



TOWN OF INGERSOLL

Town Centre

Members of Council meet with Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing to Discuss Housing Needs

News Release

January 24, 2023

Mayor Petrie, Deputy Mayor Wilson, Councillor Eus, and Councillor Haliru of the Town of Ingersoll met with Minister of Municipal Affairs, Steve Clark to discuss methods to encourage more apartment buildings in the Town of Ingersoll.

The delegation explained, on behalf of residents, frustrations with the development community not bringing forward the type of development that the residents of Ingersoll want and need. They expressed that these type of developments align with the province's goal of creating more diverse housing for the residents of Ontario and asked the Minister for assistance in solving this problem and offered to be willing partners toward this goal.

They explained that the Town of Ingersoll has been trying to grow up not out but it is sometimes difficult to get multi-story residential buildings built in the community. In the last few years, the Town has had a few new apartment buildings built as well as a significant number of townhouse blocks, row housing, and duplexes. Multiple new developments have multi-story residential in their future plans but have yet to be built and seem to be the last priority.

Ingersoll is in close proximity (20 min.) to the City of Woodstock and the City of London so those markets tend to get more high-density residential and may be consuming some of Ingersoll's multi-story residential.

Minister Steve Clark pointed to the provincial government's recent enactments including the "*More Homes Built Faster Act*" of 2022. He pointed out that the exemption of development charges for affordable housing will incentivize that type of development. The Minister also pointed to the sweeping housing changes that will allow up to three units on each residential lot which will improve access to more housing in Ontario communities.

Minister Clark applauded the Town and the County's efforts to acquire long term care beds, as well as the encouraging seniors' development, Ingersoll Gardens. He also



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applauded the Town's plans to review and greater utilize the Community Improvement Plan and gave his suggestions for possible land acquisition for affordable housing.

The Town of Ingersoll thanked the Minister for his assistance and the time to meet.



From left to right: Councillor Eus, Deputy Mayor Wilson, Mayor Petrie, Minister Clark, and Councillor Haliru