



The Corporation of the Town of Milton

Report To:	Council
From:	Jill Hogan, Commissioner, Development Services
Date:	March 21, 2022
Report No:	DS-017-22
Subject:	Ontario Housing Affordability Task Force Report
Recommendation:	THAT Staff Report DS-017-22 be RECEIVED for information.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Province of Ontario has published the report from the [Housing Affordability Task Force](#). The Task Force is part of Ontario's ongoing consultations with industry, municipalities and the public to help the Government identify and implement solutions to address housing supply.

Staff will monitor the Province's work on increasing market housing supply, including if they choose to implement recommendations of the Task Force report. Staff will continue to keep Council apprised of any provincial actions that may result from the recommendations of the Task Force and seek a Council position accordingly.

REPORT

Background

The Housing Affordability Task Force was announced in December 2021 with a mandate of exploring measures to address housing affordability by increasing the supply of market rental and ownership housing, building housing supply in complete communities, reducing red tape and accelerating timelines, encouraging innovation and digital modernization, supporting economic recovery and job creation, and balancing housing needs with protecting the environment.

On February 8, 2022 Ontario published the report from the Housing Affordability Task Force. The 33-page report makes 55 recommendations to speed up the delivery of market housing and to meet the Province's goal of adding 1.5 million homes over the next 10 years in Ontario.

The Task Force is comprised of industry leaders and experts. They consulted with stakeholders and advocacy groups to develop their report. The Task Force is part of Ontario's ongoing three-part consultation with industry, municipalities, and the public.

Discussion

The Task Force report's recommendations include five main areas:

1. Make changes to planning policies and zoning to increase housing density and remove "yellow belt" rules that prevent a variety of housing.
2. Reduce and streamline urban design rules. The Report proposes the adoption of simplified and uniform provincial urban design standards.
3. Cut red tape and reduce public involvement in the approvals process. These steps include restoring the developer's right to appeal official plans and municipal comprehensive reviews.
4. Prevent abuse of the appeal process and address the backlog at the Ontario Land Tribunal by prioritizing cases that increase housing.
5. Support municipalities that commit to transforming the system - The Report recommends financial incentives for Ontario municipalities that support growth in the supply of housing, in the form of an Ontario Housing Delivery Fund that would reward success in alleviating the housing shortage.

Additionally, the Task Force's report makes other recommendations to increase housing supply over the long-term, including to digitize and modernize the approvals and planning process, grow the skilled labour workforce, and encourage new pathways to home ownership.

An Appendix to the Report considers the existing inclusionary zoning framework and makes further recommendations with respect to inclusionary zoning specifically.

A full list of the Task Force recommendations is attached to this Staff report as Appendix A.

Currently, there are no firm proposals to implement the recommendations contained in the Task Force report through new Provincial policy, regulations or legislation. While Ontario is heading into a provincial election campaign, the Province may attempt to implement at least some of these changes before the current legislative assembly is dissolved for the June 2, 2022 vote. Staff will continue to monitor changes to legislation and keep Council informed of any proposals to implement the measures recommended in the Task Force report

Financial Impact

No financial impact resulting from this report.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Hogan
Commissioner, Development Services



The Corporation of the Town of Milton

Report #:
DS-017-22
Page 3 of 3

For questions, please contact: David Twigg, Acting Director Phone: Ext. 2205
Policy Planning & Urban Design

Attachments

Appendix A: Ontario Affordability Housing Task Force Recommendations

CAO Approval
Andrew M. Siltala
Chief Administrative Officer

Recognition of Traditional Lands

The Town of Milton resides on the Treaty Lands and Territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. We also recognize the traditional territory of the Huron-Wendat and Haudenosaunee people. The Town of Milton shares this land and the responsibility for the water, food and resources. We stand as allies with the First Nations as stewards of these lands.

Ontario Affordability Housing Task Force Recommendations

1. Set a goal of building 1.5 million new homes in ten years.
2. Amend the Planning Act, Provincial Policy Statement, and Growth Plans to set “growth in the full spectrum of housing supply” and “intensification within existing built-up areas” of municipalities as the most important residential housing priorities in the mandate and purpose.
3. Limit exclusionary zoning in municipalities through binding provincial action:
 - a) Allow “as of right” residential housing up to four units and up to four storeys on a single residential lot.
 - b) Modernize the Building Code and other policies to remove any barriers to affordable construction and to ensure meaningful implementation (e.g., allow single-staircase construction for up to four storeys allow single egress, etc.).
4. Permit “as of right” conversion of underutilized or redundant commercial properties to residential or mixed residential and commercial use.
5. Permit “as of right” secondary suites, garden suites, and laneway houses province-wide.
6. Permit “as of right” multi-tenant housing (renting rooms within a dwelling) province-wide.
7. Encourage and incentivize municipalities to increase density in areas with excess school capacity to benefit families with children.
8. Allow “as of right” zoning up to unlimited height and unlimited density in the immediate proximity of individual major transit stations within two years if municipal zoning remains insufficient to meet provincial density targets.
9. Allow “as of right” zoning of six to 11 storeys with no minimum parking requirements on any streets utilized by public transit (including streets on bus and streetcar routes).
10. Designate or rezone as mixed commercial and residential use all land along transit corridors and redesignate all Residential Apartment to mixed commercial and residential zoning in Toronto.
11. Support responsible housing growth on undeveloped land, including outside existing municipal boundaries, by building necessary infrastructure to support higher density housing and complete communities and applying the recommendations of this report to all undeveloped land.

12. Create a more permissive land use, planning, and approvals system:
 - a) Repeal or override municipal policies, zoning, or plans that prioritize the preservation of physical character of neighbourhood
 - b) Exempt from site plan approval and public consultation all projects of 10 units or less that conform to the Official Plan and require only minor variances
 - c) Establish province-wide zoning standards, or prohibitions, for minimum lot sizes, maximum building setbacks, minimum heights, angular planes, shadow rules, front doors, building depth, landscaping, floor space index, and heritage view cones, and planes; restore pre-2006 site plan exclusions (colour, texture, and type of materials, window details, etc.) to the Planning Act and reduce or eliminate minimum parking requirements; and
 - d) Remove any floorplate restrictions to allow larger, more efficient high-density towers.
13. Limit municipalities from requesting or hosting additional public meetings beyond those that are required under the Planning Act.
14. Require that public consultations provide digital participation options.
15. Require mandatory delegation of site plan approvals and minor variances to staff or pre-approved qualified third-party technical consultants through a simplified review and approval process, without the ability to withdraw Council's delegation.
16. Prevent abuse of the heritage preservation and designation process by:
 - a) Prohibiting the use of bulk listing on municipal heritage registers
 - b) Prohibiting reactive heritage designations after a Planning Act development application has been filed
17. Requiring municipalities to compensate property owners for loss of property value as a result of heritage designations, based on the principle of best economic use of land.
18. Restore the right of developers to appeal Official Plans and Municipal Comprehensive Reviews.
19. Legislate timelines at each stage of the provincial and municipal review process, including site plan minor variance, and provincial reviews, and deem an application approved if the legislated response time is exceeded.
20. Fund the creation of "approvals facilitators" with the authority to quickly resolve conflicts among municipal and/or provincial authorities and ensure timelines are met.
21. Require a pre-consultation with all relevant parties at which the municipality sets out a binding list that defines what constitutes a complete application; confirms the number

of consultations established in the previous recommendations; and clarifies that if a member of a regulated profession such as a professional engineer has stamped an application, the municipality has no liability and no additional stamp is needed.

22. Simplify planning legislation and policy documents.
23. Create a common, province-wide definition of plan of subdivision and standard set of conditions which clarify which may be included; require the use of standard province-wide legal agreements and, where feasible, plans of subdivision.
24. Allow wood construction of up to 12 storeys.
25. Require municipalities to provide the option of pay on demand surety bonds and letters of credit.
26. Require appellants to promptly seek permission (“leave to appeal”) of the Tribunal and demonstrate that an appeal has merit, relying on evidence and expert reports, before it is accepted.
27. Prevent abuse of process:
 - a) Remove right of appeal for projects with at least 30% affordable housing in which units are guaranteed affordable for at least 40 years.
 - b) Require a \$10,000 filing fee for third-party appeals.
 - c) Provide discretion to adjudicators to award full costs to the successful party in any appeal brought by a third party or by a municipality where its council has overridden a recommended staff approval.
28. Encourage greater use of oral decisions issued the day of the hearing, with written reasons to follow, and allow those decisions to become binding the day that they are issued.
29. Where it is found that a municipality has refused an application simply to avoid a deemed approval for lack of decision, allow the Tribunal to award punitive damages.
30. Provide funding to increase staffing (adjudicators and case managers), provide market-competitive salaries, outsource more matters to mediators, and set shorter time targets.
31. In clearing the existing backlog, encourage the Tribunal to prioritize projects close to the finish line that will support housing growth and intensification, as well as regional water or utility infrastructure decisions that will unlock significant housing capacity.
32. Waive development charges and parkland cash-in-lieu and charge only modest connection fees for all infill residential projects up to 10 units or for any development where no new material infrastructure will be required.

33. Waive development charges on all forms of affordable housing guaranteed to be affordable for 40 years.
34. Prohibit interest rates on development charges higher than a municipality's borrowing rate.
35. Regarding cash in lieu of parkland, s.37, Community Benefit Charges, and development charges:
 - a) Provincial review of reserve levels, collections and drawdowns annually to ensure funds are being used in a timely fashion and for the intended purpose, and, where review points to a significant concern, do not allow further collection until the situation has been corrected.
 - b) Except where allocated towards municipality-wide infrastructure projects, require municipalities to spend funds in the neighbourhoods where they were collected. However, where there's a significant community need in a priority area of the City, allow for specific ward-to-ward allocation of unspent and unallocated reserves.
36. Recommend that the federal government and provincial governments update HST rebate to reflect current home prices and begin indexing the thresholds to housing prices, and that the federal government match the provincial 75% rebate and remove any clawback.
37. Align property taxes for purpose-built rental with those of condos and low-rise homes.
38. Amend the Planning Act and Perpetuities Act to extend the maximum period for land leases and restrictive covenants on land to 40 or more years.
39. Eliminate or reduce tax disincentives to housing growth.
40. Call on the Federal Government to implement an Urban, Rural and Northern Indigenous Housing Strategy.
41. Funding for pilot projects that create innovative pathways to homeownership, for Black, Indigenous, and marginalized people and first-generation homeowners.
42. Provide provincial and federal loan guarantees for purpose-built rental, affordable rental and affordable ownership projects.
43. Enable municipalities, subject to adverse external economic events, to withdraw infrastructure allocations from any permitted projects where construction has not been initiated within three years of build permits being issued.
44. Work with municipalities to develop and implement a municipal services corporation utility model for water and wastewater under which the municipal corporation would borrow and amortize costs among customers instead of using development charges.

45. Improve funding for colleges, trade schools, and apprenticeships; encourage and incentivize municipalities, unions and employers to provide more on-the-job training.
46. Undertake multi-stakeholder education program to promote skilled trades.
47. Recommend that the federal and provincial government prioritize skilled trades and adjust the immigration points system to strongly favour needed trades and expedite immigration status for these workers, and encourage the federal government to increase from 9,000 to 20,000 the number of immigrants admitted through Ontario's program.
48. The Ontario government should establish a large "Ontario Housing Delivery Fund" and encourage the federal government to match funding. This fund should reward:
 - a) Annual housing growth that meets or exceeds provincial targets
 - b) Reductions in total approval times for new housing
 - c) The speedy removal of exclusionary zoning practices
49. Reductions in funding to municipalities that fail to meet provincial housing growth and approval timeline targets.
50. Fund the adoption of consistent municipal e-permitting systems and encourage the federal government to match funding. Fund the development of common data architecture standards across municipalities and provincial agencies and require municipalities to provide their zoning bylaws with open data standards. Set an implementation goal of 2025 and make funding conditional on established targets
51. Require municipalities and the provincial government to use the Ministry of Finance population projections as the basis for housing need analysis and related land use requirements.
52. Resume reporting on housing data and require consistent municipal reporting, enforcing compliance as a requirement for accessing programs under the Ontario Housing Delivery Fund.
53. Report each year at the municipal and provincial level on any gap between demand and supply by housing type and location, and make underlying data freely available to the public.
54. Empower the Deputy Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing to lead an all-government committee, including key provincial ministries and agencies, that meets weekly to ensure our remaining recommendations and any other productive ideas are implemented.
55. Commit to evaluate these recommendations for the next three years with public reporting on progress.