



TOM MRAKAS
MAYOR

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MAYOR MRAKAS' STATEMENT ON FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL ANNOUNCEMENT TO REDUCE MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT CHARGES

"I am encouraged by today's federal-provincial announcement to reduce municipal development charges by 50 per cent on new homes for the next three years – this is a meaningful step that has the potential to unlock housing starts on stalled approved projects, and get shovels in the ground faster, including here in Aurora.

Together with last week's announcement to remove the HST on new home purchases, it's clear that real action is being taken to make homeownership more attainable.

Just as important, I am pleased to see the commitment from both levels of government to ensure municipalities are properly funded. Development charges are a critical funding source that support essential infrastructure – from roads and water to parks and community spaces – and without proper funding, those costs would ultimately fall on existing taxpayers, which I do not support.

Here in Aurora, we've done our part – reducing red tape, streamlining approvals, and supporting a range of housing options that align with our Official Plan. Since 2023, we've approved more than 4,200 new residential units, already over halfway to our 2031 target.

We will be reviewing the details closely to ensure this approach works for Aurora, supporting housing delivery while protecting financial stability and the services residents rely on."

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