



June 30, 2021

The Honourable Ross Romano
Ministry of Government and Consumer Services
5th Floor
777 Bay St.
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3

Dear Minister Romano,

Congratulations on your recent appointment to Minister of Government and Consumer Services.

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.

RESCON has played a key role in numerous Tarion and HRCA consultations to help the government ensure honesty and safety in the quality of new home construction in Ontario. We provided much-needed information and data collected from the 200 residential builders we represent in these consultations.

Since 2019, we have been working with the Ministry of Government and Consumer Services and TSSA to ensure that elevator availability and maintenance is upheld throughout the Province. We are encouraged by the recent announcement from the Ministry to implement penalties for non-compliance and mandating data collection and sharing of elevator outages. These two changes will enshrine greater accountability. However, more changes are needed.

For one, there are not enough elevator mechanics and installers in Ontario to meet the demand for high-rise residential units. While we understand the supply of skilled labour is housed with the Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development, we believe a multi-ministry collaborative approach is needed to address elevator safety and availability in Ontario fully. We also recognize the considerable skilled trades expertise you developed as the Minister of Colleges and Universities and are excited to work with you to address this very important issue. As you know, elevators are a unique sector in how they are regulated and in the fact that the mechanics that install elevators are also the mechanics that maintain them. Therefore they are one of the few trades that creates their own work and the demand for elevators will steadily and constantly increase.

We look forward to working with your Ministry to ensure Ontario is a leading jurisdiction for excellence in homebuilding.

RESCON would appreciate the opportunity to meet with you to discuss our recent initiatives to collaborate on related elevator availability and maintenance policy.

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

Thank you,



Richard Lyall
President

Copy to:

Benjamin Levitt, Director, Stakeholder Relations, Minister Romano's Office

Thomas Staples, Senior Policy Advisor, Minister Romano's Office

