



Options for the temporary elimination of Development Charges
(DGM-03-26) (SD)

February 25, 2026

Mayor Marianne Meed Ward and Members of Council
City of Burlington
426 Brant Street
Burlington, ON L7R 3Z6

Re: Immediate Relief Required – Residential Development Charges

Dear Mayor and Members of Council,

I am writing as a Burlington-based employer operating within the residential construction supply chain.

The new housing industry in Burlington and across the GTHA is facing one of the most severe downturns in decades. This is not a short-term fluctuation. Projects are stalled, investment has slowed dramatically, and market confidence is fragile.

As a company built around supporting new housing construction, we have been forced to significantly scale back operations in response to the slowdown. Like many businesses tied to housing, we have had to make difficult workforce decisions to remain sustainable. I am deeply concerned about protecting the remaining jobs we are working hard to maintain in Burlington.

In discussions with our builder clients, the message is consistent: the cost of delivering new homes currently exceeds market values. Many projects are not financially viable and are simply not proceeding. When construction slows, the impact ripples immediately through trades, suppliers, manufacturers, and local service providers.

Maintaining Development Charges at current levels under these conditions will not generate meaningful revenue if projects do not move forward. Without new housing starts, there are no DC collections and no long-term property tax growth from new assessment.

New housing expands Burlington's tax base and delivers sustained fiscal benefits. Without activity, that growth stalls.

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1400 Corporate Dr. Burlington, ON L7L 6H4





For these reasons, I strongly support a temporary two-year elimination of all residential Development Charges to help unlock projects, restore confidence, and prevent further job losses across the housing ecosystem.

Every month of delay increases financial strain on local businesses. The supply chain in Burlington and neighbouring municipalities is under real pressure. We need practical, immediate relief.

I respectfully urge Council to act decisively.

Sincerely,

Onkar Singh

President

Kirin Air Systems Inc.

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