

Planning in Toronto: What's the problem?
Opening remarks by Paul Bedford, Urban mentor
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to the *All About Planning* symposium at the Munk Centre for International Studies
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Today is all about planning. This topic is most timely, with the start of a new City Council term. Planning has always been the bread and butter of municipal politics. There is no shortage of frustration with the planning and development process, but there is no simple solution to the problems.

There are many players in the process and all share part of the blame:

- the community that feels disconnected;
- City Council that manages by governing;
- the development industry that is riding the wave of an unprecedented boom;
- the staff that is under-resourced and blamed for everything;
- and the Ontario Municipal Board that still calls the shots.

It is in our collective interest for planning to succeed. This session is devoted to unpacking the problems.

- What kind of planning do Torontonians want?
- What are the opportunities?

Summary (after speakers):

We need to push our politicians for a better process, one that is:

- proactive
- a continuous dialogue
- a conversation rather than an argument
- quality rather than OMB driven
- willing to share power.