



Building for the Future: Strengthening Ontario's Housing-Supportive Infrastructure

Ontario's growing population and increasing immigration levels continue to drive high housing demand. However, a major challenge remains: the province's infrastructure is struggling to keep pace. Both new infrastructure development and the maintenance of existing stock are essential to supporting housing affordability, accessibility, and economic resilience.

New housing cannot be built without adequate infrastructure and services—there is a critical need for modern, well-maintained systems to keep pace with demand. Insufficient investment in housing-supportive infrastructure—such as utilities, transportation networks, and public services—can lead to housing shortages, rising long-term costs due to infrastructure deterioration, and uneven access to essential services across communities.

The Ontario Home Builders' Association (OHBA) supports ongoing provincial funding programs, such as the Municipal Housing Infrastructure Program and the Housing-Enabling Water Systems Fund, which help municipalities develop critical infrastructure like roads and water systems. However, a more strategic, long-term approach is needed.

Key Policy Priorities

Expand Funding for New Infrastructure

- Increase investments in transportation, water, energy, and digital infrastructure to support new housing.
- Leverage public-private partnerships to maximize resources.
- Align policies and approvals with infrastructure expansion plans.

Prioritize Maintenance and Upgrades

- Establish dedicated municipal funds for maintaining essential infrastructure like roads, utilities, and transit.
- Implement incentive programs to modernize water, sewage, and energy systems.
- Use smart technology and data-driven planning to identify and prioritize critical upgrades.

Enhance Infrastructure Resilience

- Invest in durable, high-quality materials to extend infrastructure lifespan and reduce long-term costs.
- Modernize utility networks to improve efficiency and reliability.
- Strengthen safety regulations and infrastructure standards to ensure long-term adaptability.

Strategic investment in housing-supportive infrastructure is critical to unlocking new housing supply, maintaining livable communities, and ensuring long-term economic stability. The Ontario government must act now to address existing infrastructure challenges while planning for future growth.