

November 27, 2023

The Honourable Sean Fraser
Minister of Housing, Infrastructure & Communities
P.O. Box 8777, Postal Station T
Ottawa, Ontario
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via email: minister-ministre@infcc.gc.ca

RE: Middlesex County's Commitment to Addressing the Housing Crisis through the Housing Accelerator Fund

I am writing on behalf of Middlesex County to express our enthusiastic support of the federal government's initiative with the Housing Accelerator Fund (HAF). The ongoing housing crisis is a matter of paramount significance to our communities. As you are aware, this is a challenge that touches every stratum of our society, from the young to the elderly, from single individuals to families and from large urban cities to small urban centres and rural communities.

In Middlesex County, the housing crisis has manifested in various forms, from homelessness to unattainable home prices for young families. In a proactive step towards alleviating this crisis, I am pleased to inform you that lower-tier municipalities within Middlesex County, with the support of Middlesex County, have submitted detailed and comprehensive applications to the HAF. Our united stand in submitting these applications is a testament to the urgency of the situation and the collaborative spirit of our municipalities.

The prospect of HAF funding will work to minimize housing crisis impacts, equipping us with the necessary financial resources to foster infrastructure development to support housing developments that cater to the diverse needs of our residents. Moreover, these applications are not mere stop-gap measures but represent our commitment to systemic long-term solutions.

Middlesex County has watched closely as large urban cities have received correspondence from you about optimizing HAF applications and have subsequently been part of HAF funding announcements. Like the large urban centres you have contacted, Middlesex County lower-tier HAF applications include Zoning and Land Use Reforms, Streamlining Processes and Housing Funding Programs. Further as one of North America's fastest growing regions, we are prepared to continue to take the required steps to supply the housing the people of Middlesex County need and that they can afford.

Middlesex County, and its lower-tier municipalities, are ready to do our part and take bold, relentless, and concerted action to address the housing crisis. Federal funding through the HAF program will help to make this possible. We simply ask that when reviewing HAF applications, it is acknowledged that the diverse nature of Canada's communities is considered and that the federal government ensures that large urban cities, small urban centres and rural communities, like those in Middlesex County receive the necessary support and funding.

We want to ensure it is clear, Middlesex County and its lower-tier municipalities remain committed to working with the federal government to create a sustainable and inclusive housing environment that benefits all Canadians. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss our action plans in more detail and explore how Middlesex County municipalities can receive confirmation of HAF funding and contribute to the national effort in tackling the housing crisis.

Thank you for your continued dedication to tackling the housing crisis in Middlesex County and nationally. I am hopeful for a timely and favourable response and welcome any further discussions on this pressing issue.

Yours truly,



Cathy Burghardt-Jesson, Warden, Middlesex County

Cc Peter Fragiskatos, Member of Parliament
Karen Vecchio, Member of Parliament
Lianne Rood, Member of Parliament
Morgan Calvert, CAO, Township of Adelaide Metcalfe
Ron Reymer, CAO/Clerk, Township of Lucan Biddulph
Michael Di Lullo, CAO, Municipality of Middlesex Centre
Carolyn Tripp, CAO, Municipality of North Middlesex
Mike Henry, CAO, Municipality of Southwest Middlesex
Trisha McKibbin, CAO, Municipality of Strathroy-Caradoc
David Barrick, CAO, Municipality of Thames Centre