



July 21, 2025

Her Worship Mayor Olivia Chow
City of Toronto
Office of the Mayor
City Hall, 2nd Floor
100 Queen St. W.
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Dear Mayor Chow:

Thank you for speaking with me last week. As the largest city in Canada, we need the City of Toronto's leadership to make a dent in the housing crisis. We are committed to working with Toronto and municipalities across the country to build more housing and reach our goal to build 500,000 new homes a year.

This said, I am writing to express my disappointment on and address Toronto City Council's decision on June 25. Although six units as-of-right city-wide is just one of the 35 milestones included in Toronto's agreement, the June 25 council vote goes against the level of ambition that was committed to in our Housing Accelerator Fund Agreement by the City of Toronto.

The Housing Accelerator Fund is meant to drive transformational change within the sphere of control of the local government and reward ambitious housing measures. The agreement signed between Toronto and Canada laid out an aspirational plan to create new affordable housing. Specifically, Milestone 7.3, aimed to permit residential buildings with up to six dwelling units, which would allow Toronto to issue 11,780 additional permits over the life of the agreement.

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I encourage the City of Toronto to revisit the measures they could implement to address the housing crisis and to restore the ambitious scope of this agreement. There are 241 Housing Accelerator Funding agreements with municipalities across Canada. These agreements will be critical in addressing the housing crisis. As Minister of Housing and Infrastructure, I will make no compromises when it comes to the integrity of the program or on the level of ambition each agreement requires.

I look forward to more conversations with you on how the City of Toronto will fulfill its commitments to accelerate the development of new housing, preserve existing housing and achieve a total of 60,980 net new permitted homes over three years.

As previously stated, I will underscore the possibility of reduced funding if the City of Toronto does not present solutions that ensure the spirit of the agreement is met.

Canada is in a housing crisis and we need all levels of government to do everything in their power to respond. A key federal expectation for HAF is to increase as-of-right zoning in low-density urban areas across the country. Our expectation is that larger cities facing greater housing supply challenges would go further, like what we have seen in Vancouver and Edmonton.

I recommend we work until the next annual report of December 20, 2025 to implement an appropriate solution.

I am certain that strong leadership and some additional time will lead to the restoration of the ambition we need to solve Canada's housing crisis.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'GR', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

The Honourable Gregor Robertson, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Housing and Infrastructure and Minister responsible for
Pacific Economic Development Canada