

The Honourable David McGuinty, P.C., M.P.,

We represent the Hunt Club Community Association in Ottawa South. We are engaged on multiple proposed developments in our neighborhood while trying to find a balance between the need to build more housing and the need for that housing to fit well with the existing neighborhoods.

The issue of the role that the CMHC plays in building housing has come up. It is concerning to us that, due to the lack of transparency in the recipients of public money, the CMHC could be funding developments that do not do a good job of striking this critical balance.

We find the goals of CMHC programs such as the Rental Construction Financing Initiative (RCFI) or the Mortgage Load Insurance Program to be highly laudable- we support building more affordable, energy efficient, and accessible units. The criteria the CMHC currently applies is however quite lax. It uses a definition of affordable tied to average family incomes which can allow for much higher rates than a definition of 80% of average market rates for similar units.

We would like to respectfully inquire if the government will be taking steps in line with the open-by-default approach and publish recipients of CMHC funding. We would also like to know whether the government will require that the CMHC improve its definition of affordability for the purposes of administering like the RCFI, as it indicated it would in its 2022 budget.

If the government is not considering these steps, then we strongly urge you to take these steps. They would go a long way to properly implementing the spirit of these programs while also building more trust in the neighborhoods like ours that will need to accept new construction in order to address the housing crisis.

Yours Sincerely,

The Hunt Club Community Association