



January 14, 2015

Hon. Madeleine Meilleur, MPP
Attorney General
720 Bay Street, 11th Floor
Toronto, Ontario M5G 2K1
Email: mmeilleur.mpp@liberal.ola.org

Re: Bill 52, Protection of Public Participation Act, 2014

Dear Attorney General Meilleur:

We are writing in support of Bill 52, *Protection of Public Participation Act, 2014* which you introduced in the Ontario Legislature on December 1, 2014. The Bill, which is substantively the same as former Bill 83, was debated for Second Reading on December 10, 2014, and received supportive comments from members of all Parties at that time.

Bill 52 provides an effective response to the problem of strategic lawsuits against public participation (SLAPPs) in Ontario and would prevent the misuse of the courts from SLAPP suits without depriving anyone of appropriate remedies for expression that causes significant harm. It reflects the recommendations of the Anti-SLAPP Advisory Panel that was established four years ago to provide advice on the content of legislation to target SLAPPs.

The Panel, which was chaired by Dean Mayo Moran of the Faculty of Law of the University of Toronto, concluded that there was a need for anti-SLAPP legislation in Ontario. In its report, the Panel stated, "it was persuaded that threats of lawsuits for speaking out on matters of public interest, combined with a number of actual lawsuits, deter significant numbers of people from participating in discussion on such matters."

We strongly support the legislation to protect the public from merit-less lawsuits intended to deter them from engaging in discussion on matters of public interest. Accordingly, we strongly urge the Ontario government to ensure the expeditious enactment of this important Bill.

Yours truly,

Geoff Kettel
Co-Chair, FoNTRA
129 Hanna Road
Toronto, Ontario
M4G 3N6
gkettel@gmail.com

George Milbrandt
Co-Chair, FoNTRA
193 Wanless Ave
Toronto, ON
M4N 1W4
del@ican.net

Cc: Ms. Sylvia Jones, MPP, PC Critic
Mr. Jagmeet Singh, MPP, NDP Critic
FoNTRA Representatives & Other Interested Individuals

The Federation of North Toronto Residents' Associations (FoNTRA) is a non-profit, volunteer organization comprised of 32 member organizations. Its members, all residents' associations, include at least 170,000 Toronto residents within their boundaries. The 32 residents' associations that make up FoNTRA believe that Ontario and Toronto can and should achieve better development. Its central issue is not *whether* Toronto will grow, but *how*. FoNTRA believes that sustainable urban regions are characterized by environmental balance, fiscal viability, infrastructure investment and social renewal.