



Ontario
Home Builders'
Association

January 29, 2024

Honourable Chrystia Freeland
Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Finance
House of Commons
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Honourable Sean Fraser
Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
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RE: Support for the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus 7 in 7+ Regional Housing Plan as part of the Federal Budget 2024

Dear Minister Freeland and Minister Fraser,

On behalf of the Ontario Home Builders Association (OHBA), representing the 4,000 member companies that influence all disciplines of land development and residential construction in Ontario, I am writing to share the OHBA's support for the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus (EOWC) 7 in 7+ Regional Housing Plan.

It is a regional approach that has the potential to aid in addressing the mounting housing challenges being faced not only in Ontario but across the country. The Plan aims to build 7,000 affordable community housing units along with an additional 21,000 market-rate units in seven years in a region of the same geographical size as the province of Nova Scotia with a similar population of approximately 1.5 million residents. Supporting this project would enable further growth and development of the region.

The OHBA promotes innovation and professionalism within our industry and supports the EOWC's vision of providing affordability and choice in housing for all. Our members have built over 700,000 homes in the last ten years, and our membership consists of over 500,000 people who are able to bring the expertise and the dedication needed to assist in building the EOWC's 7 in 7+ vision of 700 affordable housing units and at least an additional 21,000 geared to market units in seven years.

The EOWC's plan of bringing together all levels of government, along with collaborating with the private sector and non-sector, and working with the Indigenous communities, provides a bold and innovative approach to making a project like this one a success.

Having a place to call your own is a dream for many that the members of OHBA help make a reality. The Provincial Government needs to take a bold stand by supporting the EOWC 7 in 7+ Regional Housing Plan. The 7,000 community housing units, along with the additional 21,000 market-rate attainable housing units, will make substantial improvements in the lives of the residents, families, and workers, calling this region their home.

While the 7 in 7+ Plan will require substantial investments, it is an investment in the future that the Federal Government should make. That investment made over a period of up to seven years would fit the fiscal approach of the Federal Government and positively impact the economic development and growth of the region.



Dave Depencier

President, Ontario Home Builders'
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CC:

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