
Media Release

For Immediate Release

February 09, 2022

OAA Applauds Publication of Province's Housing Affordability Task Force Report

Toronto, ON –The Ontario Association of Architects (OAA) commends the provincial government's Housing Affordability Task Force for issuing a [substantive set of recommendations](#) intended to improve the housing affordability crisis in Ontario.

The OAA regulates the architecture profession to protect the public interest. For more than a decade, it has advocated for thoughtful changes to the planning approval process that would increase housing supply, and deliver it to market much faster.

For years, Ontario architects have reported a broken Site Plan Approval process that unnecessarily adds significant delays to getting much-needed housing built. The Task Force appropriately flags negative repercussions to the economy, public services, and environment. However, the OAA adds to this list of consequences several other factors, from an annual cumulative cost to the province of as much as a billion dollars to projects abandoned before ever moving beyond the planning phase. There is also the matter of falling international competitiveness. According to the World Bank Group, Canada ranks 172 out of 186 countries for the number of days required to obtain a construction permit.

In that spirit, the OAA is pleased to see many of its recommendations incorporated into this report, and will study the report in closer detail over the coming days to issue a more in-depth response.

The architecture profession remains open to working with other stakeholders to ensure quality housing remains accessible to Ontarians. The links below offer further resources on this important topic:

- [A Review of the Site Plan Approval Process in Ontario \(2013\)](#);
- [Understanding the forces driving the shelter availability issue \(2017\)](#);
- [Site Plan Delay Analysis \(2018\)](#); and
- [Housing Affordability in Growing Urban Areas \(2019\)](#).

Further Information

OAA President Susan Spiegel, and other representatives of OAA Council, may be available for phone or email interviews. Additional information and high-resolution photos may also be available.

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About the Ontario Association of Architects

The Ontario Association of Architects is a self-regulating organization under the *Architects Act*, a statute of the Government of Ontario. It is dedicated to promoting and increasing the knowledge, skill, and proficiency of its members, and administering the Act, in order that the public interest may be served and protected. For more information, visit www.oaa.on.ca.