

**From:** Minister Steve Clark  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 2, 2019 4:03 PM  
**To:** Fiona Hamilton  
**Subject:** More Homes, More Choice: Ontario's Housing Supply Action Plan

19-002850

Dear Head of Council:

Ontario's Government for the People is committed to building more housing and bringing down costs for the people of Ontario. To help fulfill this commitment, we have developed a broad-based action plan to address the barriers getting in the way of new ownership and rental housing.

[More Homes, More Choice](#) (the action plan) outlines our government's plan to tackle Ontario's housing crisis, while encouraging our partners to do their part. We are taking steps to make it faster and easier for municipalities, non-profits and private firms to build the right types of housing in the right places, to meet the needs of people in every part of Ontario.

As part of the action plan, we are proposing changes that would streamline the complex development approvals process to remove unnecessary duplication and barriers, while making costs and timelines more predictable. We are also proposing changes that would make it easier to build certain types of priority housing such as second units.

On May 2, 2019, the government introduced Bill 108 (the bill), the proposed More Homes, More Choice Act, 2019, in the Ontario Legislature. While the bill contains initiatives from various ministries, I would like to share some details regarding initiatives led by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

### **Planning Act**

Schedule 12 of the bill proposes changes to the Planning Act that would help make the planning system more efficient and effective, increase housing supply in Ontario, and streamline planning approvals.

If passed, the proposed changes would:

- Streamline development approvals processes and facilitate faster decisions,
- Increase the certainty and predictability of the planning system,
- Support a range and mix of housing options, and boost housing supply,
- Make charges for community benefits more predictable, and
- Make other complementary amendments to implement the proposed reforms, including how the proposed changes would affect planning matters that are in-process.

Amendments to the Planning Act are also proposed to address concerns about the land use planning appeal system. Proposed changes would broaden the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal's jurisdiction over major land use planning matters (e.g., official plan amendments and zoning by-law amendments) and give the Tribunal the authority to make a final determination on appeals of these matters. The Ministry of the Attorney General is also proposing changes to the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal Act, 2017 to complement these changes (see Schedule 9 of the bill).

### **Development Charges Act**

Schedule 3 of the bill proposes changes to the Development Charges Act that would make housing more attainable by reducing costs to build certain types of housing and

would increase the certainty of costs to improve the likelihood of developers proceeding with cost sensitive projects, such as rental housing.

If passed, the proposed changes would:

- Make it easier for municipalities to recover costs for waste diversion,
- Increase the certainty of development costs in specific circumstances and for certain types of developments,
- Make housing more attainable by reducing costs to build certain types of homes, and
- Make other complementary amendments to implement the proposed reforms.

### **Further consultation on the Planning Act and Development Charges Act**

We are interested in receiving any comments you may have on the proposed changes to the Planning Act and the Development Charges Act. Comments on these proposed measures can be made through the [Environmental Registry of Ontario](#) as follows:

- Planning Act: posting number 019-0016
- Development Charges Act: posting number 019-0017

The Environmental Registry postings provide additional details regarding the proposed changes.

### **A Place to Grow: Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe**

[A Place to Grow: Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe](#) is an important part of the action plan that addresses the needs of the growing population, the diversity of the region and its people, and the local priorities. With A Place to Grow, we will make it faster and easier to build housing so that the growing number of people who live and work in the Greater Golden Horseshoe can find a home.

We recognize that different parts of Ontario need different solutions, including Northern and rural Ontario. While the Growth Plan for Northern Ontario continues to guide long-term economic growth in the North, our government is taking steps right now to support this growth by reducing red tape and burdens in Ontario's Northern and rural communities with **More Homes, More Choice**.

Taken together, the actions outlined in **More Homes, More Choice** - including the proposed changes detailed above - will make it easier to build the right types of housing in the right places, make housing more affordable and help taxpayers keep more of their hard-earned dollars. Building more housing will make the province more attractive for employers and investors, proving that Ontario is truly Open for Business.

This action plan is complemented by our recently announced [Community Housing Renewal Strategy](#), which will help sustain, repair and grow our community housing system. Together these two plans will ensure that all Ontarians can find a home that meets their needs.

At the same time, **More Homes, More Choice** underscores our commitment to maintain Ontario's vibrant agricultural sector and employment lands, protect sensitive areas like the Greenbelt, and preserve cultural heritage. Our plan will ensure that every community can build in response to local interests and demand while accommodating diverse needs.

Our government recognizes the key role that municipalities will play in implementing the action plan, and we know that you share our desire to bring more housing to the people of Ontario. I look forward to working with you as we implement **More Homes, More Choice**.

Sincerely,

Steve Clark

Minister

c:

Chief Administrative Officer

Clerk