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<p>ONTARIO PLANNING PRACTICE WeirFoulds LLP Release No. 5, December 2025</p>

What’s New in this Update:

This release features updates to Chapter 1—Planning Act, Appendix IF—Issues in Focus and Appendix WPL—Legislatively Defined Terms.

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Highlights

- **LEGISLATIVELY DEFINED TERMS—ADDITIONAL NEEDS HOUSING**—“. . . means any housing, including dedicated facilities, in whole or in part, that is used by people who have specific needs beyond economic needs, including but not limited to, needs such as mobility requirements or support functions required for daily living. Examples of additional needs housing may include, but are not limited to long-term care homes, adaptable and accessible housing, and housing for persons with disabilities such as physical, sensory or mental health disabilities, and housing for older persons.” (Provincial Planning Statement, 2024 under the *Planning Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c. P.13).
- **LEGISLATIVELY DEFINED TERMS—EMPLOYMENT AREA**—“. . . means those areas designated in an official plan for clusters of business and economic activities including manufacturing, research and development in connection with manufacturing, warehousing, goods movement, associated retail and office, and ancillary facilities. An employment area also includes areas of land described by subsection 1(1.1) of the *Planning Act*. Uses that are excluded from employment areas are institutional and commercial, including retail and office not associated with the primary employment use listed above.” (Provincial Planning Statement, 2024 under the *Planning Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c. P.13.).
- **LEGISLATIVELY DEFINED TERMS—HOUSING OPTIONS**—“. . . means a range of housing types such as, but not limited to single-detached, semidetached, rowhouses, townhouses, stacked townhouses, multiplexes, additional residential units, tiny homes, laneway housing, garden suites, rooming houses and multi-residential buildings, including low-and mid-rise apartments. The term can also refer to a variety of housing arrangements and forms such as, but not limited to, life lease housing, co-ownership housing, co-operative housing, community land trusts, land lease community homes, affordable housing, additional needs housing, multigenerational housing, student housing, farm worker housing, culturally appropriate housing, supportive, community and transitional housing and housing related to employment, educational, or institutional uses, such as long-term care homes.” (Provincial Planning Statement, 2024 under the *Planning Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c. P.13.).
- **ISSUES IN FOCUS**—What are the notice requirements to approve or deny an application to demolish a