



Above the Law?

The Bill 5 *Better Local Government Act* Charter challenge and Premier Ford's use of the Notwithstanding Clause

Panel Discussion

On September 10, 2018, Superior Court Justice Edward Belobaba ruled that Premier Doug Ford's Bill 5 - the so-called *Better Local Government Act* - to reduce Toronto's city council from 47 wards to 25 breaches s. 2(b) of the Charter. Shortly thereafter Premier Ford announced that not only was his government going to appeal the court's decision, but he was going to invoke the Constitution's "notwithstanding clause" for the first time in Ontario's history to override the judge's decision. The revised Bill has been introduced in the legislature with debates lasting late into the night; while a stay application, pending the appeal of the court decision, has been scheduled for Tuesday, September 18th.

The David Asper Centre for Constitutional Rights is convening a moderated panel discussion in order to unpack the various legal issues involved in this unprecedented case. Panel members will include two of our faculty's Constitutional Law Professors **Lorraine Weinrib** and **Yasmin Dawood**, and litigator **Steven Barrett** of Goldblatt Partners LLP.

Thursday September 20, 2018

4:30pm to 6:00pm

Moot Court Room (J250 Jackman Law Building)

78 Queen's Park, Toronto



David Asper Centre for Constitutional Rights
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO