

Ministry of  
Municipal Affairs  
and Housing

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234-2022-4314

July 7, 2023

Your Worship  
Mayor Cathy Burghardt-Jesson  
Township of Lucan Biddulph  
[cburghardtjesson@middlesex.ca](mailto:cburghardtjesson@middlesex.ca)

Dear Mayor Burghardt-Jesson:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Cathy", written over the name "Cathy Burghardt-Jesson" in the address block.

Thank you for your letter sharing your perspectives on the implementation of the Municipal Modernization Funding Program and the recent changes to the *Planning Act* arising from Bill 109, the *More Homes for Everyone Act*, 2022. I appreciate the time you have taken to write.

With respect to your request to expand the intake period for the Municipal Modernization Funding Program, our government continues to support and work with our municipal partners to ensure they are addressing local needs, delivering high-quality and sustainable services, and keeping our communities safe. As municipalities deal with the needs of their communities, there is also an opportunity to transform services to help improve local resilience and sustainability and respond to the need for new ways of doing business. To this end, we are committed to making local service delivery more efficient, while making life more convenient and affordable for taxpayers.

Through Intake 3 of the Municipal Modernization Program, \$28 million is being provided to support 322 projects in municipalities across the province, and more than 770 projects were funded in 405 small, rural municipalities. I commend you on exploring the benefits of the Municipal Modernization Program by completing a number of successful projects, including an Attainable Housing Review, Service Delivery Reviews, and Enterprise Asset Management Plan, in order to create services that are more financially sustainable and efficient. While additional program support beyond Intake 3 is not currently being considered, a deadline extension from February 28, 2023, to December 1, 2023, for all approved implementation streams under the third intake of the program was announced at the 2023 ROMA conference.

Regarding your request for additional consultations on Bill 109, the *More Homes for Everyone Act*, 2022, the Act received Royal Assent on April 14, 2022. In developing the *More Homes for Everyone Act*, the province used a comprehensive, three-pronged approach to engage municipal partners, experts, industry, and the public to find new solutions to address Ontario's ongoing housing challenges.

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Specifically, our government organized an online public consultation program which received over 2,000 submissions. The Housing Affordability Task Force also hosted numerous consultation and discussion opportunities with municipals and municipal associations; and consultations with municipalities, experts, and industry.

While the Environmental Registry of Ontario postings for these consultations has closed, municipalities are still welcome to send comments to [planningconsultation@ontario.ca](mailto:planningconsultation@ontario.ca).

The *More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022* received Royal Assent on November 28, 2022. Our newest plan takes bold action to address the housing crisis by building 1.5 million homes by 2031. More Homes Built Faster builds upon initiatives in *More Homes More Choice* and *More Homes for Everyone*, our first and second housing supply action plans.

In this year's housing supply action plan, Helping Homebuyers, Protecting Tenants, released on April 6, 2023, we are seeking input on a proposed new provincewide land use planning policy document, called the Provincial Planning Statement, that would be issued under the *Planning Act* to replace *A Place to Grow: Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe 2019* ("A Place to Grow") and the *Provincial Policy Statement, 2020*. This will streamline Ontario's land-use planning policies and encourage more housing. The proposed Provincial Planning Statement was posted to the Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO# 019-6813) for consultation on April 6, 2023. Our government is seeking feedback, and comments received will be taken into consideration regarding any future decisions. We would invite you to share your comments on the proposed Provincial Planning Statement through the Environmental Registry of Ontario by August 4, 2023.

With respect to the suspension of the 120-day decision timeline for the County of Middlesex Official Plan Amendment 3 (OPA 3), the timing to re-start the decision timeline is subject to ministerial discretion.

I commend the County on the adoption of OPA 3 and for taking steps to increase the supply and affordability of housing within your municipality. If you require more information on changes to the *Planning Act* arising from the *More Homes for Everyone Act* and the status of OPA 3, please contact Erick Boyd, Manager, Community Planning and Development at 226-688-9058 or at [Erick.Boyd@Ontario.ca](mailto:Erick.Boyd@Ontario.ca). If you require more information on the Municipal Modernization Program, please contact Tony Brutto, Manager, Local Government and Housing at 519-859-6817 or at [Tony.Brutto@Ontario.ca](mailto:Tony.Brutto@Ontario.ca).

Once again, thank you for bringing your concerns to my attention. Please accept my best wishes.

Sincerely,



Steve Clark  
Minister

c. Rob Flack, MPP Elgin-Middlesex-London [rob.flack@pc.ola.org](mailto:rob.flack@pc.ola.org)