

FONOM

The Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities

March 25, 2014

Hon. Bill Mauro
Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
College Park, 17th Floor
777 Bay Street
Toronto, ON
M5G 2E5

Dear Minister Mauro,

RE: Ontario Regulation 332/12 (Building Code)

The Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) is pleased with the Government of Ontario's recent announcement that it will move forward with the proposed changes to the Ontario Building Code to allow for wood frame building structures for up to six storeys.

If passed, this regulatory change will ensure that Ontario builders are presented with viable and alternative construction options that meet safety, health and structural requirements within the building code.

Amendments to the building code would provide significant benefits to the northern Ontario economy by creating a demand for Ontario's wood products which supports the forest industry, a key economic sector of northern Ontario. By increasing opportunities to build with wood from Ontario's sustainably managed forests, the proposed code changes support forest industry jobs and forest dependent communities.

These changes will create new opportunities for innovation and design and reduce the carbon footprint during the construction process. FONOM believes that building code changes will also aim to assist smart growth through the development of diversified buildings and help municipalities achieve densification while preserving the richness of mixed-use community neighbourhoods.

FONOM stresses the importance for the government to take continued action to ensure that these changes to the Ontario Building Code are implemented.

Sincerely,



Alan Spacek
President