



October 10, 2025

From:
West End Home Builders' Association
1112 Rymal Road East
Hamilton, Ontario L8W 3N7

To:
Members of Council
City of Burlington, 426 Brant St
Burlington, ON L7R 3Z6

WE HBA Letter: Burlington Planning and Building Fee Reviews – October 2025

The West End Home Builders' Association ("WE HBA") is the voice of the land development, new housing and professional renovation industries in Hamilton, Burlington, and Grimsby. WE HBA represents 300 member companies made up of all disciplines involved in land development and residential construction. In the Hamilton CMA in 2024, residential construction contributed over \$4.6 billion in investment value and provided over 21,000 jobs paying about \$1.6 billion in wages¹.

WE HBA wishes to thank the City for bringing forward report DGM-73-25 as an update on the Building Permit and Community Planning application fee review, subsequent to the discussion held at the September 11th Pipeline to Permit ("P2P") Committee meeting. We appreciate the open dialogue at this meeting, and the openness of Committee and staff to hear the concerns of the industry related to the Watson and Associates presentation. We HBA supports the recommendation to direct staff engagement through a Council workshop to address issues related to transparency, the methodology to calculate the fees including indirect costs, the desired level of cost recovery, and budget integration.

We also wish to thank the City for addressing a long-standing issue with the calculation of fees for applications in which a podium contains more than one tower, where currently, each tower is considered a separate application and charged duplicate fees. We appreciate and support the language contained in Appendix A to DGM 73-25 which allows contiguous developments containing more than one tower to be considered as a single application, with variable fees charged commensurate to the scale of the development. This change brings Burlington into alignment with neighbouring municipalities such as Hamilton and greatly reduces the burden of application fees on new development. The current state of the housing market requires municipalities to carefully examine costs layered onto the development of new housing, and we applaud the City in moving forward to address these issues. We look forward to reviewing the Watson technical report and continuing dialogue through P2P, as well as Committee of the Whole, Council, and staff engagement, to bring forward solutions to the housing crisis.

Sincerely,

Anthony Salemi, BURPI
Planner, Policy and Government Relations
West End Home Builders' Association

¹ CHBA Economic Impacts 2024 Fact Sheet, Hamilton CMA.