



Norfolk County Office of the Mayor



October 11, 2023

The Honourable Paul Calandra
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
College Park, 17th Floor
777 Bay Street
Toronto, Ontario M7A 2J3

Dear Minister Calandra:

Subject: Municipal Housing Pledges and Targets

Congratulations from Norfolk on your recent appointment to Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. I very much look forward to building upon the positive relationship built with your predecessor. Please know that Norfolk and I support the Province and want to be a partner in addressing Provincial priorities, and in particular, playing our part in solving the current housing crisis.

As a formal response to the letter dated June 16, 2023 that the Ministry sent to me concerning the municipal housing pledge and targets (attached), Norfolk Council has had robust discussions about the issue. After considerable debate and feedback from some members of the community, Council was ultimately not able to support the pledge, primarily because of its association with Strong Mayor Powers.

Despite Council's decision, I want to confirm Norfolk's commitment to addressing the housing needs of our community and playing our part in responding to the housing crisis. Our government is doing everything it can to expedite approvals of applications, working with developers on expanding affordability options, taking proactive steps in zoning amendments, and working tirelessly to streamline processes and increase efficiencies. Furthermore, we are well on our way to achieving the provincially mandated targets for our second year in a row where infrastructure permits.

As you know, creating an environment for growth and increasing housing approvals requires a concerted effort from all levels of government. As we continue to work with various provincial ministries, we very much look forward to further discussions with you and your staff about how Norfolk can meet and exceed the housing targets that the province has laid out for our community.

Norfolk will be reaching out to talk to you soon so we can continue to play our part in collaborating with the province in meeting our collective priorities.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amy Martin".

Amy Martin
Mayor, Norfolk County

Attachment: Letter dated June 16, 2023, from MMAH, RE: Municipal Housing Pledges and Targets

**Ministry of
Municipal Affairs
and Housing**

Office of the Minister

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234-2023-3202

June 16, 2023

Your Worship
Mayor Amy Martin
Norfolk County
amy.martin@norfolkcounty.ca

Dear Mayor Martin:

Subject: Municipal Housing Pledges and Targets

Our government is committed to bold and transformative action in order to tackle Ontario's housing supply crisis and reach our goal of building 1.5 million homes by 2031. We recognize that municipalities are critical partners in achieving this goal, and it is in that spirit that I am writing to you today.

While many municipalities have taken significant steps to increase their local housing supply, Ontario needs an unprecedented amount of new homes to meet current and anticipated demand. You may be aware that in Fall 2022, our government requested Municipal Housing Pledges for 29 of Ontario's largest and fastest-growing municipalities. To reach the goal of 1.5 million homes built by 2031, Ontario will need municipalities across the province to do their part in providing homes for future population growth.

Today, I am asking Norfolk County 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 in your municipality to 2031; and
- developing a Municipal Housing Pledge to increase and accelerate housing supply.

Municipalities are critical partners to help us get more homes built faster. Our intention in requesting a housing pledge is that it will be approved by municipal councils and help codify Council's commitment to their target. A Municipal Housing Pledge would set out a Municipal Housing target to 2031, and the strategies and actions that your municipality will take to accelerate housing development.

As the province and municipalities work together to deliver on a commitment to build 1.5 million new homes by 2031, these pledges are critical to coordinate our efforts across governments. Please see the attachment to this letter for additional information on how to develop a Municipal Housing Pledge

Our government will work with you to address potential policy and implementation barriers as you develop your pledges. I encourage you to send any questions to Andrew Carr, Team Lead, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, at Andrew.Carr@Ontario.ca. The deadline for submitting your Housing Target and Housing Pledge is December 15, 2023.

I look forward to working with you to meet our shared commitments and help build the homes Ontarians need and deserve.

Sincerely,



Steve Clark
Minister

c: The Honourable Nina Tangri, Associate Minister of Housing
Ryan Amato, Chief of Staff, Minister's Office
Martha Greenberg, Deputy Minister
Sean Fraser, Assistant Deputy Minister, Planning and Growth Division
Joshua Paul, Assistant Deputy Minister, Housing Division

Info Sheet: Considerations in Developing Municipal Housing Pledge

The pledge is not intended to be a land-use planning document, and its development should not require external technical expertise. The format and language used in the pledge should be accessible to the general public. The pledge is intended to be approved by municipal councils and should help codify Council's commitment to meeting their municipal housing target.

Municipalities can leverage new and existing policy tools as they develop housing pledges and work towards their housing targets.

Below is a non-exhaustive list of potential strategies and actions that municipalities may include in developing their housing pledges. There may be additional opportunities based on local circumstances and the Province is interested in hearing about those ideas and creative solutions.

- Strategies to encourage and promote gentle intensification to enable and expedite additional residential units in existing residential areas
- Outline ways in which funding under provincial programs, such as the Streamline Development Approval Fund (SDAF) or Municipal Modernization Program (MMP), has been used to streamline existing municipal development approval processes
- Information on municipal development approval timelines and whether municipalities are being appealed for non-decisions
- Identify potential measures where current lack of infrastructure capacity (e.g., water/wastewater servicing) may limit future housing development
- Strategies to use municipal surplus lands
- Commitment to plan for, fund, and approve (where applicable) specific critical municipal infrastructure to support growth and new housing (e.g., water, wastewater, transit etc.), which may include expanded capacity as well as fully new facilities/assets
- Priorities for strategic and site-specific planning decisions to expedite housing in priority areas (e.g., around transit stations and in transit-served areas)
- Update zoning by-laws to permit a greater range of housing to be built without the need for costly and lengthy rezoning applications
- Municipalities may also consider existing tools such as the Community Infrastructure and Housing Accelerator, [Community Planning Permit System](#), Major Transit Station Areas, and Protected Major Transit Station Areas.

Below are some of the potential components of a municipal housing pledge. Municipalities are free to choose, alter, or add any new components that seem reasonable. Pledges can be represented in the form of plain text, tables, charts, maps, or a combination of them.

- Municipal Housing Target
- Planned and proposed Municipal Initiatives
- Initiative Owner and Additional Stakeholders
- Context and Description of How Initiative Accelerates Housing
- Number of units per initiative and housing type
- Considerations (Barriers, Implementation, Risks, etc.)
- Potential Mitigation Strategies and Proposal to Accelerate Housing
- Potential Reporting and Monitoring Measures

Municipal housing pledges are intended to be public documents and it's anticipated that municipalities will post them online.

Municipalities can contact Ministry staff with any questions and for clarification.