



**THE CORPORATION
OF
THE TOWN OF HALTON HILLS**

Resolution No.:

Title: Response to Bill 23

Date: November 7, 2022

Moved by: Councillor J. Fogal

Seconded by: Councillor A. Lawlor

Item No.

WHEREAS Bill 23, the More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022, if passed, will make substantial changes to multiple pieces of existing legislation and supporting regulations as part of Ontario's Housing Supply Action Plan for 2022-2023;

AND WHEREAS there is a housing crisis in Ontario and delivering more housing, affordable for all income levels, is a priority for the Provincial Government shared by the Town of Halton Hills;

AND WHEREAS the Town of Halton has initial comments on the proposals in Bill 23, including;

- All three levels of government - Federal, Provincial and Municipal – must collaborate to solve the housing crisis. The municipal sector must be adequately consulted and involved in the decision-making processes that will establish the final legislation and regulations – there is no solution without all three levels of government working together;
- Crafting legislation that significantly affects municipal financing, infrastructure planning and funding, climate change strategies and staffing levels without meaningful consultation has the potential for unintended negative impacts to the municipalities and their ability to provide normal services

- Most municipalities in Ontario, including the Town of Halton Hills, do not have large development charge reserves and will require funding from the tax base or senior levels of government in order to provide the required development related infrastructure, based on the proposed changes to the Development Charges Act in Bill 23.
- The impact of proposals to delete and change the wording of numerous sections of long-standing legislation without having the time to evaluate and understand the consequences for the Town of Halton Hills and its residents is worrisome and runs contrary to several municipal goals. For example, Bill 23 proposes to limit the ability of municipalities to implement design standards under the Planning Act which would appear to limit the application of green development standards to improve energy efficiency and the climate change impact of new buildings. Introduction of Green Development Standards has reduced greenhouse gas emissions and lowered operating costs of hundreds of buildings in Halton Hills with no apparent impact on the speed at which homes have been built while clearly reducing the long-term cost of home ownership.
- There may be other strategies that could be implemented to help the Province achieve its affordable housing goals that have not been introduced in Bill 23 such as further refinements to zoning regulations. It would be an opportunity lost to not explore other options with the municipalities as part of the consultation process.

AND WHEREAS; the province and the federal government have initiated conversations on how all three levels of government can collaborate to solve the housing crisis;

AND WHEREAS; the current timing for input on these substantial changes in legislation and regulations is not adequate for the municipal sector to provide fulsome, effective, and constructive feedback or to identify the unintended consequences and serious implications that may arise from these changes that may ultimately frustrate the Provincial Government goal

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Town of Halton Hills requests that the Provincial Government extend the comment period for all 30- and 31-day postings for feedback on potential legislative, regulatory, policy and other

changes, 66-day postings as some already are, to allow for full municipal participation;

AND FURTHER THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, the Honourable Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Honourable Ted Arnott – Speaker of the Ontario Legislature and MPP Wellington Halton Hills, Mike Schreiner, Leader of the Ontario Green Party and MMP Guelph, Halton Region, City of Burlington, Town of Oakville, Town of Milton, Association of Municipalities of Ontario.

Mayor Rick Bonnette