



March 13, 2025
Delivered via email

Her Worship Marianne Meed Ward
Mayor, City of Burlington
426 Brant St
Burlington, ON L7R 3Z6

RE: Strengthening Burlington's Housing Market Through Bold Leadership

Dear Mayor Meed Ward,

On behalf of the West End Home Builders' Association (WE HBA), we wish to commend you for your continued leadership in addressing the housing crisis and fostering economic growth in Burlington. Your decisive actions in **reducing development charges in 2024** and establishing the **Pipeline to Permit Committee** have set a strong precedent for municipalities across Ontario. Your bold leadership has not gone unnoticed, with cities such as **Mississauga and Vaughan following your example** in taking proactive steps to streamline approvals and promote housing development.

Given the dire economic situation we currently face—compounded by high taxation on housing, increasing construction costs, and the looming threat of tariffs from Donald Trump—now is the moment for additional bold action. Immediate measures are needed to protect jobs, address the housing crisis, encourage investment, and ensure Burlington remains a leader in housing policy and economic stability.

To that end, we strongly **recommend that the City of Burlington immediately defer development charges from the permit stage to the occupancy stage** and ensure those deferrals are interest-free. This shift would provide crucial financial relief to builders, enabling them to move forward with projects that might otherwise be stalled in the pipeline due to cash flow constraints. Furthermore, we urge the City to **investigate temporary reductions in development charges for a two- or three-year period** to stimulate investment, create jobs, and maintain Burlington's competitive edge in the housing sector.

We welcome the opportunity to discuss these recommendations further and explore how WE HBA can collaborate with the City to implement these initiatives. We appreciate your leadership and look forward to working together to ensure Burlington remains a thriving, vibrant community for years to come.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We remain committed to working collaboratively to ensure Burlington continues to be a vibrant and thriving community.

Sincerely,

Mike Collins-Williams, MCIP, RPP
Chief Executive Officer
West End Home Builders' Association