



August 22, 2024

Honourable Minister Sean Fraser
Minister of Housing
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

RE: Request re Single Egress Consultation and Copy of Letter to BC Housing Minister

Dear Minister Fraser

We hope you are well. We would like to thank your staff for meeting with CAFC a few weeks ago about single egress (one way out) construction. We appreciated the time, care, and concern. The fire sector is also very appreciative of the federal government's commitment to consult on single egress construction and eagerly await the opportunity to help inform relevant considerations. We commend the Government for being explicit on this in the Federal Budget.

That said, we are observing a coordination issue between different levels of government that might undermine the value of the federal consultation. British Columbia just completed a proposed code change consultation on single egress. Ontario is looking at the same. We do understand that these provinces have jurisdiction over their own building codes.

However, we also understand that the federal government is incenting housing innovation. Single egress may be the innovation that some provinces are presenting. We which we presume is why they may be so eager to proceed. Allowing one province or territory to get ahead of the federal consultation could create a domino effect because of code harmonization intentions.

As such, we would like to ask that the federal government defer or decline funding of single egress construction proposals from the eligible slate of fundable housing incentive considerations, at least until the federal consultation is complete.

We have made this request in our Prebudget Consultation document which you will find here: <https://cafc.ca/page/prebudget2025>. We also continue to post relevant materials and developments on the single egress issue here: <https://cafc.ca/page/single-egress>.

If you are interested in meeting with us, I can be reached directly at 403-304-2800 or your staff can also work with the CAFC's national office through our Executive Director, Dr. Tina Saryeddine at 613-324-1078 or tsaryeddine@cafc.ca who can help us set up a time. Thank you for considering our advice.

Sincerely,

Ken McMullen
President Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs
Fire Chief and Director of Emergency Services, Red Deer, Alberta
Attached: Letter to Minister Kahlon