



KAREN McCRIMMON

MPP | Députée Kanata-Carleton

Government Makes Regulation Change Put Forward by MPP Karen McCrimmon

QUEEN’S PARK – In October, Karen McCrimmon, Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP) for Kanata–Carleton, introduced [Bill 201](#), *The Commercial to Residential Conversion Act, 2024*, to remove a regulatory barrier to office building conversions into residential housing. The Ford Government voted down this bill. On November 20th, the Government proposed a regulatory change to remove this barrier.

<https://ero.ontario.ca/notice/019-9310>

“I was disappointed when the government voted down my bill, but I’m happy to see that they recognize it was a good idea. This was a simple change that the housing industry needed, and I’m glad that I could bring it to the government’s attention.” Said McCrimmon.

The regulatory change is still in a comment period and cannot be adopted until January.

“At a time when there is critical need for residential housing, and commercial vacancy is still very high, barriers prevent the conversion of previously commercial buildings to residential use”, said McCrimmon. “This bill would remove one significant barrier.” This bill was developed in collaboration with city planners, who have found this specific regulation to be a common barrier to building conversions.

Multiple organizations applauded and voiced their support for Bill 201:

“OREA applauds MPP McCrimmon's Bill 201, Commercial to Residential Conversion Act, which would encourage converting underused commercial property into housing.” - The Ontario Real Estate Association

“The conversion of commercial to residential buildings is of the utmost importance when looking at the current landscape of real estate here in Ontario. This regulatory barrier is arbitrary and creates further difficulties in converting commercial buildings into residential homes.” – Ontario Society of Professional Engineers

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