

**Ministry of
Municipal Affairs
and Housing**

Office of the Minister

777 Bay Street, 17th Floor
Toronto ON M5G 2E5
Tel.: 416 585-6500

**Ministère des
Affaires municipales
et du Logement**

Bureau du ministre

777, rue Bay, 17^e étage
Toronto ON M5G 2E5
Tél. : 416 585-6500



19-3375

June 7, 2019

Dear Head of Council:

On May 2, 2019, I was pleased to release More Homes, More Choice, our government's action plan to tackle Ontario's housing crisis. As you know, this plan is supported by Bill 108, which includes changes to the Planning Act to simplify how municipalities collect funds for community benefits like parks and daycares. Following the introduction of the bill, some municipalities have raised questions about the proposed community benefits authority, and I am pleased to share more information about our government's intent today.

I would like to begin by emphasizing that one of our goals in establishing the new community benefits approach is to maintain municipal revenues. For emphasis, our goal is that municipalities would recover similar revenue from community benefits charges to what they have collected from development charges for discounted services, density bonusing and parkland dedication. While we want to make charges for community benefits more predictable, our intention has never been to reduce the funds available for community benefits and municipalities should not need to choose between parks and other facilities.

We are currently procuring expert advice to ensure that the community benefits framework will achieve these priority objectives. But we also want to hear the important perspectives of the municipal sector. This spring we will start our initial consultation seeking municipal input on the methodology for establishing a formula for a community benefits charge. The formula will be tied to the value of land that is ready for development. Based on the feedback from that consultation, we will again seek your input on a proposed formula before the regulations are finalized.

Municipalities will also have an opportunity to comment on other matters related to community benefits, including the timing of transition to this authority, reporting and types of development that would be exempted from community benefits through regulatory postings this Spring. We will take all feedback into consideration and ensure that there is enough time for municipalities to transition to the new community benefits authority and continue to be able to fund these important benefits.

As a former mayor and CAO, I understand how important it is that municipalities have the resources and tools available to support and build complete communities. I also firmly believe that local residents in growing communities should have a say in how those resources are used. This does not generally happen in today's section 37 negotiations, and we need to take the politics out of planning. Residents living in growing communities need to have an opportunity to share their thoughts, so we are proposing they would have a role in the development of their municipality's community benefits strategy.

We will be consulting with municipalities on the best way to replace the current system with an approach that puts people and communities first. Our proposed community benefits charge and the methodology that underpins it will maintain the principle of growth paying for growth. Libraries will be built. Parkland will be created. Community centres will be opened. As part of Bill 108, we said we would consult with municipalities on this new approach and that's exactly what we plan to do.

We also intend to post proposed directions for other regulatory changes related to the Development Charges Act and the Planning Act on the Environmental Registry this Spring/Summer. Further, we will also convene a teleconference to share this information with all interested municipalities in the near future. We look forward to your participation and suggestions on those proposed directions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steve Clark', with a stylized, flowing script.

Steve Clark
Minister