

**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 (Ontario) M7A 2J3
Tél. : 416 585-7000



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April 6, 2023

Good afternoon,

Today, our government announced further action to tackle the housing supply crisis and reach our goal of 1.5 million homes by 2031. The *Helping Homebuyers, Protecting Tenants Act* is the latest in a series of steps our government is taking to increase housing supply and help more Ontarians find a home they can actually afford.

Despite external economic challenges that are slowing down new home construction, including inflation and soaring interest rates, Ontario's plan to build more homes faster is working – with the highest number of housing starts in more than 30 years in 2021 and 2022, and the highest number of rental housing starts on record last year.

Details about the range of measures in our plan can be found in the [news release here](#).

As part of the plan, our government is introducing a new province-wide planning policy document that would provide municipalities with more flexibility, reduce duplication, create more homes in urban and rural communities, support local economies and create jobs while continuing to protect the environment (including existing Greenbelt protections), and public safety. It would also require coordination between municipalities and school boards to consider school and childcare needs earlier in the planning process, so that families moving to new housing can expect that local schools will be available for their children.

Ontario is undertaking a 60-day consultation on the proposed new Provincial Planning Statement until June 6, 2023 <https://ero.ontario.ca/notice/019-6813>.

In addition, the plan contains numerous actions to further tackle Ontario's housing crisis, including:

- A \$6.5 million investment to appoint an additional 40 adjudicators and hire five staff to improve service standards and continue to reduce active applications and decision timeframes at the Landlord and Tenant Board. This increase more than doubles of the number of full-time adjudicators at the Landlord Tenant Board.

- Proposed changes to make life easier for renters, with changes that would, if passed, clarify and enhance tenants' rights to install air conditioners. We are proposing to further strengthen protections against evictions due to renovations, demolitions and conversions, as well as those for landlord's own use.
- Proposed changes to the *Planning Act*, *City of Toronto Act*, and *Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing Act* to support the proposed new Provincial Planning Statement as well as other housing supply priorities.
- Doing more to protect first-time home buyers and their savings by expanding deposit insurance for First Home Savings Accounts held at Ontario credit unions.
- We are exploring a cooling-off/cancellation period on purchases of new freehold homes, and a requirement that purchasers of all new homes receive legal advice on their purchase agreements when they make one of the biggest purchases of their lives – a new home.

These and other related consultations can be found through the [Environmental Registry of Ontario and the Ontario Regulatory Registry](#).

Our plan was informed by AMO's 2022 A Blueprint for Action and ROMA's 2022 Task Force Report on Attainable Housing and Purpose-Built Rentals. These changes build on our continued work to provide a solid foundation to address Ontario's housing supply crisis over the long term and will be supplemented by continued action in the future.

The housing supply action plan is the latest in a series of steps our government is taking to increase housing supply and help more Ontarians find a home they can afford. We look forward to continued collaboration with our municipal partners to create the homes that Ontarians need today, tomorrow and in the decades to come.

Sincerely,



Steve Clark
Minister

c. Chief Administrative Officer