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OHBA Applauds Ontario's Expansion of the Building Faster Fund

Statement by Neil Rodgers, Interim CEO, Ontario Home Builders' Association:

The Ontario Home Builder's Association commends Premier Ford, Minister Calandra, and the Ontario Government on its announcement of the expansion of Ontario's \$1.2 billion Building Faster Fund (BFF) and the Housing-Enabling Water Systems Fund. The OHBA is a network of 27 local associations across the province. We are active in all regions, large and small, urban and rural. Announcements such as this are welcomed news to our smaller home builder associations, where water and wastewater servicing systems are in need of expansion and rehabilitation to unlock attainable housing projects.

Expanding the BFF to rural and northern municipalities will help these communities build housing-enabling infrastructure and services faster. Focusing on the infrastructure that communities and residents need is going to help builders get badly needed housing built faster and more affordably.

Supporting and enabling the timely construction of new infrastructure is a critical step to getting new homes built. Over the past number of years, our members across Ontario have been telling us that a lack of infrastructure, or delays in infrastructure construction, are often the main barriers standing in the way of getting housing built, even after a builder has all the other approvals and financing, they need to be lined up.

Accelerating the construction of housing supporting infrastructure must continue to be on the government's agenda to avoid and reduce delays on housing construction and facilitate more construction. Simply put, water and wastewater infrastructure, roads, community centres, libraries, and all the other amenities that residents expect in their neighbourhoods need to be built – usually by municipalities – before new housing can be built by builders and before communities can be completed.

Everyone – builders included - want to build more homes and build them faster. Measures like the Building Faster Fund that unlock infrastructure investment are critical steps in keeping the housing construction process moving and preventing long and unnecessary delays that are holding Ontario back from reaching its housing targets.

OHBA looks forward to continuing our ongoing engagement with the Ontario government to ensure our collective efforts are fulfilling our shared goals of delivering on Ontario's housing supply targets. It's the only way we'll achieve our goals together.

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The Ontario Home Builders' Association (OHBA) is the voice of the residential construction industry in Ontario, representing 4,000 member companies organized into 27 local associations across the province. Members include builders, developers, professional renovators, trade contractors, suppliers and manufacturers serving the residential construction industry. The residential construction industry employed over 550,000 workers, paying \$38.8 billion in wages, and contributing over \$80 billion in investment value to Ontario's economy in 2022. Our members have the vital responsibility to build the housing supply that current Ontario residents are counting on at all stages of their lives and be the voice of future home buyers who want to call our province home.