



June 30, 2021

The Honourable Kaleed Rasheed
Associate Minister of Digital Government
Atrium on Bay, 595 Bay St
Toronto, ON M5G 2M6

Dear Associate Minister Rasheed,

Congratulations on your recent appointment to Associate Minister of Digital Government.

The Residential Construction Council of Ontario (RESCON) represents over 200 residential builders of high, mid, and low-rise buildings in the province, with a focus on the GTA. Our members build Ontario's communities, homes, and future. We are committed to providing leadership and fostering innovation in the industry through the following six core focuses: Training and Apprenticeship; Government Relations; Labour Relations; Health and Safety; Building Science and Innovation; and Building Code Reform and Technical Standards.

The number of development applications continues to increase to meet housing demands yet limited resources at the municipal approvals level act as a bottleneck in the ability of the private sector to deliver much-needed housing. RESCON and other organizations in the architecture, engineering and development (AEC) community came to form the AECO Innovation Lab, an industry consortium to streamline processes within AEC sectors. One of these processes is the development application and approvals process.

Historically, approval agencies and municipalities have relied on antiquated paper-based submissions and reviews, leading to further inefficiencies in the approvals process. This reliance on paper-based submissions in the development and building approvals process has further exacerbated approval timelines as the COVID-19 pandemic has led to remote work without the necessary tools in place to do their jobs efficiently.

Regions in Ontario could see thousands of additional housing units and attract millions of dollars in additional jobs and investment if the development approvals process was streamlined. The GTA alone could see up to 100,700 additional housing units by 2040 if there was a reduction in delays to the approvals process by six months and a 10-per-cent increase in investment, according to a [2020 CANCEA report](#).

While digitizing the approvals process occurs in select Ontario municipalities, existing e-permitting programs are siloed, fragmented, and often only focus on a single department within a municipality. A data exchange platform is needed to enable systemic interoperability between disparate applicable law organizations involved in the process regardless of their respective levels of technical sophistication.

Hence AECO Innovation Lab's ['One Ontario' initiative](#), a proposal that has the backing of over 30 organizations engaged in the approvals process, including RESCON. AECO has submitted the One Ontario proposal to the Province for the creation of a common Development Approval Data and Information



Exchange Standard; a Central Review Platform; and Central Analytics and Reporting Platform for use by municipalities, Provincial Ministries, Conservation Authorities, and other approval agencies in Ontario for the development and permitting processes.

We appreciate the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing and the Treasury Board Secretariat have stated their support for the One Ontario proposal and are hopeful for your support.

To continue the conversation and progress on our One Ontario proposal, we would like to meet with you and your team to discuss ways RESCON can work collaboratively with the government to lead the digitization and streamlining of the development approvals process and a better and stronger Ontario.

Please contact Amina Dibe (dibe@rescon.com) to set up a time that is convenient for a meeting.

Thank you,

Richard Lyall
President