

ASSESSMENT REVIEW BOARD (ARB) UPDATE PRESENTED TO

THE CITY OF CALGARY COUNCIL

JOHN MATHIAS, GENERAL CHAIR

JUNE 16, 2020

Assessment Review Board





(Local ARB)

3 Local Members Appointed by Council

Residential

Includes Business Improvement Area (BIA) Tax

CARB

(Composite ARB)

2 Local Members

1 Provincial Member (Presiding Officer)

Non-Residential

Office Retail Industrial Land

Includes Multi-Residential

ARB PRINCIPLES

EFFICIENCY ACCESSIBILITY

TRANSPARENCY

ACCOUNTABILITY





Member Development

What?

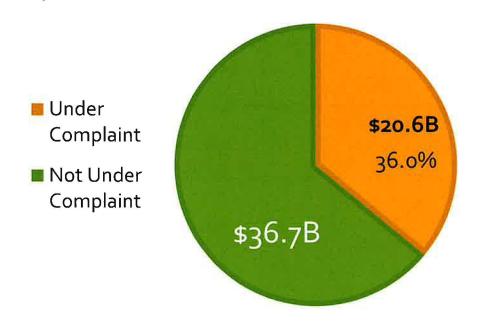
- 12 term appointment limit
- Annual and ongoing member reviews
- Annual training conference
- Daily meetings with members
- Leadership available to members when needed

How?

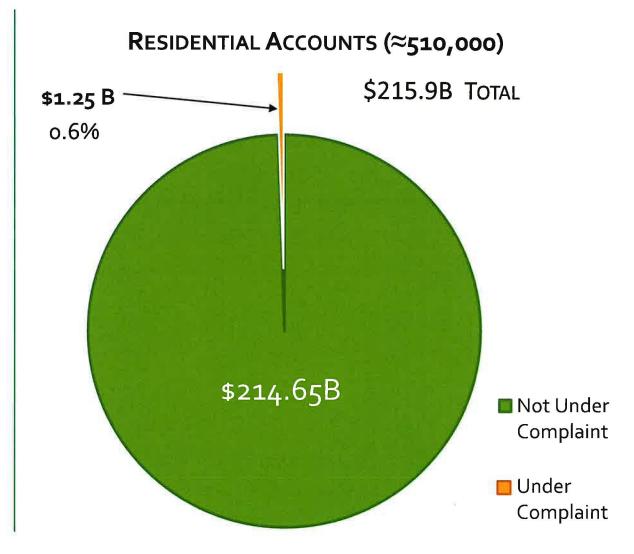
- Identify training needs
- Initiatives to focus on decision-writing skills
- Provide development opportunities for newer members
- Mentorship

2019 CALGARY PROPERTY VALUES UNDER COMPLAINT

Non-Residential Accounts (≈14,000) \$57.3B Total

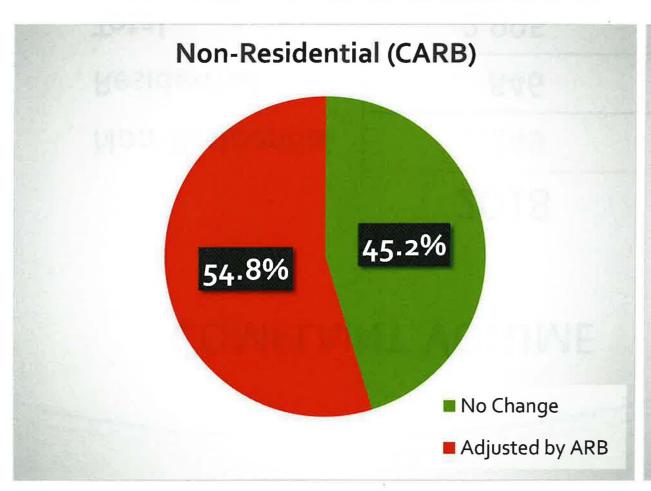


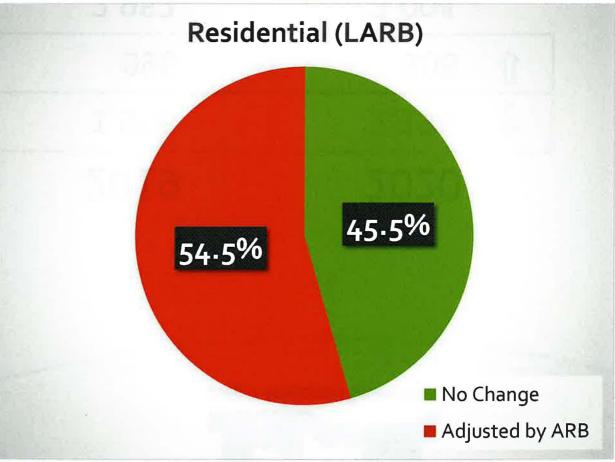
1,956 Accounts Under Complaint (14% of Total)
Highest Value Under Complaint \$617.4M (Market Mall)
Average Value Under Complaint \$9.5M
Median Value Under Complaint \$4.3M





2019 ARB Decisions





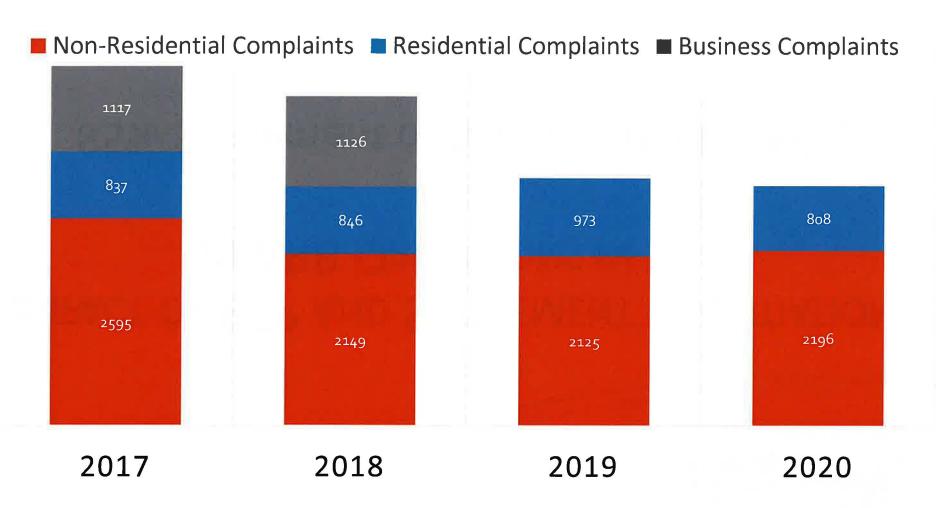


COMPLAINT VOLUME

Non-Residentia
Residential
Total

2018	2019	2020
2,149	1,956	2,196
846	996	808 🖟
2,995	2,952	3,004

2017 TO 2020 ARB COMPLAINTS



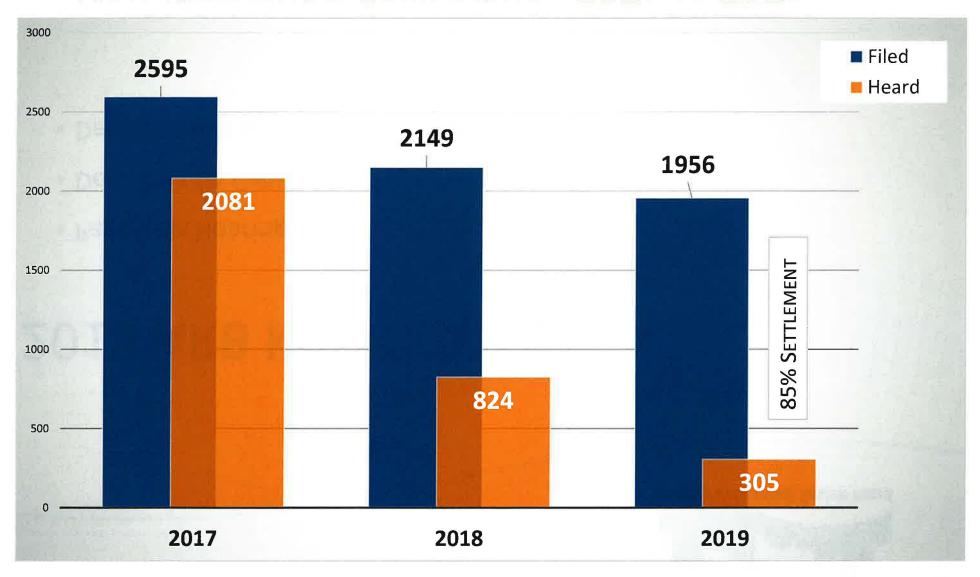


IMPACT OF PTP AND SETTLEMENT NEGOTIATIONS ON ARB OPERATIONS IN 2019

85% Settlement of Non-Residential Files

PTP: Phased Tax Program

Non-Residential Complaints - 2017 to 2019





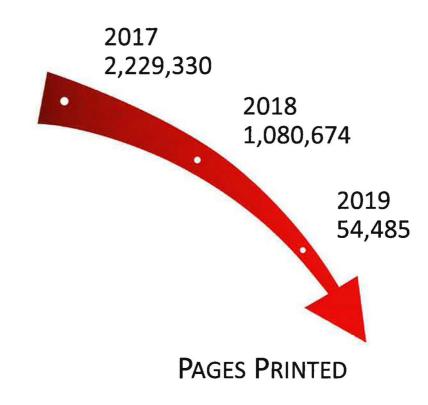
2019 ARB KEY INITIATIVES

- Paperless Hearings
- Decisions on CanLII
- Development of Evidence Disclosure Portal (EDP)



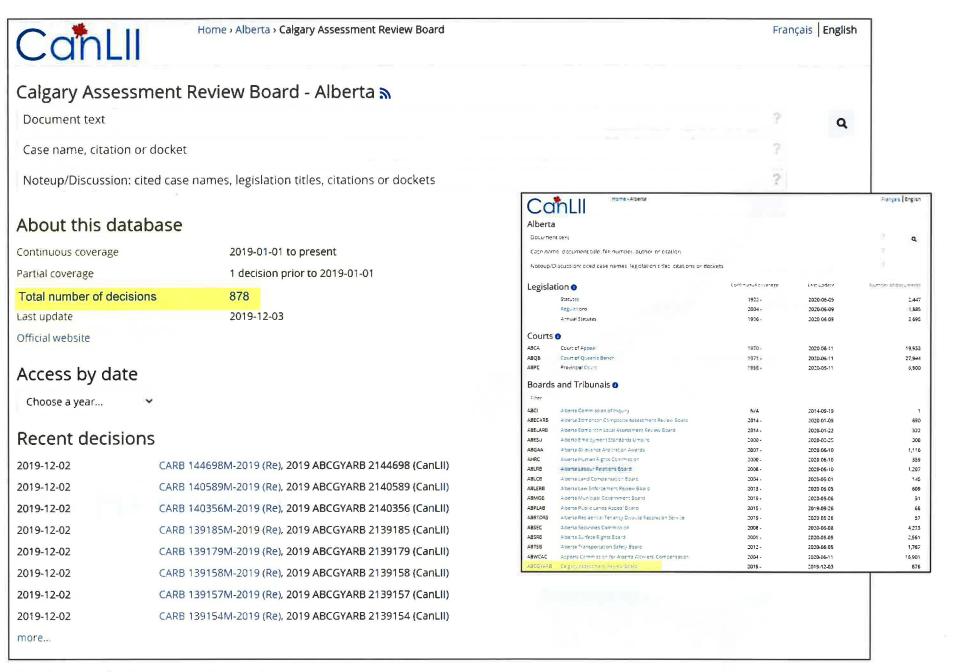
PAPERLESS HEARINGS

- Introduced in 2019
- Reduced environmental footprint
- Cost savings
- Operational Efficiency
- Documents in Electronic Format



ARB DECISIONS ON CANLII

SINCE 2019

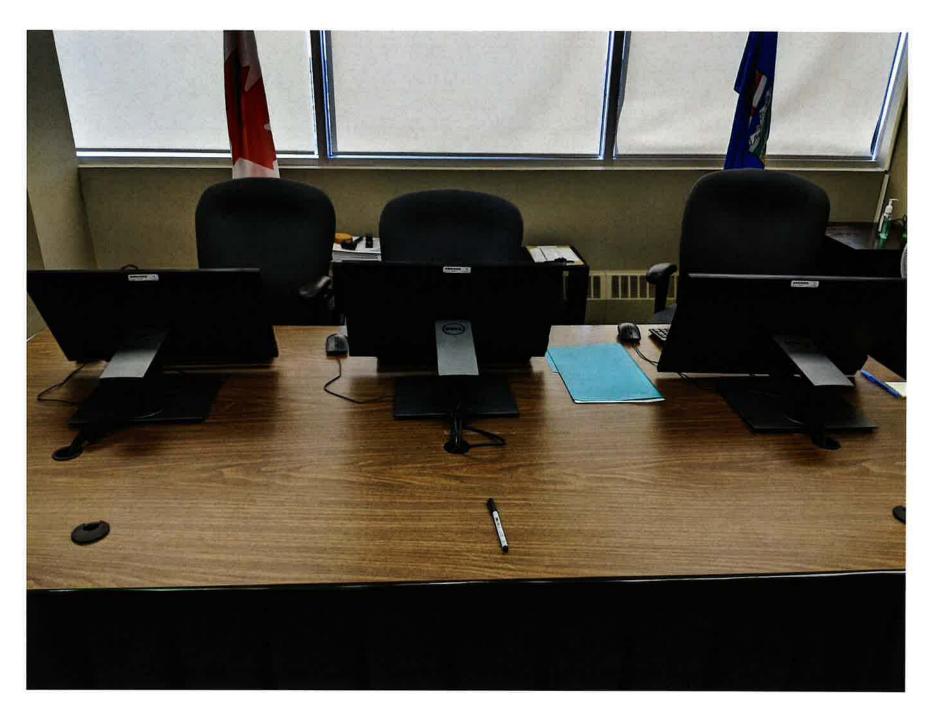


EVIDENCE DISCLOSURE PORTAL (EDP)

Implemented April 2020

ADVANTAGES

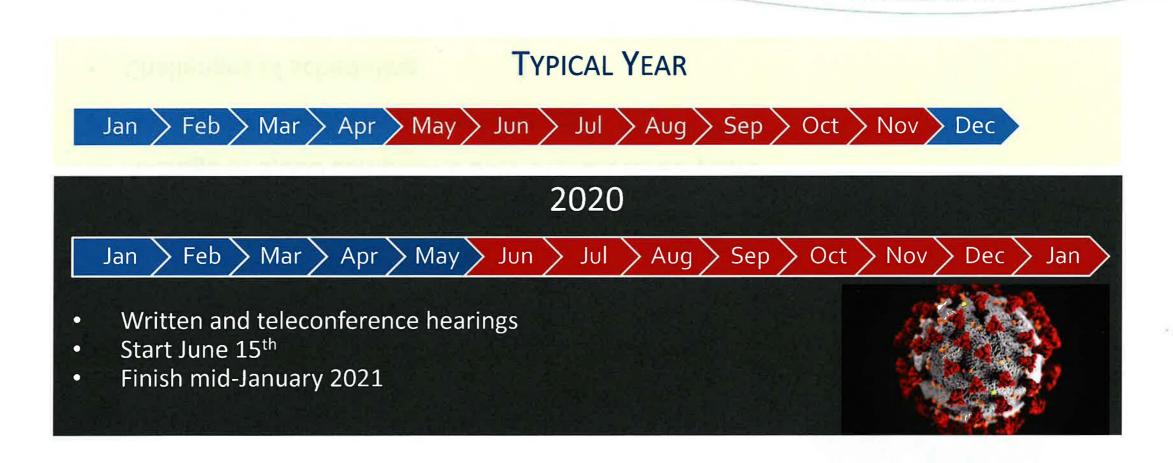
- Simple and convenient
- One location for submission of evidence from both parties
- Allows large file sizes up to 250 MB
- Easy to track status of submissions from both parties



Pre-COVID-19

COVID-19 EFFECT ON ARB HEARING SCHEDULE







OPERATIONAL CHALLENGES

- Tax shift expected to increase number of residential complaints in 2021
- Average of 3,000 complaints over the last three years
- Number of complaints is unpredictable
- Challenges of scheduling
- High settlement rates on non-residential complaints

Important Dates 2020

January 3 – March 10: Complaint period

March 10: Complaint filing deadline

June 15: Residential (LARB) hearings start

July 20: Non-residential (CARB) hearings start

September: Member recruitment

December 31: Deadline for issuing all written decisions

(will likely require Ministerial extension)

January 2021: Hearings expected to be completed

PRE-COVID-19 VERSUS CURRENT (2020) HEARING OPTIONS

Pre-COVID-19

• In-person hearings

Current Hearing Options

- Written
- Teleconference
- Videoconference (future possibility)
- In-person hearings (possibly late 2020)

LOOKING FORWARD

- More hearing options
- More accessible training for members (webinars)
- Cost efficiencies in providing assessment review process



THANK YOU AND QUESTIONS ...

On behalf of Peggy Grace and Helen Ang, Vice Chairs of the Calgary ARB, the additional 39 local members and 25 provincial members, it is a pleasure and distinct privilege to serve the taxpaying citizens of Calgary through the interesting and significant work of the ARB.



John Mathias, General Chair ARB