

June 14, 2022

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation
700 Montreal Road
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0P7

Re: AECO proposal to the CMHC Housing Supply Challenge

Dear CMHC proposal reviewer,

For more than a century, the Ontario Chamber of Commerce (OCC) has supported economic growth in Ontario by advocating for business priorities on behalf of our diverse 60,000 members, including local chambers of commerce and boards of trades in 157 communities.

The OCC is issuing this Letter of Support to the Architecture, Engineering, Construction, and Owners (AECO) Innovation Lab to encourage the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) to invest in AECO Innovation Lab's prototype and pilot project in Simcoe County which would act as a proof of concept for the One Ontario initiative and showcase the establishment of a centralized portal to be used by municipalities, provincial ministries, and other approval agencies in Ontario for the development and building permitting processes. We are encouraged by this project given that it builds a solution towards unifying data and information exchange as well as streamlining and standardizing the digital workflow of Ontario's municipal governments.

From project planning and reviewing to completion, we have long advocated for investments that streamline the development process in Ontario. This is an especially important issue for our members in the construction, engineering, infrastructure, and energy industries. These sectors are often subject to uncertainty on submission requirements given varying jurisdictional standards, and significant process and approval wait times that often lead to project delays or cancellations, further hindering competitiveness, regional growth, and recovery efforts.

Increasing the supply of housing also continues to remain a top concern for the business community. Access to affordable housing is essential to attracting, retaining, and developing a diverse and productive workforce. As such, we have actively called on the government and its agencies to implement the One Ontario system, which would provide digital mechanisms that expedite the planning and building permitting processes for housing developers, eliminate excessive regulatory costs and red tape, promote fairness and transparency, and prioritize affordable housing and rental projects.

We thank you in advance for your time and consideration and hope you will also see the value this project will have on the reliability, efficiency, and integrity of Ontario's digital ecosystem.

Sincerely,



Rocco Rossi
President and CEO
Ontario Chamber of Commerce