

**Ministry of
Municipal Affairs
and Housing**

Office of the Minister

777 Bay Street, 17th Floor
Toronto ON M7A 2J3
Tel.: 416 585-7000

**Ministère des
Affaires municipales
et du Logement**

Bureau du ministre

777, rue Bay, 17^e étage
Toronto ON M7A 2J3
Tél. : 416 585-7000



234-2022-3700

October 7, 2022

Robert Brinker
President FCA
brinker@sympatico.ca

Dear Robert Brinker:

Thank you for your correspondence regarding your concerns with the *Strong Mayors, Building Homes Act, 2022*. I appreciate the time you have taken to write.

The Act, which received Royal Assent on September 8, 2022, is an important tool to get more homes built faster and is one of a number of initiatives being taken by our government to address the housing shortage.

Over one-third of Ontario's growth over the next decade is expected to happen in Toronto and Ottawa. Addressing housing supply issues in these communities is critical.

The legislation enables the mayors in Toronto and Ottawa to hire certain department heads, excluding statutory positions. This would include a clerk, treasurer, integrity commissioner, chief of police, chief building official, medical officer of health and others. Enabling the mayors to hire certain department heads is not intended to interfere with any existing collective agreements or contractual arrangements.

The Act includes checks and balances. For example, the changes allow council:

- to override the mayor's veto of by-laws pertaining to provincial priorities with a two-thirds majority vote.
 - Provincial priorities will be set out in regulations and could include the government's commitment to build homes faster to address the housing shortage.
- to make amendments to the mayor's proposed municipal budget and override a mayoral veto of council's budget amendments with a two-thirds majority vote.

The changes also require mayors to provide written documentation when using any of these new powers, in accordance with the regulations, if any. Additionally, all members of council, including mayors, are subject to legislated accountability and transparency rules.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Clark". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "S" and "C".

Steve Clark
Minister

- c. The Honourable Merilee Fullerton, MPP Ottawa – Carleton
Goldie Ghamari, MPP Carleton