

**Ministry of
Municipal Affairs
and Housing**

Office of the Minister

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Dear Head of Council,

As you know, our government has launched a broad consultation to gather input on how to increase the supply and mix of housing, speed up development timelines and drive down costs. Feedback from the consultation will inform our Housing Supply Action Plan, to be released this spring. I encourage you to share your ideas by visiting Ontario.ca/HousingSupply before January 25, 2019.

As part of this consultation, we will be undertaking a fundamental review of all aspects of the development approvals process as it relates to building more housing people can afford, and attracting and retaining new business investments. That is why I have directed my ministry to review the entire provincial approvals process – from the rules for planning all the way to construction.

I am keenly aware of the broad number of permits, approvals and processes that may come into play as part of this exercise, including those that reside with our partner ministries. I am working closely with my Cabinet colleagues on this initiative and our government's goal is a streamlined development process that ensures provincial approvals are in place within one year so building can begin sooner.

To help achieve this ambitious but necessary goal, and following on the successes of our recent Growth Plan Implementation workshops, we want to hear directly from you. That is why, we will be holding a series of targeted consultations focused on the key laws and policies that my ministry administers, and your input will be critical.

In the coming days, you will be invited to participate in one or several discussions focused on the Planning Act, the Provincial Policy Statement, the Building Code and other matters. This detailed review of individual policies and laws is needed to find every barrier and unnecessary step in the process. However, as Minister, I am interested in transformative change, not incremental shifts in policies.

Making Ontario open for business means a fundamental change to the status quo. Our province needs to be a place where businesses can locate and grow, and create jobs and innovate, not spend their time clearing regulatory hurdles and navigating unnecessary red tape.

This is urgent work, and I hope you will make time to participate. I look forward to hearing your important insights and recommendations on how to move forward.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Clark".

Steve Clark
Minister
Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing