

COUNCIL INFORMATION PACKAGE

December 16, 2022

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Date: 12/15/2022 **Internal Memo #: IM22-010 (CRS)**

To: City Council

Circulated to: Corporate Leadership Team

Department: Corporate Services

Division: Fire Services

From: Brian Arnold, Fire Chief

Subject: Fire Partnership with Wounded Warriors Canada

Comments

CFD Partnership with Wounded Warriors Canada

Cambridge Fire Department is partnering with Wounded Warriors Canada (WWC) to provide additional resource options to our members and their families.

At no cost to the City of Cambridge, a formalized partnership agreement lays out expectations, commitments and responsibilities of the parties. WWC will make mental health programs and services available to staff and their families and will also assist Cambridge Fire Department with advancing our mental health and wellness program.

Cambridge Fire Department, in return, will identify and refer individuals who might benefit from participation in WWC mental health programming (optional for personnel). As well, CFD will work collaboratively with WWC to support their efforts to advance the health and wellness of our staff. Further, CFD will identify potential fundraising opportunities to support mental health programming for the broader First Responder community.

The formal announcement and media event will take place on **Monday, December 19, 2022** at **8:45 am** at the Fire Department Headquarters located at 1625 Bishop St. N.

Wounded Warriors Canada

Wounded Warriors Canada (WWC) is a national mental health service provider, utilizing clinical best practices and evidence-based care to provide a range of clinically facilitated programs specifically developed to support the unique needs of Veterans, First Responders and their families. WWC has established formal working relationships with fire services such as Toronto, Mississauga, Whitby, Ajax, and Calgary to support internal wellness and peer support teams while serving as an additional layer of OSI support for members and their families.

Supported by National Clinical Advisors and a Program Development Team, including two clinical psychologists from Breakwater Institute located in Cambridge, and over 100 certified clinicians, the clinical team possesses the cultural competency necessary to support the unique mental health needs of uniformed service members and their families.

Their programs support individuals, couples, spouses, surviving spouses, and children of those who serve or have served our country and communities. WWC also provides leading-edge trauma-informed workplace training geared towards helping make trauma exposure management a new professional standard for uniformed service persons.

Partnerships are vital, given the complexity of operational stress injuries. No single service, association or organization can provide the 100% solution when it comes to the health and wellness. Individual traumas are unique to each person. Access to different mental health services can vary and present their own barrier to seeking help. An individual's choice of mental health service provider may depend on access, proximity, and their comfort level with the provider's courses of treatment, therapy and counselling are tailored to the individual's needs.

Clinical group therapy programs are free to members. Additional training for department personnel can also be provided by WWC for a fee.

The Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH) defines Posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) as a natural emotional response to frightening or dangerous experiences that involve actual or threatened serious harm to oneself or others. However, for some people, the thoughts or memories of these events seriously affect their lives, long after any real danger has passed. These types of experiences are called "traumatic."

Risk Factors for PTSD can include:

- Having a job that increases your risk of being exposed to traumatic events such as firefighting.
- Experiencing intense or long-lasting trauma.
- Feeling horror, helplessness, or extreme fear.
- Seeing people get killed or hurt.
- Having experienced other trauma earlier in life including childhood abuse/ or neglect.
- Having other mental health conditions such as anxiety or depression.
- Lacking a good support system of family and friends.
- Dealing with extra stress after the event such as loss of a loved one, pain and injury, or loss of a job or home.
- Having biological relatives with mental health conditions including PTSD or depression.

The Workplace Safety and Insurance Act, 1997, S.O. 1997, CHAPTER 16 SCHEDULE A, PART III INSURANCE PLAN applies to Firefighters and Fire Investigators, as defined in the Fire Protection and Prevention Act, 1997, and states:

Presumption re: course of employment

14. (6) For the purposes of subsection (3), the posttraumatic stress disorder is presumed to have arisen out of and in the course of the worker's employment, unless the contrary is shown. 2016, c. 4, s. 2.

Overtime in the Fire Suppression division is required when minimum daily staffing drops below 27 personnel. Lost time injuries as a result of WSIB-approved posttraumatic stress injuries is a structural driver of rising overtime costs in Fire Suppression. WSIB lost time injuries accounted for nearly 50% of overtime hours in 2021 and approximately 45% of overtime hours in 2022 YTD.

It is clear that a proactive and preventative approach to reducing the impacts of trauma to personnel is essential to, primarily look after the wellbeing of our staff, and consequentially to reduce costs.

The Ministry of Labour Act, R.S.O. 1990, CHAPTER M.29 authorized the Minister to direct employers to provide a PTSD Prevention Plan in 2017. As a result of a Ministerial Order issued to all fire services in Ontario, Cambridge Fire Department developed its first PTSD Prevention Plan. It was last updated in November 2021.

The PTSD Prevention Plan focuses on three key elements: 1) Prevention, 2) Early Intervention and 3) Recovery and Return to Work.

Prevention approaches have included: normalizing conversations regarding mental health to foster an environment of caring, developing policies on psychological health and safety, PTSD prevention and anti-stigma, and creating a Peer Support Team. Training is a key component to prevention and has included programs such as Suicide Awareness, Road 2 Mental Readiness (R2MR), and Before Operational Stress (BOS). Resilient Minds training is beginning in December and will run into the first quarter of 2023.

Early Intervention takes many forms and includes:

- Encouraging staff to make use of the free Employee and Family Assistance Program (EFAP) through Homewood Health, particularly for crisis counselling. Additionally, counselling services are available for family, marital, addictions, anxiety, depression, and financial matters.
- Encouraging staff to make use of their benefits to access counselling and therapy services of a clinical psychologist, social worker, psychotherapist, and family therapist. This is recommended on an annual basis, at a minimum, similar to a physical checkup.

- Using peer-driven debriefing sessions of the Peer Support Team that focus on helping the worker put their experiences in perspective and validates what they have seen, done, thought, and felt.
- Providing ongoing education that gives information on PTSD, stress management and actions that workers can take for themselves.
- Encouraging confidential discussions with the city's Occupational Health Nurse.
- Providing community and external organization resource information for access to crisis and mental health supports.

Recovery and Return to Work is a legislative and moral responsibility of employers to provide the opportunity for injured/ill employees to return to suitable and available work at the earliest possible point within the rehabilitation process. It is also the responsibility of employees to participate in such a process and for mental health care providers to support, where appropriate.

Assisting the injured/ill worker to remain at work, functioning at a high level while receiving treatment, is the primary goal. Alternatively, helping the injured/ill worker return to work sooner while they recover is the next best goal. Evidence strongly shows that individual well being is much improved through continued socialization and productivity within the workplace. It becomes more difficult for the worker to return to the workplace and reintegrate with colleagues and processes the longer that the worker is absent from work.

Attachments

None.

Approvals:

☒ Manager/Supervisor

☒ Deputy City Manager

☒ City Manager

City Clerk's Office

Secretariat
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Council Secretariat Support
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**In reply please quote:
Ref.: 22-CC1.2**

November 25, 2022

MUNICIPALITIES IN ONTARIO

**Subject: New Business Item 1.2
Update on Bill 23 - More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022 (Ward All)**

City Council on November 23 and 24, 2022, adopted this Item, as amended, and in so doing has:

1. Requested the Province of Ontario to extend the commenting period on Bill 23, More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022 to at least January 31, 2023 to enable time for consultation, consideration of alternative options and thorough analysis of both short and long-term impacts.

2. Requested the Province of Ontario to:

a. not proceed with any changes that reduce municipal development charges, community benefit charges or parkland dedication, including:

i. removing housing services from development charges;

ii. retroactively phasing in development charges over a 5 year period on top of City Council's previously adopted two-year phase-in that was mutually agreed upon with the development industry;

iii. discounting rates for purpose built rental units;

iv. adding new exemptions;

v. introducing caps to the development charges determined date and instalments interest rates;

vi. extending the development charges historic service level caps from 10 to 15 years;

v. removing growth studies and land acquisition costs from development charges recovery; and

vi. reducing caps to parkland dedication by-laws;

b. instead of the above-noted changes, create a provincial incentive program provided directly to developers or homeowners through targeted grants, rebate and other financial incentive programs; and

c. alternatively, create a municipal compensation fund to compensate municipalities for the impacts of Bill 23 on municipal growth funding revenues.

3. Requested the Province of Ontario to amend Bill 23 to preserve the City's Green standard, Rental Replacement Policy, parkland provisions, community benefits charges and Development Charges to facilitate responsible growth.

4. Requested the Province of Ontario to amend Bill 23 to preserve Toronto's ability to require a green development standards checklist (Toronto Green Standard) for a complete planning application.

5. Requested the Province of Ontario to amend the Planning Act to enable the implementation of Inclusionary Zoning across the City and incorporate definitions of affordable housing that respond to low and moderate household income.

6. Requested the Province of Ontario to amend the definition of "Affordable Housing" to follow the City of Toronto's "Official Plan Amendment 558 - Updating the Definitions of Affordable Rental and Ownership Housing", as approved by City Council on November 9, 2021.

7. Requested the Province of Ontario to enact a Regulation to permit the use of conditional zoning, pursuant to Section 113 of the City of Toronto Act, 2006.

8. Requested the Province of Ontario to delay the implementation of refunds for development applications in light of the significant changes to the Planning regulations and internal City processes regarding development.

9. Requested the Provincial government to provide funding and funding tools to the City, matching the amount of revenue lost through development charges, community benefits charges, and Section 42 of the Planning Act in Bill 23 to ensure the services needed to facilitate responsible growth continue to be delivered.

10. Requested the Province of Ontario to rescind the proposed changes to the Greenbelt to protect environmental features that support biodiversity, natural spaces, recreation trails, agricultural land, and watersheds that sustain all residents of the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area.

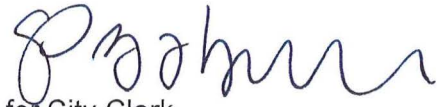
11. Requested the Province of Ontario to retain the existing roles and responsibilities of the regional conservation authorities.

12. Requested the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing to change the effective date of the Refund of Fees for official plan amendments, zoning by-laws and site plan control applications contained in Bill 109, from January 1, 2023 to July 1, 2023.

13. Requested the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing to postpone enacting regulations under Schedule 4 of Bill 23, which would grant the Minister authority to impose limits and conditions on municipalities' regulation of demolition or conversion of rental units, until such time as there has been focused consultations with municipalities as part of the development of Minister's regulations to ensure municipalities can continue to require replacement rental housing and support impacted tenants.

14. Requested the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, through a majority vote, to withdraw Bill 23.

Yours truly,



for City Clerk

S. Przedziecki/mm

Attachment

Sent to: Premier, Province of Ontario
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Province of Ontario
Leader of the Official Opposition, Province of Ontario
President, Association of Municipalities of Ontario
Executive Director, Association of Municipalities of Ontario
Ontario MPPs
Ontario Municipalities

c. City Manager

City Council

New Business - Meeting 1

CC1.2	ACTION	Amended		Ward: All
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Update on Bill 23, More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022

City Council Decision

City Council on November 23 and 24, 2022, adopted the following:

1. City Council request the Province of Ontario to extend the commenting period on Bill 23, More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022 to at least January 31, 2023 to enable time for consultation, consideration of alternative options and thorough analysis of both short and long-term impacts.
2. City Council request the Province of Ontario to:
 - a. not proceed with any changes that reduce municipal development charges, community benefit charges or parkland dedication, including:
 - i. removing housing services from development charges;
 - ii. retroactively phasing in development charges over a 5 year period on top of City Council's previously adopted two-year phase-in that was mutually agreed upon with the development industry;
 - iii. discounting rates for purpose built rental units;
 - iv. adding new exemptions;
 - v. introducing caps to the development charges determined date and instalments interest rates;
 - vi. extending the development charges historic service level caps from 10 to 15 years;
 - v. removing growth studies and land acquisition costs from development charges recovery; and
 - vi. reducing caps to parkland dedication by-laws;
 - b. instead of the above-noted changes, create a provincial incentive program provided directly to developers or homeowners through targeted grants, rebate and other financial incentive programs; and
 - c. alternatively, create a municipal compensation fund to compensate municipalities for the impacts of Bill 23 on municipal growth funding revenues.

3. City Council request the Province of Ontario to amend Bill 23 to preserve the City's Green standard, Rental Replacement Policy, parkland provisions, community benefits charges and Development Charges to facilitate responsible growth.
4. City Council request the Province of Ontario to amend Bill 23 to preserve Toronto's ability to require a green development standards checklist (Toronto Green Standard) for a complete planning application.
5. City Council request the Province of Ontario to amend the Planning Act to enable the implementation of Inclusionary Zoning across the City and incorporate definitions of affordable housing that respond to low and moderate household income.
6. City Council request the Province of Ontario to amend the definition of "Affordable Housing" to follow the City of Toronto's "Official Plan Amendment 558 - Updating the Definitions of Affordable Rental and Ownership Housing", as approved by City Council on November 9, 2021.
7. City Council request the Province of Ontario to enact a Regulation to permit the use of conditional zoning, pursuant to Section 113 of the City of Toronto Act, 2006.
8. City Council request the Province of Ontario to delay the implementation of refunds for development applications in light of the significant changes to the Planning regulations and internal City processes regarding development.
9. City Council request the Provincial government to provide funding and funding tools to the City, matching the amount of revenue lost through development charges, community benefits charges, and Section 42 of the Planning Act in Bill 23 to ensure the services needed to facilitate responsible growth continue to be delivered.
10. City Council request the Province of Ontario to rescind the proposed changes to the Greenbelt to protect environmental features that support biodiversity, natural spaces, recreation trails, agricultural land, and watersheds that sustain all residents of the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area.
11. City Council request the Province of Ontario to retain the existing roles and responsibilities of the regional conservation authorities.
12. City Council request the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing to change the effective date of the Refund of Fees for official plan amendments, zoning by-laws and site plan control applications contained in Bill 109, from January 1, 2023 to July 1, 2023.
13. City Council request the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing to postpone enacting regulations under Schedule 4 of Bill 23, which would grant the Minister authority to impose limits and conditions on municipalities' regulation of demolition or conversion of rental units, until such time as there has been focused consultations with municipalities as part of the development of Minister's regulations to ensure municipalities can continue to require replacement rental housing and support impacted tenants.
14. City Council request the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, through a majority vote, to withdraw Bill 23.
15. City Council direct the City Manager make public the impacts of Bill 23 on specific capital projects which will not proceed in each Provincial and Federal Riding.

16. City Council direct the City Solicitor and the Chief Planner and Executive Director, City Planning to report to the Planning and Housing Committee on guiding policies to assist City Council in gauging planning importance when considering requests that City Council initiate a Toronto Local Appeal Body appeal.

17. City Council request the City Solicitor and the Chief Planner and Executive Director, City Planning to report to the Planning and Housing Committee with a legal strategy to challenge the Province of Ontario's potential removal of Section 111 of the City of Toronto Act, and explore alternate means to protect rental units from demolition and conversion.

18. City Council direct the Chief Planner and Executive Director, City Planning to commence a public information campaign to inform all City residents of the impacts of Bill 23 and the changes to neighbourhoods, prevailing built forms, housing, civic engagement, the greenbelt, climate change, affordable housing, rental protection, community infrastructure, parks, heritage and cost of living that it may bring about.

19. City Council forward this item to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Leader of the Official Opposition, all Ontario Members of Provincial Parliament, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, and all Ontario municipalities for their consideration.

Summary

On October 25, 2022 the Honourable Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, introduced Bill 23, More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022 in the Ontario Legislature.

Bill 23 proposes extensive changes to the policy-led planning and development system under which municipalities in Ontario work. Details and preliminary analysis of the implications of Bill 23 were shared with the Mayor and City Councillors on November 3, 2022 (see Attachment 1).

Bill 23 passed 2nd Reading on October 31, 2022 and was referred to the Standing Committee on Heritage, Infrastructure and Cultural Policy (Standing Committee) for review. The Standing Committee has held two days of public hearings to date (November 8, 2022 in Markham and November 9, 2022 in Brampton), and is scheduled to hear two more on November 16 and 17, 2022 in Toronto.

The Chief Planner, along with supporting staff, is scheduled to depute to the Standing Committee at 1:00 pm on Thursday, November 17, 2022. A livestream of the public hearing will be made available on the Ontario Legislative Assembly website at this link: <https://www.ola.org/en/legislative-business/video/committees-room-no-1>.

Staff are also preparing written comments for submission to the Standing Committee.

The Standing Committee is scheduled to conduct a clause-by-clause review of Bill 23 on Monday, November 21, 2022, during which amendments to the bill may be proposed, considered and voted upon.

Staff will provide a supplementary report outlining City staff's submission to the Standing Committee and the Environmental Registry of Ontario posting regarding Bill 23 and the results from the Standing Committee's consideration of the bill in advance of the November 24, 2022 meeting of City Council.

Background Information (City Council)

(November 16, 2022) Report from the City Manager and the Chief Planner and Executive Director, City Planning on Update on Bill 23, More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022 (CC1.2) (<https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2023/cc/bgrd/backgroundfile-230055.pdf>)

(November 3, 2022) Attachment 1 - Interim City Manager's FYI Briefing Note to Mayor and Members of Council - Bill 23, More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022 (<https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2023/cc/bgrd/backgroundfile-230056.pdf>)

(November 22, 2022) Supplementary report from the Interim City Manager, the Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer, and the Chief Planner and Executive Director, City Planning on City Staff Comments on Proposed Bill 23 - More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022 (CC1.2a) (<https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2023/cc/bgrd/backgroundfile-230130.pdf>)

Attachment 1 - City of Toronto Comments on Proposed Bill 23 (submitted to the Environmental Registry of Ontario and Ontario Regulatory Registry November 22, 2022) (<https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2023/cc/bgrd/backgroundfile-230131.pdf>)

Attachment 2 - Chief Planner Presentation Notes to the Standing Committee on Heritage, Infrastructure and Cultural Policy (November 17, 2022) (<https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2023/cc/bgrd/backgroundfile-230132.pdf>)

Communications (City Council)

(November 21, 2022) Letter from Geoff Kettel and Cathie Macdonald, Co-Chairs, Federation of North Toronto Residents' Associations (FoNTRA) (CC.Supp) (<https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2023/cc/comm/communicationfile-156534.pdf>)

(November 22, 2022) Letter from Andria Babbington, President, Toronto and York Region Labour Council (CC.New) (<https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2023/cc/comm/communicationfile-156573.pdf>)

(November 23, 2022) Letter from Jason Ash, Chair, Leaside Towers Tenants Association (CC.New) (<https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2023/cc/comm/communicationfile-156570.pdf>)

(November 22, 2022) Letter from Les Veszlenyi and Angela Barnes, Co-Chairs, Mimico Lakeshore Community Network (CC.New) (<https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2023/cc/comm/communicationfile-156571.pdf>)

(November 22, 2022) Letter from Maureen Kapral, President, Lytton Park Residents' Organization (CC.New) (<https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2023/cc/comm/communicationfile-156572.pdf>)

(November 24, 2022) Letter from Walied Khogali, Regent Park Neighbourhood Association (CC.New) (<https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2023/cc/comm/communicationfile-156578.pdf>)

(November 24, 2022) Letter from Henry Wiercinski, Vice President, Annex Residents' Association and Sue Dexter, Board, Harbord Village Resident's Association (CC.New) (<https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2023/cc/comm/communicationfile-156579.pdf>)

(November 24, 2022) Letter from Jin Huh, Executive Director, Social Planning Toronto (CC.New) (<https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2023/cc/comm/communicationfile-156581.pdf>)

(November 24, 2022) Letter from Mike Mattos, President, Judith Hayes, Vice President, and Rick Ciccarelli, Executive Board Associate, Mount Dennis Community Association (CC.New) (<https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2023/cc/comm/communicationfile-156542.pdf>)

November 30, 2022

Hon. Steve Clark
Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
777 Bay Street, 17th Floor
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3
Via Email: minister.mah@ontario.ca

Re: Bill 23, More Homes Built Faster Act

Dear Minister Clark,

Town of Orangeville acknowledges Bill 23, titled the More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022 is part of a long-term strategy to provide attainable housing options for families across Ontario. We at the Town understand that Bill 23 is focused on the provincial government's stated goal of having 1.5 million homes built over the next 10 years and aims to do so by reducing bureaucratic costs and delays in construction. While the Province's goals to resolve the housing crisis in the next decade is ambitious and necessary, it could potentially have unintended long-term financial and planning related consequences on municipalities, such as the Town of Orangeville.

On behalf of the Town of Orangeville Council, I put forward a list of concerns of potential unintended consequences arising from Bill 23:

1. Bill 23 could have a direct impact on the state of good repair mandate rolled out by the province in their recent legislation, O.Reg. 588/17. If growth is no longer paying for growth, that means **we may have to reallocate some of our lifecycle asset management dollars**, as required by the same legislation, towards growth related infrastructure.
2. Although we support the overarching message and intention of Bill 23 as it relates to housing affordability, we do question whether **overall quality of life and affordability of our citizens would be severely impacted due to higher taxes** and user fees. The Town of Orangeville has limited cost-recovery avenues, meaning Bill 23 may require cost-recovery within the recent Asset Management plan, resulting in a more significant infrastructure funding gap. This situation will be further exasperated if specific provisions of Bill 23 dilute our ability to cover infrastructure improvements through Development Charges.
3. Town of Orangeville is a fast-growing community with a comprehensive economic outlook for Industrial and Commercial developments. This could be compromised if we find ourselves having to **levy higher development charges for industrial, commercial and institutional (ICI) developments to mitigate loss of Residential Development Charges**.

4. Under the current climate of impending global inflation, the Town is already struggling to keep its service levels affordable. Without any direct financial incentive from the province such as interest-free loans from Infrastructure Ontario, **we will lose our ability to build capacity for growth in service areas like Water and Wastewater.**
5. Improving residential development efficiencies and costs by limiting the role and scope of Conservation Authorities (CA) in the planning approval process is unclear. Like many municipalities, Orangeville relies on Conservation Authority support to provide guidance on natural hazard avoidance and ecological protection to ensure that the provincial policy framework around these issues is upheld in our planning decisions. **If CAs are removed from this advisory role, we must find alternative means in assuring such policies remain adhered-to.** It is unclear how this would improve approval timing efficiencies or save costs to residential developments. It could inevitably shoulder more costs to development in subsidizing municipal costs and/or consultant peer review support.
6. Orangeville supports the province's objectives of lowering costs and improving efficiency for residential development to deliver more housing to Ontarians; However, like many municipalities, our challenges for facilitating more housing within our community are not simply costs and process inefficiencies for developments. Instead, we are challenged by our limited municipal land availability and servicing capacity constraints. We ask that the province **explore actionable measures and tangible resource deployment to support our efforts to increase our land supply and infrastructure servicing capacity.**

According to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario's (AMO) recent submission to the Steering Committee of Bill 23, it states "The province has offered no evidence that the radical elements of the bill will improve housing affordability. It is more likely that the bill will enhance the profitability of the development industry at the expense of taxpayers and the natural environment." As the frontline level of government, municipalities are also eager to resolve the housing crisis and are the most informed on what is needed to create complete communities that Ontarians want and expect. We ask that the province view us as one of the strategic partners in further refining the More Homes Built Faster Act, and open more robust channels of communication and consultation.

Sincerely,



Lisa Post
Mayor

CC Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
The Honourable Michael Parsa, Associate Minister of Housing
The Honourable Sylvia Jones, Dufferin-Caledon Member of Provincial Parliament
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
All Ontario Municipalities

**Legislative Services**

Town of Newmarket
395 Mulock Drive
P.O. Box 328 Station Main
Newmarket, ON L3Y 4X7

clerks@newmarket.ca
tel.: 905-895-5193
fax: 905-953-5100

December 15, 2022

Sent via email

RE: Bill 23, More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022

I am writing to advise you that at the Council meeting held on December 12, 2022, Council adopted the following recommendations regarding the above referenced matter:

Whereas the Government of Ontario recently passed Bill 23, More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022 without providing meaningful or adequate opportunity for municipalities to provide input on ways to increase the supply of housing and to improve housing affordability in Ontario while ensuring the financial capacity of municipalities to support growth and protection of the environment; and,

Whereas Bill 23 will have significant negative impact on heritage housing, green standards, environmental protection of wetlands, conservation, social housing and other significant areas of concern; and,

Whereas a preliminary analysis of Bill 23 by the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) indicates the transfer of up to \$1 billion a year in costs from private sector developers to property taxpayers without any likelihood of improved housing affordability while also undermining environmental protection; and,

Whereas the Town of Newmarket has been specifically identified as a growth area, with a target to introduce 12,000 new homes by 2031, despite a lack of sewage capacity until the southern solution as mandated by the province is completed; and,

Whereas municipal estimates vary between a property tax impact of Bill 23 between five and 15 per cent; and,

Whereas a growing number of municipalities have joined in expressing their concern with the negative impacts of Bill 23;

**Legislative Services**

Town of Newmarket
395 Mulock Drive
P.O. Box 328 Station Main
Newmarket, ON L3Y 4X7

clerks@newmarket.ca
tel.: 905-895-5193
fax: 905-953-5100

Therefore be it resolved,

1. That the Town of Newmarket formally express its opposition to Bill 23 in its current form and that this resolution be forwarded to the Premier, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing Steve Clark, and MPP Newmarket-Aurora Dawn Gallagher-Murphy; and,
2. That the Town of Newmarket formally submits its inability to meet the stated target of 12,000 new homes by 2031; and,
3. That a copy of this resolution also be sent to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, and all Ontario municipalities.

Yours sincerely,

Kiran Saini
Deputy Clerk

Copy:
Association of Municipalities of Ontario
All Ontario municipalities