people and neighbourhoods.

The government’s advertisement acknowledges the provisions of the *Adjudicative Tribunals Accountability, Governance and Appointments Act, 2009*, requiring a competitive, merit-based process. Tribunal Watch Ontario is relying on the government to conduct an open and truly competitive process that identifies the successful candidate based on the skills, experience and related expertise of the candidates. The legislation also requires the government to specify the steps intended to be taken in the recruitment process. For a significant appointment such as this, Tribunal Watch Ontario calls for the selection committee to be comprised of duly appropriate members, such as those described in TWO’s [Adjudicative Tribunal Justice Council paper](#): at a minimum, a former chair of one of the constituent tribunals, an academic, and a practitioner.

The Ontario Land Tribunal is an amalgamation of five adjudicative bodies (Board of Negotiation, Conservation Review Board, Environmental Review Board, Local Planning Appeal Tribunal, and Mining and Lands Tribunal). Its mandate requires a Chair with in-depth knowledge and expertise in land-use planning, environmental preservation, the protection of cultural heritage, sensitive and appropriate expropriation and compensation. The Chair will be responsible for adjudication, strategic planning and the overall performance of the OLT, including the recruitment and performance of its members and staff.

Tribunal Watch Ontario encourages the government to ensure a transparent selection process to secure the best possible candidate for the Chair’s position: a person with administrative law experience, subject-matter expertise, and a demonstrated understanding of the principles of procedural fairness and natural justice.

Tribunal Watch Ontario advocates for an appointment that will ensure adjudicative independence and promote access-to-justice values like fairness, expertise and inclusion, and a credible appointment that will be free of any appearance of political influence or patronage. Ontario’s affected communities deserve no less.