

APR 24 2017

Minister of
Families, Children and
Social Development



Ministre de
la Famille, des Enfants et
du Développement social

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0J9

APR 18 2017

His Worship Fred Eisenberger
Mayor of the City of Hamilton
Office of the Mayor
71 Main Street W, 2nd Floor
Hamilton ON L8P 4Y5

Dear Mr. Mayor:

I am responding to your letter of March 8, 2017, concerning the need for additional funding to address homelessness in the City of Hamilton.

The Government of Canada is also concerned about homelessness and is committed to making it easier for Canadians to find an affordable place to call home. This is why our government has announced substantial new investments in the Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS), to prevent and reduce homelessness across Canada.

To strengthen the work of communities in their efforts to help homeless Canadians find stable housing, the Government announced, in Budget 2016, an additional \$111.8 million in funding for the HPS over two years (\$57.9 million in 2016–2017 and \$53.9 million in 2017–2018). This builds on the program's five-year investment (2014–2019) of nearly \$600 million with a focus on Housing First, and represents the first increase in annual HPS funding since the inception of the program.

As part of the National Housing Strategy, the Government proposed, in Budget 2017, to effectively double investments in federal homelessness programming, with total investments of \$2.1 billion over 10 years.

While I understand the challenging circumstances faced by your city in trying to address homelessness, the allocation of the HPS funding enhancement for 2016–2018 has already been determined. My department will share details regarding the allocation of the incremental funding for 2018–2019 over the coming months.

Over the next year, consultations with communities, stakeholders, provinces, territories and Indigenous partners will be undertaken on how the HPS can be redesigned to better reduce and prevent homelessness across Canada, starting April 1, 2019. The perspectives shared during these consultations will also help to shape future investments.

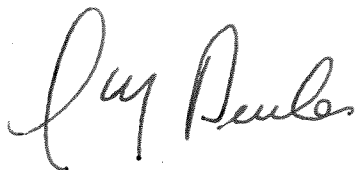
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These consultations will be guided by the Advisory Committee on Homelessness, to be chaired by my parliamentary secretary, Mr. Adam Vaughan. The Committee will be representative of Canada's diversity, and comprised of individuals external to government who have extensive knowledge of homelessness issues. While the final schedule of roundtables is not yet confirmed, it is expected that the Committee will hold stakeholder engagement sessions across the country during the spring and summer of 2017.

Homelessness is a reality for too many Canadians and a challenge for every Canadian community. Please be assured that the Government of Canada is committed to working with all orders of government, local communities and stakeholders to implement longer-term solutions to homelessness.

Thank you for writing and please do not hesitate to contact me with any further questions.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jean-Yves Duclos". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jean" and last name "Duclos" clearly distinguishable.

The Honourable Jean-Yves Duclos, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Families, Children and Social Development