

February 19, 2021

City of Peterborough
500 George Street North
Peterborough, ON
K9H 3R9

Attn:
Councillor Lesley Parnell
Councillor Kim Zippel
Councillor Henry Clarke
Councillor Don Vassiliadis
Councillor Kemi Akapo
Councillor Dean Pappas
Councillor Gary Baldwin
Councillor Keith Riel
Councillor Andrew Beamer
Councillor Stephen Wright

Dear Members of Council,

I was surprised to hear from Mayor Therrien on Tuesday's Peterborough City Council meeting that, "We have a Provincial Member of Parliament that is missing from the equation, so that is something that I will highlight again, that we have a Municipal Affairs and Housing Ministry that needs to come to the table."

On Thursday Feb 18th, I provided Mayor Therrien with the following information:

The Government of the Province of Ontario provided to the Municipality of the City of Peterborough the follow sums of money for housing supports in Peterborough:

- \$3,380,790 for the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative;
- \$983,236 for Home For Good;
- \$776,900 for the Investment in Affordable Housing Extension Program;
- \$391,680 for the Ontario Priority Housing Initiative and;
- \$488,271 for the Strong Communities Rent Supplement Program

Mayor Therrien's reaction to the more than \$6,000,000 in direct funding to the Municipality of the City of Peterborough for housing for our community was that it sounded like "listening to nails on a chalkboard".

On Monday January 25th between 2:00 pm and 5:00 pm, the Ministry of Finance along with myself and MPP David Piccini held a town-hall consultation for the upcoming Ontario Budget. All municipalities represented within the boundaries of the Peterborough-Kawartha riding as well as the Northumberland-Peterborough South riding were invited. Mayors of other Municipalities chose to attend and contribute; however, Mayor Therrien chose not to attend and did not provide any direction to the Ministry of Finance with respect to the desires for funding for the City of Peterborough from the Province of Ontario

Based on Mayor Therrien's comments on February 18th, it appears that Mayor Therrien finds the sound of more than \$6,000,000 in funding from the province to assist in housing within the City of Peterborough to be offensive. Since Mayor Therrien chose not to attend and chose not to contribute to the budget consultation process, I find myself in a position where I am unsure how the Municipality of the City of Peterborough would like to proceed with respect to

funding supports for housing from the Province. If it is Council's opinion that the Municipality of the City of Peterborough no longer requires and no longer desires to receive this level of support, we have the opportunity to have that support removed from the upcoming budget. I respectfully request that the Council of the City of Peterborough provide direction to me with respect to these housing supports. I fully intend to advocate for the residents of the City of Peterborough based on the direction I receive from Council with respect to the desire to receive more than \$6,000,000 in housing supports.

Based on the Mayors failure to attend the budget consultation and failure to advocate on behalf of the residents of the Municipality of the City of Peterborough at the official budget consultation, I only have her comment that she takes offense to receiving more than \$6,000,000 in funding.

I find myself in a position where it appears that the Mayor no longer sees value in the Province providing millions of dollars in support for housing for the residents of the City of Peterborough. I believe that this position taken by the Mayor is not the correct course of action for the residents that I represent. I am afraid that I must ask council directly for direction on this matter.

Based on direction from council, I will request that the Ministry of Finance continue to provide funds to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing so that the City of Peterborough can continue to receive these types of supports for housing.

Or

I will request that the Ministry of Finance no longer provide the funds to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing to support the City of Peterborough for housing because the City of Peterborough no longer wants this support.

I require an immediate response to this request because we are finalizing the 2021/2022 budget.

I want there to be no confusion about what my position is. I am advocating for clean, affordable and sustainable housing for residents in our community and as I have stated repeatedly, in public and in private, I am willing to work with anyone to achieve that.

Respectfully,



Dave Smith
MPP Peterborough Kawartha