Minister of Housing,
Infrastructure
and Communities

Ministre du Logement,
de l'Infrastructure
et des Collectivités

Ottawa, Canada K1P 0B6

Mayor Scott Gillingham
via electronic mail:

October 24, 2023

Dear Mayor Gillingham,

I write following a review of the City of Winnipeg's submission to the federal government's Housing Accelerator Fund, and our conversation discussing the same.

As you know all too well, Winnipeg is grappling with the severe local impacts of a national housing shortage. We must take action to increase the availability of housing across Canada, including in your City, and we must act without trepidation.

I was pleased to see that Winnipeg's application proposed several meaningful initiatives. It proposed bold action in a number of areas, including: a focus on affordable housing, removing zoning barriers, and modernizing permit application systems.

However, before I make a decision on your application, I want to give you an opportunity to bolster it by including the following elements:

- Legalizing four units as-of-right city-wide;
- Legalizing up to four storeys as-of-right within 800 metres of transit; and
- Ensuring that new mid-rise housing zoning reforms targeted for mall sites and commercial corridors - as proposed in City Council's Strategic Priorities Action Plan – allow for as-of-right development to facilitate quick approvals and construction of new rental housing.

I appreciate you and your Council's leadership at this time, and I know that you are solutions-oriented with an aim to improving the quality of life for all who call Winnipeg home. In my view, a central part of this mission involves putting an end to exclusionary zoning practices and incentivizing development in ways that will produce complete communities.

My colleagues, Minister Vandal and Members of Parliament Ben Carr, Terry Duguid, and Kevin Lamoureux have been advocating their desire to see Winnipeg succeed in its application. By implementing the reforms outlined above, you can assure a positive outcome.

Thank you for your consideration of these suggestions.

Sincerely,

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

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