

CITY HALL
70 COLLIER STREET
TEL. (705) 739-4204
FAX (705) 739-4243



P.O. BOX 400
BARRIE, ONTARIO
L4M 4T5

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF BARRIE
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

January 10, 2024

Minister Calandra
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
777 Bay Street
Toronto, Ontario M5G 2E5

Dear Minister Calandra,

As you know the City of Barrie is a strong, single tier municipality within the County of Simcoe. The City of Barrie is the only large urban municipality within an area of rural municipalities that make up the County of Simcoe. We have proven that we are best suited to handle significant growth as one of the fastest growing cities in Canada for many decades and as a strong regional Centre in Central Ontario.

Barrie as the sole municipal governance body can be nimble and has benefited by this in terms of record planning approvals and housing starts. Barrie has fast tracked approvals and receives consistent positive feedback on how easy and efficient it is to do business with the city as a single tier municipality. The Building Industry and Land Development association (BILD) through the BILD Municipal Benchmarking Study has named Barrie the top municipality in Ontario for ease of doing business with the city for government approvals and process.

Barrie has invested in a robust infrastructure plan to ensure adequate servicing and infrastructure to support growth and the building of additional homes to help the province achieve their housing targets.

On January 9, 2024, the County of Simcoe Committee of the Whole discussed the County of Simcoe Regional Review Submission to the Provincial Standing committee. At that meeting I raised questions and concerns about the positioning of the County. I wish to be on record in opposition to the County of Simcoe's position on regional scale infrastructure planning and service delivery and their proposed role as an "Upper tier with Prescribed Planning Authority". The City of Barrie has over \$8 Billion invested in infrastructure including transportation, water and wastewater treatment facilities and these funds are investments made by the City of Barrie taxpayers. I have grave concerns with changing this model in any way that would negatively affect Barrie and our ability to continue to build homes, create jobs and help the province achieve their targets. While it might make sense for the County of Simcoe to take on a county wide function for the rural municipalities within the area, it most certainly does NOT for a regional urban Centre like Barrie.

The City of Barrie wishes to maintain its long-standing single tier status as it has been proven to be the most efficient governance model.

On behalf of the City of Barrie taxpayers I thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

Alex Nuttall
Mayor of Barrie

c.c.:
Warden Basil Clarke, County of Simcoe
Minister Doug Downey, MPP
Minister Andrea Khanjin, MPP
Barrie City Council
CAO Michael Prowse