



**TOM MRAKAS**  
*MAYOR*

**For Immediate Release August 23, 2023**

**MAYOR MRAKAS' STATEMENT ON BUILDING FASTER FUND AND EXPANDING STRONG MAYOR POWERS**

"Recognizing the urgency of the housing crisis affecting every community across Ontario, The Province of Ontario has created new tools and policy mechanisms to address this crisis, in the form of Strong Mayor powers, housing target pledges and the Building Faster Fund.

The Town of Aurora has already demonstrated its commitment to addressing the housing crisis in our community through developing an Affordable Housing Action Plan, removing minimum parking requirements in our Major Transit Station Area as well as streamlining our development process.

We have identified 8,000 housing units as the appropriate target for Aurora and I am glad to see that our number matches what the Province asked our Town to pledge. This target is appropriate and will ensure that we meet the housing needs of current and future residents in a manner that is appropriate for our community and in alignment with our Official Plan.

I will be awaiting for the particulars of the newly announced Building Faster Fund to see how our Town stands to gain in accessing this critical funding. As for Strong Mayors powers – as I've said before, I don't think Strong Mayors powers are a tool we necessarily need, but it is a tool that the province has now given us. And there could be certain situations that arise in the future where strong mayor powers could be useful, specifically when it comes to accelerating housing.

But I want to be very clear that I think our current Council works very well together, and I'm committed to working with my Council colleagues to make decisions that align with our Official Plan, provincial priorities, as well as the shared vision we have with community members on how we grow Aurora."

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