



TOM MRAKAS
MAYOR

For Immediate Release
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MAYOR MRAKAS' STATEMENT ON PROVINCE REVERSING MODIFICATIONS TO YORK REGION'S OFFICIAL PLAN

"I am very happy that Ontario's Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Paul Calandra, announced today that he would soon be introducing new legislation that would reverse modifications that the Ontario Government made to the official plans of a number of municipalities across the province, including York Region's.

For Aurora, this is significant. That's because one of the modifications that the Ontario Government made to York Region's official plan on November 4, 2022 was implementing a "Special Provision" that set the minimum building height at 12 storeys for a property on Wellington Street East, as well as the minimum density at 330 units per hectare. This decision was made unilaterally by the province, with absolutely no consultation with the Town.

Importantly, this modification ran contrary to the Town of Aurora's own Official Plan – a plan that includes significant input from community members and that makes room for increased density in areas of Aurora where it makes the most sense, specifically near the GO Station. This property, on the other hand, was over 3 kilometres away from a GO Station.

Today's decision by Minister Calandra to reverse this earlier decision is a clear indication that the Ontario Government is truly committed to strengthening its relationships with municipalities. It shows that they have respect for the official plans of municipalities and appreciate that local planners and elected officials understand the needs of their community best. With the Town of Aurora currently finalizing updates to its Official Plan, I'm now confident that the Ontario Government will accept our plan the way we present it.

The Town of Aurora is committed to building the housing that Aurorans and all Ontarians need. I was proud to sign the Town's Municipal Housing Pledge to the Ontario Government just last month, committing to build 8,000 new units by 2031. I look forward to strengthening the Town's relationship with the Ontario Government and ensuring everyone who wants to live in our Town can do so."

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AURORA TOWN HALL