

*Established in 1889, the Ontario Association of Architects (OAA) is the self-regulating body for the province's architecture profession. It governs the practice of architecture and administers the Architects Act in order to serve and protect the public interest.*

Provincial Land Use Plans Branch  
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Sent by email to: [growthplanning@ontario.ca](mailto:growthplanning@ontario.ca)

May 31, 2023

**Re: ERO Posting # 019-6813 Proposed Provincial Planning Statement**

To Whom It May Concern:

The Ontario Association of Architects (OAA) has had the opportunity to review the Proposed Provincial Planning Statement. It is encouraged to learn government is focusing on urban intensification as a key part of addressing housing affordability.

In particular, the OAA applauds government for two proposals contemplated in the new Provincial Planning Statement related to:

1. Complete communities; and
2. Minimum density targets.

**Complete Communities**

In its submission on Bill 23, the OAA asserted that, "...While the creation of new dwelling units is necessary to support the expected population growth across Ontario, new housing must be accompanied by additional infrastructure and community amenities to support that growth, including schools, libraries, and parkland."

The OAA applauds government for taking up this recommendation as referenced in Section 2.1.4 of the Proposed Provincial Planning Statement. If enacted as it is currently written, planning authorities should support the achievement of complete communities by:

"... accommodating an appropriate range and mix of land uses, housing options, transportation options with multimodal access, employment, public service facilities and other institutional uses (including, schools and associated child care facilities, long-term care facilities, places of worship and cemeteries), recreation, parks and open space, and other uses to meet long-term needs."

The OAA strongly urges government to move forward with this proposal, and to continue advancing the creation of, and support for, complete communities.

**Minimum Density Targets**

The Association is also pleased to learn that government is contemplating minimum density targets as a key part of its complete communities proposal. In particular, the OAA applauds government for defining minimum densities at Major Transit Station Areas (Section 2.4.2 of the Proposed Provincial Planning Statement).

Setting minimum density targets in Major Transit Station Areas contributes to the creation of complete communities and encourages public transit options (instead of car dependency) to get to places of work and play. In its 2016 submission to government regarding the Province's commitment to COP21, the OAA asserted:

“Zoning should allow more infill multi-unit residential buildings (MURBs) in existing single family residential neighborhoods, **particularly along transit corridors**. This would:

- Allow more widespread and uniform increases in urban density;
- Increase the viability of transit and walkable communities, commercial and mixed use development in existing low density neighborhoods; and,
- Set minimum population density requirements for new developments.”

The OAA supports the proposed Provincial Planning Statement in principle. This new planning document can help address housing affordability while also advancing climate action across Ontario.

The OAA enjoys a longstanding, collaborative relationship with government, and looks forward to continue its work with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing in order to protect and promote the public interest.

Sincerely,



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President