

Minister Ted McMeekin
Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
17th Floor
777 Bay Street
Toronto, Ontario M5G 2E5

Dear Minister McMeekin:

Access to safe, decent and affordable housing is fundamental to ensuring a good quality of life for Ontario residents. However, at present, municipalities do not have the tools to create sufficient housing, including regulatory powers to enact inclusionary zoning policies. Many Ontario municipalities, planners, community organizations, housing advocates, and people across Ontario have been calling for the policy change for a long time. However, the Province has yet to pass the necessary legislation.

There are currently more than 168,000 households on waiting lists for affordable housing in Ontario and thousands more depend on our shelter system every day. It is no secret that there is an affordability crisis at hand, not only for lower income families, but also for a growing portion of the middle class. Consequently, municipalities need every tool in the policy toolkit to address urgent housing needs. Inclusionary zoning is a very important tool with a proven track record in providing much needed housing in hundreds of municipalities across North America. According to Toronto's Chief Planner, we could have built more than 12,000 affordable housing units in the last five years in Toronto alone, had the Province permitted inclusionary zoning. Strikingly, there could have been an additional 1,200 affordable housing units created in Toronto since the estimates were made by the Chief Planner in May 2015, had fast response been given to our repeated requests. Cities and regions across Ontario recognize the potential of inclusionary zoning policies and have called on the Province to act.

We were pleased to hear you state, in the Legislature on November 16th of last year, that people who were eager to see inclusionary zoning would be waiting "not much longer" for the legislation to come forward. We want to urge you to act on that promise. We are missing a big opportunity. We need this government to listen to the many voices calling for this important

policy change and facilitate the creation of more affordable housing for the thousands of Ontarians that are desperately in need. We can't wait until next year, until the next housing strategy or until the next government. We need to move forward. And we can.

There are already two bills [Bill 3 and Bill 39] before the legislature to easily provide inclusionary zoning powers to municipalities. The Ontario government needs to adopt inclusionary zoning legislation urgently before the current sitting of the legislature ends. Ontarians need inclusionary zoning powers before the summer, and there is no reason not to provide it.

We once again ask for your leadership to bring forward either of the bills on inclusionary zoning so that municipalities can have the authority to implement inclusionary zoning and build desperately needed affordable housing.

We look forward to your response on this critical issue.

Sincerely,

ACORN, John Anderson, Regional Head Organizer

Advocacy Centre for Tenants Ontario (ACTO), Kenneth Hale, Director of Advocacy and Legal Services

Afghan Women's Organization, Adeena Niazi, Executive Director

Canadian Centre for Victims of Torture, Mulugeta G. Abai, Executive Director

Canadian Mental Health Association Toronto Branch, Steve Lurie, Executive Director

Children's Aid Society of Toronto, David Rivard, Chief Executive Officer

Chinese Canadian National Council - Toronto Chapter, Chase Lo, Executive Director

CMHA Oxford, Mike McMahon, Executive Director

Colour of Poverty - Colour of Change, Michael Kerr, Coordinator

Community Development Halton, Joey Edwardh, Executive Director

Community Matters Toronto, Margaret Coshan, Executive Director

COSTI Immigrant Services, Mario J. Calla, Executive Director

Covenant House Toronto, Bruce Rivers, Executive Director

CRC, Claire Barcik, Executive Director

Deep Quong Community Fund Inc., Pearl Quong, Manager, Vance Latchford Place

Elsbeth Heyworth Centre for Women, Sunder Singh, Executive Director

Evangel Hall Mission (EHM), Ainsley Chapman, Executive Director

Family Service Toronto, Margaret Hancock, Executive Director

FCJ Refugee Centre, Loly Rico, Co-Director

Federation of Metro Tenants' Associations, John Plumadore, Chair

Fife House, Keith Hambly, Executive Director

Firgrove Learning & Innovation Community Centre, Lorraine Anderson, Coordinator

Flemingdon Health Centre, John Elliott, Executive Director

Food Forward, Darcy Higgins, Founder

Grange Community Association, Ceta Ramkhalawansingh, Hon. President

Habitat Services, Leslie McDonald, Executive Director

Jessie's - The June Callwood Centre for Young Women, Maritza Sanchez, Executive Director

Jewish Family & Child, Brian Prousky, Executive Director

Kensington Bellwoods Community Legal Services, Barbara Hurd, Community Legal Worker

Maggie's - Toronto Sex Workers' Action Project, Jean McDonald, Executive Director

Miziwe Biik Development Corporation, Lorna Lawrence, Program Officer

Multifaith Alliance to End Homelessness, Margaret Mooney, Chairperson

Ontario Association of Social Workers, Central Ontario Branch, Tracey Nesbitt, Manager

Public Interest Strategy & Communications, Kevin Beaulieu, Executive Director

Raising the Roof / Chez Toit, Carolann Barr, Executive Director

Right to Housing Coalition, Kenneth Hale, Coordinator

S.E.A.S. Centre, Dawin Kong, Executive Director

Scadding Court Community Centre, Kevin Lee, Executive Director

Sistering – A Woman's Place, Patricia O'Connell, Executive Director

Social Planning and Research Council of Hamilton, Don Jaffray, Executive Director

Social Planning Council Oxford, Ashley Farrar, Executive Director

Social Planning Toronto, Sean Meagher, Executive Director

South Asian Women's Centre, Kripa Sekhar, Executive Director

St. Stephen's Community House, Bill Sinclair, Executive Director

The 519, Maura Lawless, Executive Director

The Dream Team, Courtney Roberts-Lawes, Marketing and Communications Coordinator

The Learning Enrichment Foundation, Peter Frampton, Executive Director

The Parkdale Activity – Recreation Centre –PARC, Victor Willis, Executive Director

Toronto Alliance to End Homelessness, Mandy Ashton, Executive Assistant

Toronto and Area Council of Women, Eileen Lackie, Secretary

Toronto HIV/AIDS Network (THN), Murray Jose-Boerbridge, Co-Chair

Toronto People with AIDS Foundation, Murray Jose-Boerbridge, Executive Director

Toronto Women's City Alliance, Kara Santokie, PhD, Director

Urban Alliance on Race Relations, Nigel Barriffe, President

Warden Woods Community Centre, Ginelle Skerrit, Executive Director

WoodGreen Community Services, Anne Babcock, President & CEO

YWCA Toronto | A Turning Point for Women, Heather McGregor, Chief Executive Officer

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