



January 26, 2023

Hon. Steve Clark, Minister  
Ministry of Municipal Affairs & Housing  
17<sup>th</sup> Floor, 777 Bay Street  
Toronto, ON, M7A 2J3

Dear Minister Clark,

Bruce County strongly objects to the province proposing Bill 23 during the Council transition period following elections October 24, 2022. The actions of the province to extend the commenting period to December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022 on key Environmental Registry of Ontario postings, and then to pass the Bill on November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022 creates an environment of mistrust between municipalities and the province. This mistrust impacts our relationship at a time where partnership between multiple levels of government is critical to address affordable housing across Ontario.

Affordable housing has been a key priority for Bruce County and our member municipalities over the past several years. Innovative work is happening across the County including communicating our need for affordable housing through development of an affordable housing tool kit; updating planning documents to permit additional residential units as-of-right; through County housing builds; and researching tools such as the Community Permit Planning System (CPPS) to facilitate construction of affordable housing. The County and the municipality of Saugeen Shores had a delegation with you at ROMA in 2022, requesting the ability to utilize inclusionary zoning, as we see it as an essential tool to further construction of affordable housing units in our County.

Bruce County appreciates the call for timely and decisive action outlined in the Affordability Task Force Report, to address the crisis in housing affordability. The remedy, however, requires collaboration at all levels of government, especially municipalities which are on the front line of approving housing. Municipalities are strongly positioned to help provide input on the tools we need to address the affordable housing crisis in Ontario.

The proposed changes are many, far-reaching, and some contradict other recent changes that are in process of being implemented by municipalities. These rapid changes pull staff time away from their tangible work of addressing affordable housing locally to re-construct the planning framework and fill service gaps created by the province, such as removing Conservation Authorities from natural heritage review.

We request that when legislative change is introduced by the province, it is with a reasonable review period and commitment to respecting the communicated consultation timeframes prior to passing legislation. We also request the province put in place reasonable transition periods assist municipalities, stakeholders and the development industry to ensure appropriate transition plans are in place to minimize impact on development review and approvals.

We strongly recommend the province reconsider how they engage with municipalities on legislative change and create opportunities for meaningful engagement and share a road map to outline future changes being considered by the province. Some stability is required in the system so that municipalities can focus on addressing the need for affordable housing in our own communities.

We would be pleased for the opportunity to meet with you to discuss the need for housing locally and identify tools needed to ensure construction of affordable housing in Bruce County.

Regards,



Chris Reabody  
Warden, County of Bruce

cc: Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario  
Minister Lisa Thompson, MPP, Huron-Bruce  
Rick Byers, MPP, Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound  
Bruce County Municipalities