Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

Office of the Minister

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234-2023-4597

September 15, 2023

Dear Head of Council,

Subject: Responding to the Housing Affordability Task Force's Recommendations

As you know, in February 2022, the Housing Affordability Task Force delivered its final report with recommendations to help Ontario tackle the housing supply crisis and build at least 1.5 million homes by 2031. Including sub-items and appendices, the Task Force made 74 unique recommendations, some of which apply to all communities in Ontario, with others more specific to large and urban municipalities. While Ontario has made progress in acting on these recommendations — with 23 implemented to date helping to achieve the highest level of housing starts in over three decades — as the province grows at incredible speed, all levels of government need to do more.

To bring the dream of home ownership into reach for more people, I have asked my ministry to renew its efforts to review and, where possible, implement the Task Force's remaining recommendations with minimal delay. As part of that review, I am asking for you, as head of council, to prioritize your top five recommendations for future consideration. For these top five priorities, this could include your advice to revisit the way a recommendation has been implemented up to this point, as well as how some of the recommendations could or should be implemented with amendments.

Accompanying this letter, you will find a chart with space to rank the top five Task Force recommendations. While I know that some of the recommendations may not be applicable to all small, rural, and Northern communities, I ask that you rank those recommendations that you feel would be, or have been, the most useful in increasing housing supply in your community.

As we look to do more to solve the housing supply and affordability crisis together, it's important for the province to have a full understanding of our municipal partners' positions on these recommendations as quickly as possible. I ask that you please return the completed chart to housingsupply@ontario.ca no later than October 16, 2023.

I look forward to continuing our work together to ensure that more people can afford a place to call home.

Sincerely,

The Hon. Paul Calandra

Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

C: Hon. Rob Flack, Associate Minister of Housing
Kirstin Jensen, Interim Chief of Staff, Minister's Office
Martha Greenberg, Deputy Minister
Joshua Paul, Assistant Deputy Minister, Market Housing Division
Sean Fraser, Assistant Deputy Minister, Planning and Growth Division
Caspar Hall, Assistant Deputy Minister, Local Government Division

Attachment:

Top Five Housing Affordability Task Force (HATF) Recommendations for Response