234-2023-5268

November 1, 2023

Your Worship,
Mayor Doug Elmslie
City of Kawartha Lakes
delmslie@kawarthalakes.ca

Dear Mayor Elmslie,

Re: Strong Mayor Powers and Eligibility for Building Faster Fund

I would like to thank you for committing to your 2031 housing target on behalf of your municipality. And by now I hope you have received my letter informing you of your annual housing targets. In addition, this information can be found here.

As the province and municipalities work together to deliver on a commitment to build 1.5 million new homes by 2031, I am pleased to inform you that as of October 31, 2023, we have expanded strong mayor powers to heads of council of 18 municipalities who have committed to their housing target. This includes the City of Kawartha Lakes.

Strong mayor powers are intended to provide the heads of council of our largest and fastest growing municipalities with tools to deliver on shared provincial-municipal priorities, such as housing, transit and infrastructure, as set out in O. Reg. 580/22.

Amendments to O. Reg. 530/22 under the Municipal Act (MA) have come into force, and as head of council of your municipality, you are able to:
- Choose to appoint the municipality's chief administrative officer
- Hire certain municipal department heads, and establish and re-organize departments
- Create committees of council, assign their functions and appoint the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of committees of council
- Veto certain by-laws if you are of the opinion that all or part of the by-law could potentially interfere with a provincial priority, such as housing, transit and infrastructure
- Bring forward matters for council consideration if you are of the opinion that considering the matter could potentially advance a provincial priority

- Propose certain municipal by-laws if you are of the opinion that the proposed by-law could potentially advance a provincial priority. Council can pass these by-laws if more than one-third of all council members vote in favour.
- Propose the municipal budget, which would be subject to council amendments and a separate mayoral veto and council override process.

For more information on strong mayor powers and duties please see:
- The Strong Mayor chapter of the Ontario Municipal Councillor's Guide
- The legislation that establishes strong mayor powers and duties: Strong Mayors, Building Homes Act, 2022; Better Municipal Governance Act, 2022
- Regulations made under the Municipal Act, 2001 that support strong mayor powers and duties: O. Reg 580/22; O. Reg. 530/22

In addition, by committing to your municipality's housing target, this is a key step for the City of Kawartha Lakes to be eligible for the Building Faster Fund. We also hope and expect that municipalities will submit a council-approved pledge by December 15, 2023, if they have not already done so, outlining the steps they will take to achieve their housing targets. Submission of this pledge is not a condition for accessing funding under the Building Faster Fund.

We need every single municipality to do their share, and our government is committed to providing every tool at our disposal to empower municipalities who are shovel-ready and committed to growth.

Please accept my best wishes.

Sincerely,

Hon. Paul Calandra
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

C: Hon. Rob Flack, Associate Minister of Housing
      Laurie Scott, MPP Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock
      Michael Klimuntowski, Chief of Staff, Minister's Office
      Martha Greenberg, Deputy Minister
      Caspar Hall, Assistant Deputy Minister, Local Government Division
      Sean Fraser, Assistant Deputy Minister, Planning and Growth Division
      Joshua Paul, Assistant Deputy Minister, Market Housing Division
      Cathie Ritchie, Clerk, City of Kawartha Lakes
      Ron Taylor, Chief Administrative Officer, City of Kawartha Lakes