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THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF BARRIE
Mayor's Office

Mayor Jennifer Coughlin
Township of Springwater
Jennifer.Coughlin@springwater.ca

July 14, 2025

Dear Mayor Coughlin,

I am writing to follow up on the recent decision on July 2, 2025 by Springwater Township Council to revoke support for the Minister's Zoning Orders (MZOs) pertaining to two developments located just north of Barrie's city limits—on Bayfield Street. The proposed developments are for a seniors-related medical campus at 727 Bayfield St. North and a mixed use development at 742 Bayfield St. North which includes approximately 2,000 residential units including dedicated seniors housing, along with mixed-use medical, commercial, and retail spaces, and recreational areas.

While we recognize the autonomy of Springwater Council in making decisions regarding land use planning within its jurisdiction, the implications of this choice raise concerns about the future of much-needed housing and job growth in our region. At a time when all levels of government are being called upon to increase housing supply and support economic development, decisions that actively curtail those goals require serious reconsideration.

The City of Barrie has consistently demonstrated its commitment to supporting responsible growth, working with the province, industry partners, and neighbouring municipalities to ensure that developments are well-planned, appropriately serviced, and aligned with the broader needs of our communities.

If Springwater Township chooses not to support this growth, then I believe that those affected by this recent decision, should be given the opportunity to grow under a jurisdiction that is willing and able to support them. The City of Barrie is prepared to support the current MZO requests by expanding the Barrie municipal boundary to include these lands to which we would provide servicing to allow them to proceed. As part of the City's urban boundary, we will ensure that any such developments are adequately serviced through Barrie's infrastructure.

Our shared responsibility to deliver housing and employment opportunities cannot be obstructed by indecision or politics surrounding how the lands would be serviced. We remain open to working collaboratively with Springwater Township and would welcome further dialogue to ensure that the region's long-term needs are met. But absent that partnership, we are prepared to act to ensure the broader provincial objectives are met to increase the supply of housing for our area.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alex Nuttall', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Alex Nuttall
Mayor, City of Barrie

Cc. Deputy Mayor Robert Thomson

Michael Prowse, CAO

Jeffrey Schelling, Office of the Provincial Land and Development Facilitator (OPLDF)