

Photo: Frank Zechner



The Station Street bridge and dam in Erin, Ont.



A wastewater treatment plant in Ontario.



Cyclists ride along the water's edge in Ottawa.



A road through Newmarket, Ont.

## REPORT BUILDS THE CASE FOR MCEA REFORM

**The Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (MCEA)** process in Ontario is broken. Multi-year delays are now common. Communities are throwing away money, and losing key opportunities for economic growth. The time for reform is now!

Our sixth report on MCEAs, “Case Studies that Support Ontario’s Municipal Class Environmental Assessment Process,” provides concrete examples of the lengthy delays that this duplicative process has caused at a substantial cost to Ontario communities.

“Under the current regime, rebuilding aging structures or constructing new infrastructure is taking too long under the MCEA process, especially when Ontario municipalities must ensure that our public works are more resilient to withstand severe weather events,” says report author Frank Zechner, an environmental lawyer and engineer. “Delays have impeded positive outcomes such as sewage system upgrades.”

Nine of the 12 projects studied in this report experienced process delays of more than two years. At least half of the projects involved consultant and report costs of over \$500,000, and at least four cost \$2 million or more.

Delays are outrageous. Costs have escalated. But there are solutions.

The report provides nine recommendations for reforming the MCEA process. These recommendations provide tangible actions that will simplify the process and eliminate the guessing game over the length of time for when approvals can be achieved. The recommendations will also streamline the process for all parties involved.

Municipalities need to focus limited infrastructure budgets on the construction and rehabilitation of assets, instead of a complicated process for environmental assessments.

Ontario’s government intends to modernize the process – your support and input would be helpful. Please contact your local MPP.



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