

A model letter for you to adapt to write to your MP, Prime Minister, Finance Minister and Minister of Housing

Dear _____

I write to urge you to support improvements to Bill C-56 that are needed to increase the benefits that will result from lifting the GST off construction of new rental housing units.

First, the 100-per-cent GST rebate should also apply to construction of rental co-operative housing. Co-ops housing provides rental units at well below market rents and can therefore play an important role in tackling the shortage of affordable rentals. For that to happen, they need the same GST rebate as other non-profit rentals.

Second, the 100-per-cent GST rebate should apply to all non-profit and co-ops housing construction under way as of September 14th, 2023, rather than being limited to construction that *starts* after September 14, 2023. With rising costs and falling federal support for new non-profit housing, the non-profit and co-op sector needs all the help it can get to lower construction costs and thus lower rents. At minimum, the full GST rebate should apply to all construction costs incurred after September 14, for projects under way at that date.

I support the provision of Bill C-56 that allows for the full GST rebate on both new builds and the purchase by non-profit organizations of existing purpose-built rental housing. This would help non-profits to keep affordable market units affordable for the long-term.

Like most cities in Canada, Hamilton has a huge shortage of affordable rentals that is causing considerable hardship for those who still remain housed and contributes to the growing numbers of people experiencing homelessness. We need much more from the federal government, in terms of leading and investing in an all-out national effort to protect and increase the supply of affordable housing. But the small steps mentioned above will make the small step of a full GST rebate more effective.

I look forward to your response to these proposals.

Yours sincerely,

Addresses

A mailed letter is more effective than an email. But an emailed letter is better than no letter. The email address of every MP is structured the same way. Their first name, a period, their last name, then @parl.gc.ca So, for example, justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca

You can send a letter to any MP, without postage, to
House of Commons.
Ottawa, Ontario.
Canada.
K1A 0A6.

Examples: The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, P.C. M.P.

Prime Minister of Canada

Cabinet ministers are addressed as The Honourable, with P.C. M.P. after their name, so

Chrystia Freeland,

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance

Or The Honourable Sean Fraser P.C., M.P.

Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities of Canada

Our local MPs are

The Honourable Filomena Tassi, P.C. M.P.

Minister responsible for the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario

The Honourable Karina Gould, P.C. M.P.

Leader of the Government in the House of Commons

Matthew Green, M.P.

Chad Collins, M.P.

Lisa Hepfner, M.P.

Dan Muys, M.P.

Dean Allison, M.P.

(Note that Collins and Hepfner are Liberal MPs, so we want them to push their government colleagues to make these changes, and Green (NDP), Muys and Allison (Conservative) are opposition MPs and we want them to push their parties to push the government to make these changes.)