



Mayor Rob Burton

*Via electronic mail:* Mayor@oakville.ca

January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Dear Mayor Burton,

I hope you and your loved ones enjoyed a pleasant holiday period.

I write in reply to your December 21, 2023 response to my letter of October 26, 2023 concerning Oakville's application to the federal government's Housing Accelerator Fund.

I am encouraged by your response, and maintain a desire to see more homes built, faster in your community.

The Housing Accelerator Fund is a highly ambitious, competitive, and over-subscribed fund designed to provide incentives to communities across Canada to remove barriers and cut red tape that impede home building. There are more than 500 eligible applications from municipalities across Canada, and with a finite pool of funding available, only the most ambitious applications will be approved.

My October letter to you included suggestions as to how Oakville could improve its application in a manner that would render it more competitive with those most ambitious communities.

As you may have observed from announcements of successful applications across the country, cities who have been successful in obtaining dollars under this fund have either passed bylaws to implement the additional measures I suggested to them, or, they have agreed to conditions within their funding agreements requiring them to do so by specific deadlines and have passed complementary bylaws.

With this in mind, I would kindly ask that you provide my office with an update after Council adopts the requisite bylaws to implement the additional measures, or that you provide details on plans to implement those changes. For greater certainty, this will require Oakville to adopt a bylaw to, *inter alia*, allow for four units dwelling units on a single lot on an as-of-right basis.

As well, we require greater clarity on your actions to increase the amount and density of housing for students within walking distance of Sheridan College. Many students are living in single family homes that surround Sheridan, which could be much better utilized as homes for families. A measure such as allowing four storeys and four or more units as of right within an 800 metre radius of Sheridan College would be acceptable. Alternatively, I would also be open to seeing your plans on how you intend to accelerate the development of more mid to high-rise rental apartment buildings within walking distance of the College.

I am glad to see your intent to create a Housing Secretariat. As the planning and approval authority, you play a crucial role in fostering the creation of non-market affordable housing, and having the secretariat become responsible for liaising with other levels of government, along with local non-profits, and prioritizing those projects in your planning and approvals process would be welcomed.

The Members of Parliament who represent Oakville in the House of Commons, MP Pam Damoff and Minister Anand, have each been staunch advocates for Oakville on this particular file. They are of the view that Oakville would benefit from this funding, and that it would improve the affordability of building, buying, and renting homes in Oakville. Their efforts and advocacy are the primary reason why Oakville's application remains open, given we did not hear back from the Town in a timely way after my October letter.

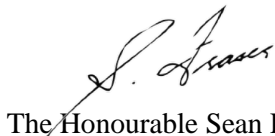
Given my desire to move swiftly and to continue awarding federal funding to ambitious communities across Canada, I must understand in short order whether Oakville intends to proceed with implementing the changes I have suggested.

I would ask that you reply to this letter indicating how Council intends to proceed by no later than January 24, 2024.

In the absence of a clear indication that Oakville will implement suggested changes. I plan to award the funding currently earmarked for your community to other municipalities who have concrete plans to implement more ambitious reforms and build more homes than would result from the current iteration of Oakville's application.

I sincerely look forward to hearing from you, with the hope Oakville will implement reforms needed to accelerate and increase housing availability as the Housing Accelerator Fund is intended to achieve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Fraser', is written over a horizontal line.

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