

**DATE:** June 7, 2021  
**TO:** HRTO Stakeholders  
**FROM:** Tamara Kronis, Associate Chair, Human Rights Tribunal of Ontario  
**RE: SPPA Amendments**

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Effective June 3, 2021, a new section 29 has been added to the [Statutory Powers Procedure Act](#) making it an offence to record or publish a tribunal hearing unless an exception applies. Exceptions include unobtrusive recordings made by a party, representative or member of the media if authorized by the tribunal. The amendment was included in the Ontario government's [Supporting Recovery and Competitiveness Act, 2021](#).

This provision is similar to restrictions on recording court proceedings contained in the *Courts of Justice Act*. This amendment will help Tribunals Ontario ensure the integrity and fairness of its proceedings.

Tribunals Ontario remains committed to delivering administrative justice in a manner that is transparent, fair, independent, and accessible in accordance with the open court principle. This amendment does not restrict or change a person's ability to attend an open tribunal hearing or engage in public comment on tribunal proceedings. The public can contact the tribunal to inquire about access to hearings.

If you have any questions, please contact us at [hrto.registrar@ontario.ca](mailto:hrto.registrar@ontario.ca).

Sincerely,

Tamara Kronis  
Associate Chair  
Human Rights Tribunal of Ontario