

**Ministry of
Municipal Affairs
and Housing**

Office of the Minister

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Ontario

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Dear Heads of Council,

I'm pleased to share an update on key initiatives underway at my ministry to help meet our government's goal of building 1.5 million new homes over the next 10 years.

The legislature recently passed our government's *More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022* which takes bold action to ensure that all communities can grow with a mix of ownership and rental housing types to meet the needs of all Ontarians.

Our government knows that building inspectors play a critical role in ensuring that new homes meet the public safety requirements set out in Ontario's Building Code. However, the capacity of municipal building departments has been impacted by recruitment challenges and the increasing number of building inspectors retiring from the profession. That's why, earlier this year, we took action to help municipalities address labour supply shortages in the building sector by amending the Building Code to provide a new model for municipal building departments to design and administer internship programs for building inspectors.

Effective July 1, 2022, municipal building departments can establish program entry criteria for interns that meet their own local recruitment and enforcement needs. This new internship model supports public safety by continuing to require that a qualified building inspector or Chief Building Official supervises the work of interns. The interns must also pass ministry technical and legal exams before being able to practice independently as building inspectors.

In the coming months, the ministry will develop guidance materials to support municipalities that are interesting in launching local programs to recruit new intern building inspectors. We look forward to working with municipalities to implement local internships.

Additionally, the ministry has engaged a consultant to identify opportunities for enhancements to the qualification program for building practitioners. We are seeking input from the public, including municipalities, building inspectors, designers, septic installers and building professionals not regulated by the ministry. This feedback will help guide future decisions on new approaches to qualification.

For more information and to review the discussion paper, please visit the Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO) website at <https://ero.ontario.ca/notice/019-6433>.

In addition to this ongoing work, the ministry is modernizing the provincial Qualification and Registration Tracking System (QuARTS). QuARTS is used by over 7,000 building practitioners to update their qualification and registration information online and to help the government regulate safety and compliance in the Ontario building industry.

Modernizing QuARTS will create a more efficient and user-friendly system, allowing building officials to spend more time on the important task of reviewing and issuing building permits to support the government's key priority of increasing housing stock.

Finally, the ministry made the 2012 Building Code Compendium freely available in Adobe PDF format through the website (<https://www.ontario.ca/page/request-digital-copy-2012-building-code-compendium>). Since its launch in March 2022, the ministry has provided free copies to over 5,000 building professionals to reduce barriers and help accelerate the construction of new homes across the province. This initiative has enabled inspectors to access Building Code requirements while performing their work onsite in a more convenient format. Additionally, candidates studying for the ministry's exams are able to access and learn Building Code content in an easy to navigate, user-friendly manner.

As part of the plan to build 1.5 million homes over the next 10 years, the government looks forward to continuing consultations with municipalities, the building industry and the public to investigate further changes to Ontario's Building Code in order to create more housing and support public safety.

If you are interested in learning more about any of the ministry's initiatives related to the transformation of Building Code services in Ontario, please contact us at BuildingTransformation@ontario.ca.

Thank you for your continued partnership as we work together to get more homes built faster for all Ontarians.

Sincerely,



Steve Clark
Minister

c: Municipal Clerks