

**Ministry of  
Municipal Affairs  
and Housing**

Office of the Minister

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**Ministère des  
Affaires municipales  
et du Logement**

Bureau du ministre

777, rue Bay, 17<sup>e</sup> étage  
Toronto (Ontario) M7A 2J3  
Tél. : 416 585-7000



234-2025-1568

April 9, 2025

Your Worship  
Mayor Shelley Ann Bentley  
Haldimand County  
[sbentley@haldimandcounty.on.ca](mailto:sbentley@haldimandcounty.on.ca)

Dear Mayor Bentley:

To further support municipalities in delivering much-needed housing and other provincial priorities, our government is continuing to expand strong mayor powers to Ontario municipalities.

On August 22, 2023, Haldimand County was assigned a specific housing target of 4,200 new homes to be constructed in your community by 2031. In order for Haldimand County to receive strong mayor powers, I ask that you, as head of council respond in writing by April 25, 2025, confirming your commitment to meet this target.

Heads of council in strong mayor municipalities can:

- Choose to appoint the municipality's chief administrative officer.
- Hire certain municipal department heads, and establish and re-organize departments.
- Create committees of council, assign their functions and appoint the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of committees of council.
- Propose the municipal budget, which would be subject to council amendments and a separate mayoral veto and council override process.
- Veto certain by-laws if they are of the opinion that all or part of the by-law could potentially interfere with a provincial priority, such as housing, transit and infrastructure.
- Bring forward matters for council consideration if they are of the opinion that considering the matter could potentially advance a provincial priority.
- Propose certain municipal by-laws if they are of the opinion that the proposed by-law could potentially advance a provincial priority. Council can pass these by-laws if more than one-third of council members vote in favour.

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If you have any questions, please reach out to my Director of Stakeholder and Caucus Relations, Tanner Zelenko, at 437-996-2487 or [tanner.zelenko@ontario.ca](mailto:tanner.zelenko@ontario.ca).

Please accept my best wishes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rob Flack". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end of the name.

Hon. Rob Flack  
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

c: Robert Dodd, Chief of Staff  
Martha Greenberg, Deputy Minister  
Caspar Hall, Assistant Deputy Minister, Local Government Division  
Sean Fraser, Assistant Deputy Minister, Municipal and Housing Operations  
Division  
Chad Curtis  
Cathy Case