

May 15, 2025

Durham Regional Council
605 Rossland Road East
Whitby, ON L1N 6A3

Dear Members of Durham Regional Council,

I am writing to express my deep concerns regarding the proposed termination of the Regional Revitalization Program. As a previous recipient of assistance under the RRP, I understand the program is set to be discontinued. I want to stress that my company's development might not have been achieved if it hadn't been for the funding under the RRP. As a developer actively engaged in the growth and development throughout the Region of Durham, I believe this decision will have significant adverse effects on our region's housing market, economic stability, and overall community well-being.

Firstly, the termination of the Regional Revitalization Program will directly impact the production of our efforts and vision for downtown. This program has been instrumental in facilitating the construction of new housing, which is crucial to meeting the growing demand in our region. Without the incentives and support provided by this program, many planned projects will stall or be terminated altogether. This will result in a substantial loss of residential units, exacerbating the housing shortage and making it increasingly difficult for residents to find affordable housing. Without the funding this will also have a direct impact on the "aesthetics" of downtown.

Moreover, the cessation of this program will lead to job losses across various sectors, particularly among unions and trades involved in construction and development. The Regional Revitalization Program has created numerous employment opportunities, supporting skilled workers and contributing to the local economy. The termination of this program will not only affect these workers but also have a ripple effect on their families and the broader community.

Additionally, the reduction in development will lead to a decrease in the regional tax base revenue. New housing projects contribute significantly to the local tax base, providing essential funds for public services and infrastructure. The loss of these projects will result in reduced revenue, hindering the region's ability to maintain and improve services for its community.

Furthermore, the lack of consultation with the development community regarding this decision is concerning. Effective communication and collaboration between the Region and developers are vital to ensuring that policies align with the region's mandates of

housing growth and economic development. The abrupt termination of the program without adequate consultation undermines the principles of good governance and customer service.

In light of these concerns, I urge Durham Regional Council to reconsider the termination of the Regional Revitalization Program. It is imperative to explore alternative solutions that will allow the program to continue its operation or to develop new incentives that align with the region's goals of housing growth, introduction of more affordable housing and economic development.

It is my opinion, the decision to defer this matter will also contribute to the loss of development in the Region. By working together, we can find a path forward that supports the needs of our community, small and medium sized stakeholders to continue with the current efforts already in place.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to your response and hope for a constructive dialogue on how we can address these challenges collaboratively. I appreciate the opportunity to address this matter and am available for any further discussion.

Sincerely,

Antonella Sacco-Diachenko
President, Director of Operations
The Sacco Group Ltd.,
BOND|ST Event Centre
SSL Academy Ltd
A&T Beauty Supply