



Robyn Rogers, Municipal Clerk
Municipality of Highlands East
P.O. Box 295, 2249 Loop Road
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February 11, 2026

Via Email:

Prime Minister Mark Carney
Minister of Finance and National Revenue Francois-Philippe Champagne
Minister of Housing, Infrastructure Gregor Robertson
Premier of Ontario Doug Ford
Ontario Minister of Finance Peter Bethlenfalvy
Ontario Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing Rob Flack
Member of Parliament Jamie Schmale
Member of Provincial Parliament Laurie Scott
Associations of Ontario Municipalities
All Ontario Municipalities
Haliburton County Home Builders Association

Re: Resolution – Affordable Housing

The Council for the Municipality of Highlands East at their Regular Meeting of Council on February 10, 2026, approved the following resolution:

Resolution # 2026-63

That Council for the Municipality of Highlands East receive and supports the Haliburton County Home Builders Association motion pertaining to affordable housing and;

Further That Council put forward the following;

Whereas housing affordability is one of the most pressing issues facing Ontario families; Whereas the current HST rate on new homes in Ontario is 13%, which adds tens of thousands of dollars to the cost of a typical home;

Whereas the federal and provincial governments have announced GST relief only for first-time homebuyers on new-built homes; and

Whereas according to research conducted by the Ontario Homebuilders' Association, first-time home

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buyers currently represent approximately 5% of the new home market; and

Whereas a full PST exemption would stimulate the construction of an additional 53,000 new homes, on top of the roughly 80,000 homes already expected to be available for sale by 2026 — bringing the total to approximately 132,000 units.

Therefore, Be It Resolved That the Council of the Municipality of Highlands East calls on the Government of Canada and the Government of Ontario to remove the GST/HST from all new homes purchased as primary residences in Ontario; and

Be It Further Resolved That this resolution be circulated to the Prime Minister of Canada, Minister of Finance, and the Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities; And to the Premier of Ontario, the Ontario Minister of Finance, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, our local MP and MPP, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, and to all municipalities in Ontario

Carried

If there is anything further that you require, please contact the undersign.

Sincerely,

Robyn Rogers

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