

**Ministry of
Municipal Affairs
and Housing**

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234-2023-4155

August 22, 2023

Your Worship
Mayor Kenneth Boshcoff
City of Thunder Bay
Ken.Boshcoff@thunderbay.ca

Dear Mayor Boshcoff,

Subject: Municipal Housing Pledges and Targets, Strong Mayor Powers and Building Faster Fund

City of Thunder Bay: 2,200 Homes

All levels of government play an important role in solving Ontario's housing crisis. That is why, on June 16th of this year, I asked the City of Thunder Bay, along with 20 other municipalities, to demonstrate its commitment to accelerate housing supply by identifying a locally appropriate housing target (i.e., new housing units) to meet current and future housing needs to 2031; and to develop a Municipal Housing Pledge to increase and accelerate housing supply.

Further to my letter in June, the Ministry has now set a specific housing target for the City of Thunder Bay of 2,200 new homes constructed in your community by 2031. I am asking you, as head of council, to respond in writing by October 15, 2023 confirming your commitment to meet this target.

To further support municipalities in delivering much-needed housing, the government will also extend **Strong Mayor** powers to the 21 municipalities with newly assigned housing targets, provided that the head of council has committed in writing to meet their provincially assigned target.

To be clear, I am still requesting that your Municipality prepare and submit to the Ministry a **Housing Pledge** by December 15, 2023 that showcases the strategies and actions that it will take in order to achieve the above housing target. I encourage you to

complete this critical work without delay to help build the homes Ontarians need and deserve.

To demonstrate the government's support as you work toward this goal, on August 21, 2023, Premier Ford announced the new Building Faster Fund, a new three-year-\$1.2 billion program to help municipalities meet or exceed the provincially assigned housing targets they have committed to achieve by 2031 as described in their housing pledge. The Building Faster Fund will provide up to \$400 million over three years of financial support for municipalities that can be directed toward housing-enabling infrastructure and related costs that support community growth.

Funding under the program will be based on two key criteria. First, each municipalities' potential share of the \$400 million annual allocation will be based on their target's share of the overall goal of 1.5 million homes in Ontario by 2031. Second, each municipalities' actual funding will be based on whether their annual housing performance is on track to meet its 2031 target. Municipalities on track to exceed their target based on annual housing performance will receive additional funding.

Ontario will be consulting with the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Housing Supply Action Plan Implementation Team, and the City of Toronto on the program design details of the Building Faster Fund, including eligible expenses and ways to track the progress of municipalities. Funding is anticipated to start in 2024-25 based on performance in 2023. I look forward to sharing more details in the near future.

Our government remains committed to addressing the policy and implementation barriers you may encounter as you develop your pledges. I encourage you to send any questions to Christina Thomas, the Ministry's Manager of Growth Planning, Data and Analysis, Christina.Thomas@ontario.ca.

As Ontario grows, we need to build more homes. I look forward to your support in ensuring that everyone – newcomers, young families and seniors – can afford a place to call home.

Sincerely,



Steve Clark
Minister
Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

C: Hon. Nina Tangri, Associate Minister of Housing
Kevin Holland, MPP Thunder Bay—Atikokan
Kirstin Jensen, Deputy Chief of Staff, Minister's Office

Martha Greenberg, Deputy Minister

Sean Fraser, Assistant Deputy Minister, Planning and Growth Division

Joshua Paul, Assistant Deputy Minister, Market Housing Division

Caspar Hall, Assistant Deputy Minister, Local Government Division

Krista Power, Clerk, City of Thunder Bay

Norm Gale, City Manager, City of Thunder Bay