

Steve Clark

Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Government of Ontario

November 17, 2022

Dear Mr Clark,

In Bill 23 the Government of Ontario seeks to provide measures that can create up to 1.5 million homes to address our current housing crisis. The cost of housing continues to increase and many Ontarians struggle to find affordable housing.

However, given that census data from 2021 reveals that approximately one third of Ontario households are renters and almost 33% of these renters pay unaffordable rents, spending more than 30% of their income on housing I strongly feel that Bill 23 will fail to create the affordable housing that is being promised for the following reasons;

1. The bill does not commit any direct investment to incentivize the development of deeply affordable housing (housing suitable for households living on fixed or lower incomes). This limits any new deeply affordable public housing or/and non-profit housing.
2. The definition of affordable housing as 80% market rent is not affordable to the individuals and families who need affordable housing most.
3. Cities will no longer have the ability to protect affordable housing at risk of being demolished. Many renters across Ontario will be at risk of losing their homes.
4. Bill 23 will limit municipalities from funding affordable housing units and services with revenue from development charges. Removing development fees will limit municipal services and money that can be used for deeply affordable housing.

In summary, the measures proposed in Bill 23 will significantly limit options for building new affordable housing while giving municipalities fewer policy tools and resources; seriously threatening the affordable housing that exists and leaving those with the greatest housing needs worse off.

Yours Sincerely,

Dan Chook Reid
City of Ottawa Resident and member of the Glebe Community Association

Copies:

Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
Joel Harden, Ottawa Centre MPP
Mayor Mark Sutcliffe, City of Ottawa
Councilor Shawn Menard, City of Ottawa
John Crump, Glebe Community Association
Robert Brinker, Federation of Citizen's Association of Ottawa