

Ministry of
Municipal Affairs
and Housing

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JUN 09 2016

16-69791

Mr. Gary McNamara
AMO President
amopresident@amo.on.ca

Dear Mr. McNamara:

Thank you for your email regarding regulatory changes under the *Housing Services Act, 2011* (HSA) that prescribe decisions of Service Managers that can be reviewed at the request of housing providers.

Our government recognizes that Service Managers need to manage housing portfolios in a fiscally responsible manner and shares your belief that regulatory changes should not undermine the authority of municipal councils and District Social Service Administration Boards.

The regulatory changes are in response to our government's Long Term Affordable Housing Strategy commitment to build on existing legislative provisions enacted in 2011. Under s. 157 of the HSA, housing providers can only request reviews of decisions prescribed in regulation. The new regulations prescribing reviewable decisions strive to provide fairness to both housing providers and Service Managers, while ensuring that Service Managers have appropriate flexibility to address urgent situations.

It is our belief that these amendments will provide a process that enhances the existing safeguards and enables housing sector partners to make decisions that best serve their local communities. However, I can assure you that the government will examine the impact of the amendments on all stakeholders as part of the mandated review of Service Manager enforcement provisions in 2017.

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

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ted McMeekin".

Ted McMeekin
Minister

- c: Laurie LeBlanc, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Janet Hope, Assistant Deputy Minister, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing,
Housing Division
Iain Angus, Chair, Northern Ontario Service Deliverers Association
Keith Palmer, President, Ontario Municipal Social Service Association
Douglas Bartholomew-Saunders, Chair, Urban Commissioners