

TORONTO IN BRIEF

[Metrolinx to sell rights above Eglinton LRT stations](#)

Metrolinx is to issue a request for proposals today to build above four of the LRT stations on the new Eglinton Crosstown line. The regional transportation agency expects to earn up to \$76-million selling rights to build above stations at Hollis Road in Weston, the northeast and southeast corners of Eglinton Avenue West and Keele Street, and the northeast corner of Bathurst Street and Eglinton Avenue West. Metrolinx hopes to choose a developer for each station by May and execute purchase agreements by December.

[Toronto State of Heritage Report](#)
Heritage Toronto and **Toronto Historical Association** released the [State](#)

[of Heritage Report](#) February 24 assessing the current state of the city's heritage and goals for strengthening the heritage sector. A state of heritage report is released every four years. This year's report reflects positive feedback on repositioning heritage in the official plan and putting the Inventory of Heritage Properties into a single easily-accessible source. The report highlights the need to allocate more staff and resources to enforce existing by-laws and enact stronger legislation and longer review timelines to avoid loss of heritage sites. Improvements are also needed to expand interpretation of Toronto's heritage beyond traditional pioneer history, as well as improve communication among stakeholders.

[Commentary on land transfer tax](#)

Toronto's controversial land transfer tax is discussed and assessed through a [Policy Commentary](#) by **Dr. Frank Clayton** and released by the **Centre for Urban Research and Land Development at Ryerson University**. The analysis provides insight into how Toronto residents regard the tax and whether

the city's tax system would be improved by replacing it with higher property taxes. The analysis concludes that while Toronto's land transfer tax is tolerable, the city's local taxation system would be fairer and future tax revenue more stable if the tax is dropped and the revenue foregone in lieu of higher property taxes. **nr**

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TORONTO PEOPLE

Former MP **Olivia Chow** has been appointed a distinguished visiting professor at **Ryerson University's** Faculty of Arts for a three-year term. Chow will initiate a program on community engagement and democratic participation.

Former Toronto mayor **Barbara Hall** finishes her term as Ontario Human Rights Commission chief commissioner on Friday. Hall was appointed to the commission in 2005. Lawyer and OHRC commissioner **Ruth Goba** has been

appointed interim chief commissioner.

Lawyer **Marc Kemerer** has joined **Devry Smith Frank's** planning and development group. Kemerer comes to the firm from Blaney McMurtry LLP.

The Ontario Municipal Board has appointed three part-time members for Toronto for a two-year term ending October 21, 2016. Planner **Laurie Bruce** has worked as an environmental planning consultant since 1989. Architect and planner **Anne Milchberg** is a

principal at Planning Intelligence and previously served as a community planner for the City of Toronto. **Roman Winnicki** previously served as planning deputy commissioner for Metro Toronto and president and CEO of Canada Lands Company.