



Mayor David West
City of Richmond Hill
Via electronic mail officemayor@richmondhill.ca

October 16, 2023

Dear Mayor West,

I am writing to you following a review of the City of Richmond Hill's application to the federal government's Housing Accelerator Fund.

To adequately respond to the housing challenges facing the people of Richmond Hill, it's imperative that we pursue bold ideas, while implementing solutions that work for Canadian families and communities.

Before making a decision on the City's application, I would respectfully urge you to ensure that the City is doing everything in its power to address the housing crisis in Richmond Hill.

In particular, I have the following requests that would improve Richmond Hill's application and better reflect my ambition for the Housing Accelerator Fund:

- Legalize four units as-of-right city-wide; and
- Allow up to four storeys as-of-right within 800 metres of rapid transit and where MTSA's do not extend to a walkable radius of 800 metres.

These changes will increase the supply of housing in Richmond Hill, allow for greater housing options within walking distance to transit, and facilitate more genuine housing options for the people of Richmond Hill.

If you and Council can enhance your application by addressing these items, it will allow us to ensure Richmond Hill leverages its full potential to develop the housing which the people of Richmond Hill need.

My colleagues, Members of Parliament Majid Jowhari and Leah Taylor Roy, have both been steadfast advocates for the City of Richmond Hill. In their advocacy to me, they have communicated the unique circumstances that Richmond Hill faces, but that the City can rise to the challenge and do its part to close Canada's housing supply gap.

I appreciate your consideration of this request and eagerly anticipate our future discussions.

Sincerely,

The Honourable Sean Fraser, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities