

Ministry of
Municipal Affairs
and Housing

Office of the Minister

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MAY 23 2019

19-2917

Jeff Bowman
Councillor
City of Brampton
jeff.bowman@brampton.ca

Dear Councillor Bowman:

Thank you for your letter regarding proposed changes to the *Fire Protection and Prevention Act, 1997* and the *Building Code Act, 1992*, which would provide municipal officials with greater access into illegal apartments that pose a safety risk.

With respect to the *Building Code Act, 1992*, current provisions allow municipal inspectors, with a warrant or the occupier's consent, to enter and inspect residential units (including basement apartments) that are suspected of being unsafe. Inspectors also have the authority to require building owners to carry out remedial work where safety infractions have been identified. Non-compliance can result in legal action.

Our government has made increasing housing a priority. We recently revealed **More Homes, More Choice; Ontario's Housing Supply Action Plan**. As part of this Plan we are helping homeowners build safe legal second units within their homes by developing a user-friendly guide that supports compliance with Ontario's Building Code.

Please note, I have forwarded your letter to my colleague, the Honourable Sylvia Jones, Solicitor General, as her ministry is responsible for the *Fire Protection and Prevention Act, 1997*.

If you would like to discuss this issue further Stephanie DiNucci, my Senior Policy & Stakeholder Relations Advisor, is happy to meet with you. She can be contacted at Stephanie.DiNucci@ontario.ca.

Once again, thank your for bringing your concerns to my attention. Please accept my best wishes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steve Clark'.

Steve Clark
Minister

c. The Honourable Sylvia Jones
Solicitor General