



Mayor Rob Burton
Via electronic mail: Mayor@oakville.ca

October 25, 2023

Dear Mayor Burton,

I write following a review of the Town of Oakville's application to the federal government's Housing Accelerator Fund.

Canada is in a housing crisis, and we all have an important role to play in addressing this crisis. While the federal government is working on measures like a GST rebate to incentivize construction, Mayors and Councils from across Canada have demonstrated leadership by taking action to reform zoning bylaws to help get more homes built, faster.

The housing challenges facing the Greater Toronto Area have national implications, and other municipalities in the GTA have recognized this and have taken steps to end exclusionary zoning. As a result, before making a decision on Oakville's application, I would respectfully urge you to ensure that the Town is doing everything in its power to address the housing supply gap in Oakville, in line with steps taken by other cities in the region.

Upon reviewing your application in detail, there were a number of specific initiatives which I was pleased to see, like, waiving building permit fees for ADUs and implementing electronic development approvals. However, there are a few additional measures I request that you consider in order to strengthen Oakville's application. These include:

- Permitting four units as-of-right Town-wide;
- Increasing densification around Sheridan College;
- Designating dedicated staff to implement an affordable housing strategy, and identifying lands for affordable nonmarket housing; and
- Delegating approvals for variances, affordable housing, and modular housing to Town staff with timelines.

I am eager to approve Oakville's application, but I will not be able to do so before you consider the suggested improvements. I will remain a steadfast ally of the Town and of any municipality ready to lead with the level of ambition required to solve Canada's housing crisis.

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