

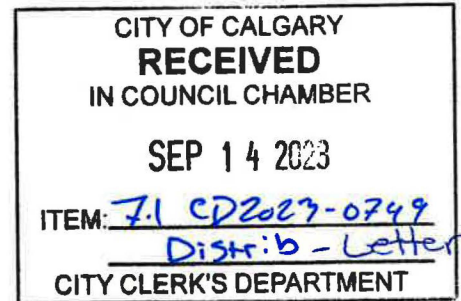
Minister of Housing,
Infrastructure
and Communities



Ministre du Logement,
de l'Infrastructure
et des Collectivités

Ottawa, Canada K1P 0B6

Mayor Jyoti Gondek
City of Calgary
Sent via electronic mail: themayor@calgary.ca



September 14, 2023

Dear Mayor Gondek,

I write after having reviewed the city of Calgary's application to the federal government's Housing Accelerator Fund.

Whether in my previous portfolio when you kindly hosted me for roundtable discussions and advocated for Calgary's booming tech sector, or now in my capacity as the Minister responsible for housing – I am grateful for the productive partnership we have established and sincerely appreciate the time you take to engage with me on the issues most important to Calgary.

As you know, the city you love and call home is one of too many facing a housing shortage in this country, and I appreciate your leadership in solving this problem. To this end, it is imperative that we work together and pursue bold ideas while implementing solutions that work for Canadian families and communities.

In terms of Calgary's application, I was pleased with several of the proposals slated for discussion at Council meetings over the coming days. Particularly, I was glad to see Calgary:

- End exclusionary zoning city-wide by legalizing much needed missing middle housing, such as four-unit multi-plexes, through new zoning designations creating new land-use districts;
- Invest in affordable housing on public lands, within walking distance of transit;
- Streamline building permit approvals to increase the speed at which housing gets built in Calgary.

I understand that key elements of this housing action plan will either be approved or rejected at this week's Council meeting. In light of this, I wish to inform you that Calgary's Housing Accelerator Fund application will not be approved unless you follow through to create the new missing middle zoning designations of H-GO and R-CG, as you laid out in your application. Otherwise said, in order to receive a positive decision from me on your application – you must end exclusionary zoning in your city.

There are members in your community, and elected leaders in your community, that may try to dissuade you from doing the right thing, in pursuit of what is easy. These kinds of attitudes are a

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major reason why we are living in a national housing crisis. These attitudes help explain why so many Canadians cannot afford the cost of a home in the community where the work, study, and live. We will never solve the housing crisis in Calgary if it is not legal to build the homes required to meet the moment.

The City of Calgary was my home for five years. It is the place that gave me my professional start, and I owe a debt of gratitude to the City that gave so much to me. I am committed to helping you build more homes so that a generation of young people will experience the same benefits that Calgary provided to my family.

I know you have a positive working relationship with my colleague, Member of Parliament George Chahal, who has experience on Council. He has been staunchly supportive of these initiatives, and of seeing Calgary embrace new measures to increase the supply of housing.

I am eager to be able to approve Calgary's application, but I will not be able to do so before you make good on these commitments. I would request that you keep my team apprised throughout this process as I am willing to work with you to ensure all Calgarians have a place to call home that they can actually afford.

We will remain a steadfast ally of the City and of any municipality ready to lead with the level of ambition required to solve Canada's housing crisis.

I sincerely appreciate you entertaining this request and look forward to future conversations.

Sincerely,



The Honourable Sean Fraser, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities

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