

UPDATE



From the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

Fall 2010

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Message from Minister Rick Bartolucci

Our government has taken positive steps to ensure that affordable housing is part of the fabric of every Ontario community. We are taking another important step forward with the Long-Term Affordable Housing Strategy. Our long-term strategy puts people first and establishes a strong foundation to deliver better results for people with housing needs, in lean and in good economic times. [Read more](#)



Ontario Students Cast Their Votes

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Building Foundations: Building Futures

Laying the foundation

A just-released long-term affordable housing strategy will provide Ontario families across the province with greater access to safe, stable and affordable housing. Building Foundations: Building Futures was announced in Hamilton on November 29th. [Read more](#)



Building Code Consultation

Ontario is updating the Building Code, which sets the health and safety standard for the places where Ontarians live and work every day. The Building Code, which is updated about every five years, was last published in 2006 and was most recently amended in July 2010. [Read more](#)

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Message From Minister Rick Bartolucci

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Welcome to UPDATE, the e-newsletter of the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

National Housing Day was recognized recently, and it reminded us again that safe, affordable shelter is fundamental for Ontarians striving to build a strong future for their families and communities.

Our government has taken positive steps to ensure that affordable housing is part of the fabric of every Ontario community. We are taking another important step forward with the Long-Term Affordable Housing Strategy.

Our long-term strategy puts people first and establishes a strong foundation to deliver better results for people with housing needs, in lean and in good economic times.

Our strategy is rooted in a new partnership with municipalities. It gives them the flexibility to tailor housing services to meet the unique needs of individuals and their communities. It will ensure services are accountable and on the right track.

This issue of UPDATE has more information about the strategy and has some helpful links if you would like to learn more about Building Foundations: Building Futures.

Municipal councils across the province officially took office on December 1st. It is a challenging time for all levels of government and we have learned over the past seven years that we achieve better results when we work in partnership. I am looking forward to working with the new councils on the important issues that lie ahead for their communities and our province.

Our government strongly believes we can govern better when we work in close harmony with our municipal partners. October 31st was the second anniversary of the signing of the agreement that concluded the Provincial Municipal Fiscal and Service Delivery Review, a partnership initiative of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the City of Toronto and Ontario. As the Review demonstrates, a respectful and meaningful partnership gets results. Our government committed to lifting social assistance benefits from the shoulders of property taxpayers and municipalities will see a net benefit of \$1.5 billion a year by 2018. This is a prime example of what we can accomplish when we work together.

I participated in an event at St. Benedict Catholic Secondary School in Sudbury in October to mark the first ever province-wide parallel municipal election for youth under the voting age. Local Government Week partnered with Student Vote to provide young people in Ontario with an opportunity to experience the democratic process first hand. St. Ben's was one of the more than 1,500 schools in 255 municipalities to help students learn about the importance of local government. This issue of UPDATE provides an overview of Local Government Week activities across the province.

UPDATE this month also carries an article with details on how we are updating Ontario's Building Code.

I want to wish you and your families the best for the upcoming holiday season and a happy new year.

Rick Bartolucci, MPP Sudbury
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

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Building Foundations: Building Futures

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A just-released long-term affordable housing strategy will provide Ontario families across the province with greater access to safe, stable and affordable housing.

Building Foundations: Building Futures was announced in Hamilton on November 29th.

Rick Bartolucci, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing said, “Our strategy will fix a housing system badly in need of repair. The reforms we are proposing will lay the foundation for transforming the housing system and using current resources more effectively.”

Laying the foundation

In 2005, the McGuinty government announced Ontario's re-entry into the affordable housing business. Since that time, more than \$2.5 billion in provincial funding has been dedicated to the construction and repair of more than 200,000 affordable and social housing units.

Municipalities, stakeholders and the public contributed extensively throughout the policy development process over the past two years.

The resulting Long-Term Affordable Housing Strategy will:

- put people first by creating the flexibility to address individual housing needs
- create strong partnerships to deliver integrated housing services
- ensure provincial and municipal roles are clear and create greater accountability
- support affordable options to create new housing stock.

Shifting from a prescriptive to an enabling model will assist municipalities deliver results tailored to their local circumstances and needs.

A transformed housing system that uses current resources more effectively

For details about Building Foundations: Building Futures visit: [Long-Term Affordable Housing Strategy](#).

Learn more about the proposed [Strong Communities Through Affordable Housing Act](#).



Building Foundations: Building Futures

Ontario's Long-Term Affordable Housing Strategy

Ontario.ca/HousingStrategy



Building Foundations: Building Futures was released on November 29th.

[What people are saying about Building Foundations: Building Futures](#)

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[Student Vote](#) ran the parallel elections as part of [Local Government Week](#), which is a partnership program held annually by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario.

Over 1,500 schools in more than 200 municipalities registered to participate in the Student Vote and Local Government Week program, which ran from October 17-23.

Real-Life Lesson

Rick Bartolucci, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing visited students at St. Benedict Catholic Secondary School in Sudbury on October 22.

Over 640 students at the school cast their votes in the parallel election. Students also took on poll clerk duties – making their first municipal and school board voting experience even more real.

“Ontario students are getting a real-life lesson on democracy in our local communities, and are learning about the importance of local government,” said Minister Bartolucci.

Parallel Election Results

To see the voting results from schools in your community, visit: www.studentvote.ca/2010results.

Learn more about Student Vote and Local Government Week by visiting: www.twitter.com/studentvote, and www.facebook.com/studentvote.

Watch a video about students taking part in [Student Vote and Local Government Week](#) (link to CKWS Television in Kingston website).

Local Government Week – A Year-Long Activity



Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing Rick Bartolucci visited St. Benedict Catholic Secondary School in Sudbury to take part in Student Vote and Local Government Week. From left to right: Minister Bartolucci, grade 12 student Marli Kizc, grade 11 student Renee Hechler, grade 11 student Alex Pakkala, Principal Karl Dreger, and school board official Jean McHarg.

Schools and municipalities are encouraged to participate in Local Government Week activities throughout the rest of the school year. For details about the activities planned, visit the website of the [Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario](#).

Related Links:

- [Student Vote](#)
- [Local Government Week](#)
- [Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario](#).

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Building Code Consultation

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Ontario is updating the Building Code and is seeking input on potential changes for the 2011 edition.

Ontario's Building Code sets the health and safety standard for the places where Ontarians live and work every day. The Code, which is updated about every five years, was last published in 2006 and was most recently amended in July 2010.

It is projected that the next edition of the Building Code will be filed by the Registrar of Regulations by mid-2011.

Web-based consultation and public information sessions

Public consultation plays a key role in the development of the Building Code and is an essential part of an open and transparent policy development process.

Two public consultations are being supported in the development of the next edition of the Code. Both consultations are web-based, and are supplemented by regional information sessions and meetings with industry stakeholders.

The first round of consultations recently concluded on November 8, 2010. The ministry received over 1,200 comments from over 50 organizations and a number of individuals.

It is anticipated that the next round of consultations will begin in winter 2011.

Have your say

Visit [ontario.ca/buildingcode](#) for the latest news and information on proposed changes to Ontario's Building Code and how to participate in the consultations.

Related links

Read the current [consultation paper](#).

