

Sent by e-mail to: minister.mah@ontario.ca

October 17, 2024

The Honourable Paul Calandra
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
College Park, 17th Floor
777 Bay Street
Toronto, Ontario M7A 2J3

Dear Minister Calandra,

Thank you so much for our meeting two weeks ago. AMO greatly values its relationship with you and your ministry, and I appreciated the opportunity to discuss mutual priorities as I begin my term as AMO President. I am writing to follow up on one of the issues that was raised at our meeting – in particular AMO's concerns regarding the pace of progress on joint work to improve Ontario's housing data.

As you know, accurate and timely data is critical to achieving our mutual goals of increasing the supply and affordability of housing in Ontario. AMO greatly appreciates the province's commitment to working with municipal and federal representatives towards this goal.

At this time, however, AMO has significant concerns regarding the lack of concrete progress on two urgent issues. First, there is a critical need to clarify how the province will adjust 2024 *Building Faster Fund* allocations to address data issues and ensure that municipalities receive the funding they were entitled to. Municipalities put significant effort into participating in the process laid out to address data discrepancies. It is unclear at this point why final decisions have not been confirmed and communicated.

Second, we request that the province commit to adopting the methodology to broaden the scope of housing data put forward by municipal representatives on the Housing Data Working Group. Modifying the building permit templates to track new housing currently omitted from counts – like publicly funded university residences, long-term care homes, and congregate living facilities – would give both municipalities and the province a consistent line of sight into how these units are measured and would avoid future time-consuming debates. Further, municipalities have also requested that building permit templates also be modified to track affordable housing units created to improve tracking of this important metric.

Housing data quality is an issue of significant concern among our members. Municipal staff have put significant effort into discussions and recommendations at the Housing Data Working Group. There is an urgent need to clarify decisions on how measurement will work going forward.

Sincerely,



Robin Jones
AMO President

cc. Martha Greenberg, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Brian Rosborough, Executive Director, AMO
Lindsay Jones, Director of Policy and Government Relations, AMO