

Office of the Mayor

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The Honourable Caroline Mulroney, M.P.P., Minister of Transportation
Ministry of Transportation
5th Floor, 777 Bay St.
Toronto, ON M7A 1Z8

August 18, 2019

Dear Minister,

Thank you for your time in meeting with my colleagues and myself today.

Our goal in meeting with you was to alert you of issues you may not be aware of that we want to work together with you and your team to solve.

We are committed to being partners in public service. We believe there are many common goals shared between the City of Burlington and your government. We are all working towards more affordable housing, attraction and growth of new and existing businesses, and the elimination of unnecessary costs and red tape.

Initiatives like our Red Tape Red Carpet Task Force, Tree Protection Bylaw, and the declaration of a Climate Emergency are just a few of the initiatives we have already undertaken in 2019 to deliver for our citizens, and we are just getting started.

The City of Burlington was ranked Canada's #1 Community to live in and to raise a family in by Maclean's magazine this month. We have a great deal to be proud of and we also know we must constantly evolve and improve to serve our growing community.

The Province's Places to Grow Act, identifies the lands along the Prosperity Corridor as a focus for intensification and redevelopment in the City of Burlington. The Prosperity Corridor refers to lands located along the north and south side of the QEW, from Burloak Drive in the east, to Waterdown Road in the west. With Burlington reaching the end of the large greenfield employment land development era, our Mobility Hubs are targeted for employment land intensification and mixed used redevelopment.

There are some timely challenges in planning for intensification along the Prosperity Corridor that we hope you can assist us with. The City of Burlington, Halton Region and Ministry of Transportation have commissioned "The Prosperity Corridor Study," the goal of which is to identify a full range of transportation improvements that will support the long-term vision for the corridor as a prime location for businesses and redevelopment. The findings and recommendations of the study will be to Burlington

City Council in the fall of 2020; however, while we wait for the completion of the study, the response time of MTO permit approvals remains a significant issue of concern. Your assistance in facilitating more timely approvals for applicants wanting to set up or expand their businesses along the corridor would be greatly appreciated to ensure Burlington is actively open for business.

We will follow up with your office in the coming weeks to continue the conversation and make things happen - together.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marianne Meed Ward". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Marianne" being more legible than the last name "Meed Ward".

Mayor Marianne Meed Ward
City of Burlington

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The Honourable Laurie Scott, M.P.P.
Minister of Infrastructure
Ministry of Infrastructure
5th Floor
438 University Ave.
Toronto, ON M5G 2K8

August 15, 2019

Dear Minister,

Thank you for your time in meeting with my colleagues and myself today.

Our goal in meeting with you was to alert you of issues you may not be aware of that we want to work together with you and your team to solve.

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Well-planned and well-maintained public infrastructure is vital to the effective and efficient delivery of municipal services. Predictable, stable and long-term Provincial infrastructure funding to support municipal infrastructure will allow the City of Burlington to focus on areas of need and to deliver our services more efficiently and in a sustainable manner.

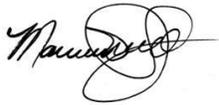
With funding from phase 1 of the program, Public Transit Infrastructure Fund, the City of Burlington was able to move forward with several important transit related projects, including adding much needed conventional and para transit vehicles to our fleet. The funding from the Clean Water Wastewater Fund stream allowed us to proceed with eight city projects that addressed our flood mitigation and stormwater management efforts.

We are preparing our submissions for the public transit stream intake of the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) and look forward to the announcement of the intake for the Green and Community, Culture and Recreation Streams.

Moving forward, we ask that the Province continue to maintain its share of funding for all streams of the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program as outlined in the bi-lateral agreement with the Federal government.

We will follow up with your office in the coming weeks to continue the conversation and make things happen - together.

Yours sincerely,

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Ms. Andrea Khanjin, M.P.P., Parliamentary Assistant
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
5th Floor
777 Bay St.
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3

August 19, 2019

Dear Ms. Khanjin,

Thank you for your time in meeting with my colleagues and myself today.

Our goal in meeting with you was to alert you of issues you may not be aware of that we want to work together with you and your team to solve.

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The Honourable Doug Downey, M.P.P., Attorney General
Ministry of the Attorney General
11th Floor
720 Bay St.
Toronto, ON M7A 2S9

August 19, 2019

Dear Attorney General,

Thank you for your time in meeting with my colleagues and myself today.

Our goal in meeting with you was to alert you of issues you may not be aware of that we want to work together with you and your team to solve.

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On July 10th, Halton Region Council unanimously passed a motion to eliminate the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal (LPAT). I am attaching a copy of the resolution for your information.

My municipal colleagues in Halton and I are united in our desire to eliminate the LPAT. Ontario is the only province with an unelected body governing local planning decisions. Communities are successfully built across our country without this additional layer of bureaucracy and we believe it's time Ontario's cities are similarly empowered with the same abilities and autonomy that exist throughout the rest of Canada.

Furthermore, the costs and delays involved in the appeals process run in stark opposition to the very goals your provincial government has said it is trying to achieve: saving money and getting more housing to market, cheaper and faster. The LPAT achieves neither.

The backlog of cases that presently exists was created during the transition to the LPAT because developers knew the former Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) rules were more favourable to them. As a result, many filed “preemptive” appeals as soon as they could. This was done not based on any decision by a council, but because they simply wanted to “preserve” their rights under the old OMB rules. They wanted to be grandfathered in — and they were.

Now, we’re headed back to the OMB rules as a result of Bill 108, and towards what we believe will be even longer hearings and more delays.

The LPAT didn’t create the backlog and reverting to the old OMB rules won’t solve the problem; it will make it worse. The backlog is the direct result of what we’ve been saying all along: the OMB is weighted against local decision-making and toward an “anything goes” approach. That’s why the developers have clogged the system with appeals under the old rules.

To provide a specific example, we can look the development proposed for 92 Plains Road East in Burlington. The developer’s appeal was made in April of 2018. The appellant made an offer to settle the appeal in March 2019, with the offer being accepted in April 2019. A settlement hearing is scheduled for September 2019 at which time the Tribunal will decide on the appeal. If the appellant had not appealed and simply continued in the application consideration process, the amendments to the development could have been made much earlier, and Council consideration and a decision would have been reached in 2018.

The irony of this situation is that if the OMB had not existed, and the developers hadn’t preemptively applied during the transition to LPAT to preserve rights to an OMB hearing, they would already have had their housing approval, shovels would be in the ground, and we would all be saving time and money.

This system is not serving anyone. Our communities’ voices are being overridden and valuable time and money is being wasted that could be better spent on front-line services and the priorities city councils have been democratically elected to implement for the citizens who elected us.

We need to eliminate the LPAT and join the rest of Canada in empowering our local governments to make the best decisions about how their cities continue to grow and evolve. I am asking you to work with your government to eliminate the LPAT, a costly, time-consuming, undemocratic body that delays the delivery of housing.

We will follow up with your office in the coming weeks to continue the conversation and make things happen - together.

Yours sincerely,

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The Honourable Greg Rickford, M.P.P., Minister of Energy, Northern Development and Mines
Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines
Whitney Block, Room 5630
5th Floor, 99 Wellesley St. W
Toronto, ON M7A 1W1

August 20, 2019

Dear Minister,

Thank you for inviting us to participate in the Energy Roundtable today.

Our goal in meeting with you was to alert you of issues you may not be aware of that we want to work together with you and your team to solve.

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We will follow up with your office in the coming weeks to continue the conversation regarding possible impacts the Regional Government Review outcomes may have on local distribution companies.

Yours sincerely,

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The Honourable Rod Phillips, M.P.P., Minister of Finance
Ministry of Finance
Frost Building South, 7th Floor
7 Queen's Park Cres.
Toronto, ON M7A 1Y7

August 20, 2019

Dear Minister,

Thank you for your time in meeting with my colleagues and myself today.

Our goal in meeting with you was to alert you of issues you may not be aware of that we want to work together with you and your team to solve.

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In the coming years there will be significant changes to our downtown core with the completion and construction of a number of new developments. Small business owners in this area are concerned about the impact that rising assessment values on older business/commercial stock is having on the cost of operating in the downtown. Commercial property owners are passing any property tax increases on to tenants through their leases.

Small businesses are a vital part of the character and history of our downtown and we ask for your assistance in keeping them there. During AMO, we will also be meeting with representatives from MPAC to discuss this matter.

We will follow up with your office in the coming weeks to continue the conversation and make things happen - together.

Yours sincerely,

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