

**Ministry of
Municipal Affairs
and Housing**

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234-2023-5032

November 1, 2023

Your Worship
Mayor Shelley Ann Bentley
Haldimand County
sbentley@haldimandcounty.on.ca

Dear Mayor Bentley:

Re: Strong Mayor Powers and Eligibility for Building Faster Fund

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated October 12, 2023, in which you, on behalf of the County Council, decline to commit to your municipality's provincially assigned housing target of 4,200 homes.

Ontario is in a housing crisis caused by a severe lack of supply and our government was given a strong mandate to tackle this crisis by getting 1.5 million homes built by 2031. As all levels of government play an important role in solving Ontario's housing crisis, we were counting on Haldimand County to commit to building 4,200 homes by 2031.

In accordance with correspondence from the former Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing sent on August 22, 2023, heads of council who committed in writing to their municipality's provincially assigned housing target by October 15, 2023, will receive strong mayor powers as of October 31, 2023, and their municipality will be eligible for the Building Faster Fund. Note that without a commitment, Haldimand County has not received strong mayor powers and will not be eligible for the Building Faster Fund.

Our government is committed to providing every tool at our disposal to empower municipalities that are shovel-ready and committed to growth. I continue to invite all municipalities to help ensure that everyone – newcomers, young families and seniors – can afford a place to call home and encourage your municipality to work towards our shared provincial-municipal priorities of building more homes.

I hope that you will reconsider your commitment status in the future. I further encourage Haldimand County to submit a council-approved pledge by December 15, 2023, outlining the steps you will take to achieve your provincially assigned housing target of 4,200 homes by 2031.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Paul Calandra', with a large, stylized initial 'P'.

Hon. Paul Calandra
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

C: Hon. Rob Flack, Associate Minister of Housing
Bobbi Ann Brady, MPP Haldimand-Norfolk
Michael Klimuntowski, Chief of Staff
Martha Greenberg, Deputy Minister
Caspar Hall, Assistant Deputy Minister, Local Government Division
Sean Fraser, Assistant Deputy Minister, Planning and Growth Division
Joshua Paul, Assistant Deputy Minister, Market Housing Division
Evelyn Eichenbaum, Clerk, Haldimand County
Cathy Case, Chief Administrative Officer, Haldimand County