



OFFICE of the MAYOR
CITY of BURLINGTON

The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
premier@ontario.ca

Honourable Peter Bethlenfalvy
Minister of Finance
minister.fin@ontario.ca

Honourable Graham McGregor
Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism
graham.mcgregor@ontario.ca

Re: Proposal for \$10 Million Heritage Helping Housing Grant Program

April 24, 2026

Dear Premier Ford, Minister Bethlenfalvy and Minister McGregor,

I'm writing to ask for your support in strengthening how Ontario helps municipalities preserve and reuse historic buildings—an approach that delivers real results for housing, sustainability, and complete communities, while also preserving built heritage

Reusing existing buildings isn't just about heritage—it's a practical, cost-effective way to build smarter. It reduces pressure on infrastructure, avoids unnecessary expansion of servicing, and keeps valuable materials out of landfills. Just as importantly, it protects the character of our communities, which supports tourism, local businesses, and a strong sense of place.

This is a made-in-Ontario opportunity to align heritage conservation with our shared goal of increasing housing supply.

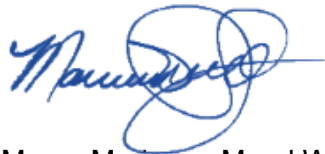
That's why Burlington City Council has endorsed a proposal from the Architectural Conservancy Ontario to create a new, application-based Heritage Helping Housing Grant Program. At our April 21, 2026 Council meeting, we supported the inclusion of \$10 million in the 2026 provincial budget—and annually thereafter—to make this program a reality.

This program would provide a straightforward financial incentive for property owners and developers to adapt and reuse heritage buildings for housing. It also offers an additional tool on top of the current heritage tax relief program, which reduces municipal revenue. In built-out communities like Burlington, where land is limited, this kind of program is essential to unlocking new housing opportunities within our existing footprint.

We all share the goal of building more housing, faster—and doing it in a way that’s sustainable and fiscally responsible. Providing additional incentives aligned with the outcomes we’re all working toward is a practical step that helps us get there.

The City of Burlington remains committed to working collaboratively with the Province to build our way out of this housing crisis through practical tools and policy choices. I look forward to discussing how we can move this initiative forward to benefit all Ontarians.

Sincerely,



Mayor Marianne Meed Ward
City of Burlington



- c: Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Honourable Graydon Smith, Associate Minister of Housing
Honourable Zee Hamid, M.P.P. Milton
Natalie Pierre, M.P.P. Burlington
Effie Triantafilopoulos, M.P.P. Oakville-North Burlington