

**Ministry of
Municipal Affairs
and Housing**

Office of the Minister

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234-2022-4625

October 25, 2022

**Clerk
City of Cambridge
P.O. Box 669
50 Dickson Street
Cambridge Ontario N1R 5W8**

**Subject: Municipal Housing Targets and Municipal Housing Pledges
City of Cambridge: 19,000**

Dear Danielle Manton,

Our government is taking bold and transformative action to get 1.5 million homes built over the next 10 years.

To help fulfill this commitment, we have announced and are implementing More Homes Built Faster: Ontario's Housing Supply Action Plan 2022-23. This plan includes a suite of legislative and non-legislative changes across government that will help unlock more housing, streamline development approvals, remove barriers, accelerate planning, and further protect homebuyers and owners.

To support the new action plan, we have introduced the **More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022**, which, if passed, would ensure that cities, towns, and rural communities grow with a mix of ownership and rental housing types that meet the needs of all Ontarians.

To achieve the goal of building 1.5 million homes, large and fast-growing municipalities, including yours, are being assigned a **Municipal Housing Target**. While municipalities have taken significant steps in increasing their housing supply, Ontario needs an unprecedented amount of housing to meet current demand and that of generations to come. Our government requires a commitment from our municipal partners to do their part in providing housing for future population growth.

To implement the 1.5 million homes target I am asking the City of Cambridge to demonstrate its commitment to accelerating housing supply by developing a **Municipal Housing Pledge** and take the necessary steps to facilitate the construction of 19,000 new homes in your community by 2031. I ask that you bring this letter to the attention of your Head of Council so that your municipality is positioned to deliver its pledge to me, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, by the March 1, 2023, deadline. See the

info sheet attached to this letter for information and considerations in developing a Municipal Housing Pledge.

Pledges will provide important information that showcase the strategies and actions that municipalities choose to adopt in order to prioritize and accelerate housing. Our government intends to use your pledges to monitor and track progress so we can continue to play a role in supporting municipalities and removing barriers to housing development.

Our government recognizes the key role that municipalities will play in implementing Municipal Housing Targets through their Municipal Housing Pledges and know that you share the desire to bring more housing to the people of Ontario. We are committed to addressing the policy and implementation barriers you may encounter as you develop your pledges and I encourage you to reach out to Wendy Ren, Executive Lead, Municipal Policy/Program Collaboration, at Wendy.Ren@ontario.ca or 437-995-7094, if you have any questions, comments, or suggestions.

I look forward to working together to increase housing supply for all Ontarians.

Sincerely,



Steve Clark
Minister

Encl.

c: The Honourable Michael Parsa, Associate Minister of Housing
Kate Manson-Smith, Deputy Minister
Ryan Amato, Chief of Staff, Minister's Office
Joshua Paul, Assistant Deputy Minister, Housing Division

Info Sheet: Considerations in Developing Municipal Housing Pledge

The pledge is not intended to be a land-use planning document, and its development should not require external technical expertise. The format and language used in the pledge should be accessible to the general public. The pledge is intended to be approved by municipal councils and should help codify Council's commitment to meeting their municipal housing target.

Municipalities can leverage new and existing policy tools as they develop housing pledges and work towards their housing targets.

Below is a non-exhaustive list of potential strategies and actions that municipalities may include in developing their housing pledges. There may be additional opportunities based on local circumstances and the Province is interested in hearing about those ideas and creative solutions.

- Strategies to encourage and promote gentle intensification to enable and expedite additional residential units in existing residential areas
- Outline ways in which funding under provincial programs, such as the Streamline Development Approval Fund (SDAF) or Municipal Modernization Program (MMP), has been used to streamline existing municipal development approval processes
- Information on municipal development approval timelines and whether municipalities are being appealed for non-decisions
- Identify potential measures where current lack of infrastructure capacity (e.g., water/wastewater servicing) may limit future housing development
- Strategies to use municipal surplus lands
- Commitment to plan for, fund, and approve (where applicable) specific critical municipal infrastructure to support growth and new housing (e.g., water, wastewater, transit etc.), which may include expanded capacity as well as fully new facilities/assets
- Priorities for strategic and site-specific planning decisions to expedite housing in priority areas (e.g., around transit stations and in transit-served areas)
- Update zoning by-laws to permit a greater range of housing to be built without the need for costly and lengthy rezoning applications
- Municipalities may also consider existing tools such as the Community Infrastructure and Housing Accelerator, [Community Planning Permit System](#), Major Transit Station Areas, and Protected Major Transit Station Areas.

Below are some of the potential components of a municipal housing pledge. Municipalities are free to choose, alter, or add any new components that seem reasonable. Pledges can be represented in the form of plain text, tables, charts, maps, or a combination of them.

- Municipal Housing Target

- Planned and proposed Municipal Initiatives
- Initiative Owner and Additional Stakeholders
- Context and Description of How Initiative Accelerates Housing
- Number of units per initiative and housing type
- Considerations (Barriers, Implementation, Risks, etc.)
- Potential Mitigation Strategies and Proposal to Accelerate Housing
- Potential Reporting and Monitoring Measures

The deadline for municipalities to submit housing pledges to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing is March 1, 2023.

Municipal housing pledges are intended to be public documents and it's anticipated that municipalities will post them online.

Municipalities can contact Ministry staff with any questions and for clarification.