

The Honourable Steve Clark
Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
College Park 17th Flr, 777 Bay St
Toronto, ON
M7A 2J3

February 11, 2021

Dear Minister,

Re: Congregate Living

Thank you for your correspondence dated January 18, 2021, and for putting us in contact with key officials in your Ministry. We can report having started the conversation regarding harmonization in the fall of 2020, and appreciate the commitment from your Ministry that the OAA will remain a key stakeholder in those efforts.

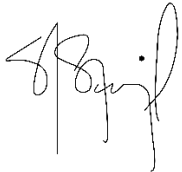
While the harmonization exercise will be an appropriate avenue for incorporating many updates to the OBC, we would stress that—given the timeline of that process—it **won't be suitable for this matter, given the urgent need to protect our most vulnerable by stopping the spread of COVID-19 specifically in congregate living situations.**

We appreciate the current work of the Long-Term Care COVID-19 Commission, and will watch for any recommendations regarding building standards. We would caution however that, even in the absence of targeted recommendations, it will be important for Ministry staff to work in tandem to make any and all necessary changes to the Ontario Building Code.

While we have observed many critically important measures being circulated (including the interim recommendations), we must take all necessary precautions to protect health and safety, prevent loss of life, and to ensure a similar tragedy cannot happen again.

We will be in contact with your staff to assist the Ministry in this regard, and hope to enjoy your support in enacting any measures that can help to stop the spread of COVID-19.

Sincerely,



Susan Speigel, Architect
OAA, FRAIC
President

cc. The Honourable Merrilee Fullerton, Minister of Long-Term Care