

**Ministry of
Municipal Affairs
and Housing**

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234-2023-4558

September 13, 2023

Laurie Scott
Chair, Standing Committee on Heritage, Infrastructure and Cultural Policy
Laurie.Scott@pc.ola.org

Dear Ms. Scott,

As you know, our government is working hard to tackle Ontario's historic housing supply crisis – a crisis that, left unaddressed by previous governments, is now threatening the dream of homeownership for too many Ontario families.

As part of this work, in November 2022, our government indicated it was exploring appointing regional facilitators in Ontario's fastest growing regions to eliminate unnecessary or duplicative barriers preventing towns and cities from hitting their housing targets. Since then, substantial changes have taken place at the municipal level, including the introduction of strong mayor powers for most of Ontario's largest municipalities and the scheduled dissolution of Peel Region through the Hazel McCallion Act.

I am mindful of the need to provide stability, transparency, and continuity for local governments as they work to meet their housing targets – even as we ensure that existing structures are not standing in the way of getting homes built. As such, I am writing to you today in your role as Chair of the Legislature's Standing Committee on Heritage, Infrastructure and Cultural Policy to request that the committee take over the work originally proposed for facilitators in the following areas: Durham, Halton, Niagara, Simcoe County, Waterloo, and York.

The standing committee has the ability to carry out this work in a manner that is public, open and accountable, with opportunities for participation from members of all parties, local governments and the public, including in the affected communities. I would ask that the committee consider commencing a study to review and evaluate local governance structures and service delivery in these areas to ensure that they are providing effective and accountable government, particularly when it comes to getting more homes built. Specifically, this study could shed light on the following:

- Is two-tier government in these regions supporting or hindering the construction of new homes and the provision of effective local governance more generally?
- Are there responsibilities and services that could be combined, amended or moved from one level of local government to another, or combined among existing local governments, to support the construction of new homes and the provision of effective local governance more generally?

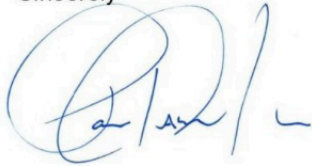
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- Is the municipal governance structure within each of these regions supporting the construction of new homes and the provision of effective local governance more generally?
- Could any changes to regional governance enhance local services and/or provide better value to taxpayers?

I recognize that this is a substantial request for a committee that is already tasked with a significant workload. Still, the standing committee is uniquely suited to review and report on these important questions in a manner that will build public trust. Ultimately, our goal is to ensure that redundant and unnecessary obstacles to new home construction are removed and that local governance structures are providing fair, effective and accountable government.

I appreciate the committee's consideration of my request and will be happy to furnish more information if needed.

Sincerely



The Hon. Paul Calandra
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

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