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Title: Proposed Changes for the Next Edition of Ontario's Building Code

To Whom It May Concern:

We are writing today with regards to the dire need to update the Ontario Building Code and do more to require Green Development Standards across our province.

We are in a climate emergency, with less than 8 years to cut our Green House Gas Emissions by at least 50% to meet our Paris Accord commitments, and yet most new buildings currently being constructed are only meeting the minimum of the totally inadequate Ontario Building Code. There is currently little that municipalities can do to require better buildings and community design.

There are numerous things that we feel need to urgently happen:

1) The Ontario Building Code needs to be brought further in harmony with the National Construction Codes which generally are more ambitious than provincial requirements.

2) Ontario municipalities need to have a variety of ways to require builders, developers and property owners to go well beyond just the minimum of the Ontario Building Code for specific buildings and implement sustainable Green Development Standards for entire communities that include:

- public transit,
- active transportation,
- better walkability,
- more complete communities,
- less reliance on private automobiles,
- greater diversity,
- better resiliency,
- improved affordability,
- less urban sprawl though better land use,

- integrated renewable energy,
- better greenspace, tree canopies, bird friendly exteriors,
- improved water conservation,
- better flood mitigation and storm water management,
- far more efficient buildings using better and re-used materials.

3) All buildings should be net zero and produce as much energy (or more) than they consume.

We need to ensure that improvements are happening for all new construction, additions, alternations and existing buildings. These higher standards need to apply to all residential, multi-family, commercial, industrial, retail and mixed-use space.

There are a wide variety of Green Development Standards that can be referenced and can inform/provide models for the Ontario Building Code in addition to the National Construction Code. This includes the International Green Construction Code, ANSI/ASHRAE 189.1 Standards, the US National Green Building Standard, Green Globes Certification, LEED – Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Standards, and the Living Building Challenge Certification.

Given the increasing demands by Canadians for our governments to do more to address climate change, the massive increase this past week alone in fuel costs, and the need to live far more sustainably within the carrying capacities of our environment there is an urgent need to dramatically improve the Ontario Building Code, the efficiencies of our communities and buildings, and ensure that Green Development Standards become far more broadly implemented.

We look forward to working with you over the months (not years) ahead to implement these essential reforms and updates.

Sincerely,

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