

**Ministry of
Municipal Affairs
and Housing**

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234-2023-711

February 13, 2023

Your Worship
Mayor David West
City of Richmond Hill
225 East Beaver Creek Road,
Richmond Hill ON L4B 3P4

officemayor@richmondhill.ca

**Subject: Municipal Housing Targets and Municipal Housing Pledges
City of Richmond Hill: 27,000**

Dear Mayor West,

I would like to congratulate you on your re-election in the City of Richmond Hill last fall. With last year's municipal and provincial elections now behind us, Ontarians are counting on us to work together productively and build a relationship of trust that delivers for the people we represent.

The lack of housing supply has become one of the defining issues in Ontario today, and I know it was just as prevalent in last year's municipal elections as it was for those of us on the provincial level.

Our government is taking bold and transformative action to get 1.5 million homes built by 2031.

That's why, last October, our government introduced our More Homes Built Faster Plan. The plan contains practical measures that will have a real impact on our communities, reduce costs for homebuyers, and encourage the development of more housing supply.

These measures included municipal housing targets and pledges. While municipalities have taken significant steps in increasing the housing supply, our government requires a commitment from our municipal partners to take extra effort in providing housing for future population growth.

To implement the 1.5 million homes target, large and fast-growing municipalities, including yours, are being assigned a **Municipal Housing Target**. Via your municipal Clerk in last October, I asked the City of Richmond Hill to demonstrate your commitment to accelerating housing supply by developing a **Municipal Housing Pledge** and taking

the necessary steps to facilitate the construction of 27,000 new homes in your community by 2031.

I would like to inform you that the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing is extending the deadline for the submission of municipal housing pledges from March 1, 2023, to March 22, 2023, in response to requests from some of our municipal partners.

As I stated in my previous letter, pledges will provide important information that showcases 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. Please see the information sheet attached again to this letter for information and considerations in developing a Municipal Housing Pledge.

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.

Please acknowledge receipt of the letter to Wendy Ren as well.

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

Sincerely,



Steve Clark
Minister

Encl.

c: Kate Manson-Smith, Deputy Minister
Ryan Amato, Chief of Staff, Minister's Office
Michael Parsa, Associate Minister of Housing
Joshua Paul, Assistant Deputy Minister, Housing Division
Sean Fraser, Assistant Deputy Minister, Planning and Growth Division
Wendy Ren, Executive Lead, Municipal Policy/Program Collaboration
Darlene Joslin, Interim City Manager
Stephen Huycke, Director of Council Support Services/Town Clerk

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.