

Appendix E – November 2, 2023 correspondence from the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

**Ministry of
Municipal Affairs
and Housing**

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234-2023-5307

November 2, 2023

**Re: Announcement Impacting Provincial Decisions on Municipal Official Plans/
Official Plan Amendments**

Dear Sir, Madam:

Since becoming the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, I have made it a priority to review past decisions related to land use planning, including official plans and minister's zoning orders, to ensure that these earlier decisions support our goal of building at least 1.5 million homes in a manner that maintains and reinforces public trust.

In November 2022 and April 2023, the ministry issued decisions on official plans impacting the cities of Barrie, Belleville, Guelph, Hamilton, Ottawa and Peterborough, the regional municipalities of Halton, Niagara, Peel, Waterloo and York, and Wellington County. As a result of my review of these decisions, on October 23, 2023, I announced my intent to introduce legislation as soon as possible that would reverse the province's changes to these plans.

For clarity, the proposed legislation will, if passed, bring into effect the official plans or official plan amendments as adopted by municipal council without provincial modifications, except for any modifications that are necessary to protect matters of public health and safety, or which are required to align with legislation or regulations.

The ministry appreciates that the decisions that were made in November 2022 and April 2023 are currently in effect, and I understand that many municipalities are working to actively implement the decisions. I also appreciate that productive collaboration and coordination between the ministry and your municipality is going to be needed to ensure clarity going forward.

As stated in my announcement on October 23, 2023, we are providing 45 days for municipalities to submit information about the modifications to the official plans that were originally submitted to the Ministry, including:

1. Circumstances or projects where construction has already begun in relation to the official plan or official plan amendment decisions, particularly those projects that are directly reliant on the modifications made to the plan through the ministry's decision; and

2. If there are changes that the municipality would like to see made to the official plan, based on the modifications that the province had previously made, and which you support. Lower-tier municipal feedback on the original official plan submitted to the province will be important to supporting its implementation.

We are asking mayors of impacted single and lower tier municipalities to submit this feedback, including proposed changes and updates to the official plans/official plan amendments, to ministry staff **by December 7, 2023**. Please submit feedback to the following email address: MMAHOfficialPlans@Ontario.ca.

To ensure the province receives the necessary feedback within the 45-day window, we will accept changes directly from heads of council of single and lower-tier municipalities, including to official plans that were originally submitted with council endorsements from upper-tier municipalities. Heads of council may choose to seek a council endorsement of their proposed changes, but that is not required.

While I intend to introduce legislation prior to the conclusion of the 45-day period, please rest assured that municipal feedback received during the 45-day window, and through consultation on the legislation, will be carefully considered to determine the best approach for moving forward, including if further legislative steps or the use of other provincial tools are required.

We are also interested in receiving information and supporting documentation that outlines related planning costs that may have been incurred by your municipality arising out of the provincial decisions. This information can be submitted to the ministry outside of the 45-day window through municipal staff.

Official plans are an important tool for addressing Ontario's shortage of housing. To that end, as you prepare your feedback, I encourage you to ensure your proposed approach to meet your housing targets is ambitious and reflective of the serious need to get more homes built quickly. In particular, I encourage you to look for opportunities to systematically increase density and align this density with existing and planned transit within your municipality. Getting more homes built faster will help more people in your municipality find a home that meets their needs and budget and help municipalities access funding under Ontario's all-new \$1.2 billion Building Faster Fund.

If your staff have questions or concerns, ministry staff are available to discuss this matter further. Please have municipal staff contact the ministry at the email address above and we will connect you with the relevant staff in my ministry.

Thank you,



Hon. Paul Calandra
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing