



**MEDIA RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

FCA joins the City of Ottawa and others expressing serious concerns about Ontario's Bill 23 (More Homes Built Faster Act 2022)

The Federation of Citizens' Associations of Ottawa (FCA) has issued its submission to the Standing Committee on Heritage, Infrastructure and Cultural Policy expressing concerns about Bill 23 and making the following requests of the Committee

- **(1) take the time needed to listen to more affected stakeholders**
- **(2) hold hearings in more cities outside the GTA, including Ottawa.**

The full submission is attached and will be available on the FCA website. Members of the Federation of Citizens' Associations of Ottawa (FCA) do not dispute there is a housing shortage in Ontario. FCA supports development through intensification within current urban boundaries. The contention is that intensification can be done successfully while continuing to respect the role of municipalities and their official plans, while defending citizens' ability to participate and while protecting the environment and local ecosystems.

The Bill's required reductions in development and parkland charges puts financial pressures on municipalities who rely on those funds to provide essential services and infrastructure. Reducing that revenue can only lead to reductions in recreation facilities and services or increases in taxes making communities less desirable and negatively impacting residents' quality of life.

In these times of necessity Bill 23 is lacking initiatives to protect the environment. It is imperative that the Bill be modified to require municipalities to establish criteria for development in conservation areas to better protect wetlands, natural habitat systems, woodlands, and farmlands. Ontario needs to support the containment of urban sprawl and continue to allow for assessments from local Conservation Authorities when required to avoid harmful and permanent consequences.

The FCA is asking residents to contact their MPP and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing to express dissatisfaction and concern about Bill 23. Residents are encouraged to participate in the rally at Ottawa City Hall on Tuesday, November 15 from 1-2 pm, to stand with the City of Ottawa in opposing Bill 23.

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Questions may be directed to
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