

**Ministry of
Municipal Affairs
and Housing**

Office of the Minister

777 Bay Street, 17th Floor
Toronto ON M5G 2E5
Tel.: 416 585-7000
Fax: 416 585-6470

**Ministère des
Affaires municipales
et du Logement**

Bureau du ministre

777, rue Bay, 17^e étage
Toronto ON M5G 2E5
Tél. : 416 585-7000
Télec. : 416 585-6470



Matt Farrell
President
Ontario Building Officials Association (OBOA)
mfarrell@huronkinloss.com

June 18, 2019

Dear Matt Farrell,

Our government recently celebrated our one-year anniversary since taking office. We were elected to be a government that works for the people, putting their interests first in everything we do.

Premier Ford and our entire team made five core commitments to the people of Ontario: restoring trust, accountability, and transparency; putting more money in people's pockets; cleaning up the hydro mess; ending hallway healthcare; and making Ontario open for business and open for jobs.

Today, we can proudly say: "Promises made, promises kept." We have charted a reasonable and responsible path to a balanced budget in five years, invested in core public services like healthcare and education, and protected frontline workers.

I am incredibly proud of the work that our Ministry has accomplished over the past year, working alongside terrific partners like Ontario Building Officials Association (OBOA).

We introduced More Homes, More Choice: Ontario's Housing Supply Action Plan to address Ontario's housing crisis and to help build more homes that people can afford. It will put affordable home ownership in reach of more Ontario families, and provide more people with the opportunity to live closer to where they work. Our plan is the result extensive consultation -- we received more than 2,000 submissions (85% from the public), hosted over 200 experts at a housing forum and met with groups from across the province. In those consultations, we heard that everyone should be able to find a home that meets their needs and their budget -- whether they are looking to rent or own.

As part of the action plan, our government also launched *A Place to Grow: Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe* to address the needs of the region's growing population, diversity and local priorities.

We also heard that government has role to play in helping people with low and moderate incomes who can't afford today's high rents. That's why we launched the Community Housing Renewal Strategy, to transform a fragmented and inefficient system into one that is more streamlined, sustainable and ready to help people who need it most. Early steps in the strategy include working with municipalities and non-profits to address issues like safety, overcrowding and long wait lists.

Our government has been listening to the people of Ontario on how to improve the Disaster Recovery Assistance for Ontarians program to better help those impacted by extreme weather when they need it most. We've made the application process easier, with a questionnaire that helps people figure out what they are eligible for and by having staff from my ministry onsite in communities impacted by a disaster to answer resident questions and provide support. And we've also expanded the list of eligible items and the maximum coverage amounts to help people replace more of the essential household items they need to replace after a disaster.

We are working with municipalities to help them deliver local services more efficiently. Our government provided \$200 million to 405 small and rural municipalities to help them find smarter ways to deliver services that support their communities, while respecting taxpayer dollars. We are also helping larger municipalities and district school boards find efficiencies and savings by investing more than \$7 million to help them conduct a line-by-line audit of their spending.

Taxpayers expect their local governments to work more efficiently and effectively, so we appointed two special advisors to meet with local people and organizations to discuss how to improve governance, decision-making and service delivery for regional governments. The advisors met with key municipal stakeholders and listened to presentations from almost 100 people and organizations at sessions across the regions. We also received over 7,800 submissions to an online consultation on the regional government review. The outcomes of the review are not predetermined. The advisors are assessing all the feedback that's been received, and I'm looking forward to hearing their advice and recommendations this summer.

Thank you again for sharing your insights and expertise over the past year. We are committed to making sure that the experiences of everyday people are top-of-mind in every decision we make and, in the years, ahead.

As our track record shows, we have accomplished a great deal, but our work is far from over. Looking ahead, our government will continue turning this province around and building for the future.

We look forward to continuing to work with you to build an Ontario where everyone shares in greater opportunity and prosperity.

Sincerely,



Steve Clark
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

c. Aubrey LeBlanc, CAO