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Mayor Fred Eisenberger  
City of Hamilton  
Office of the Mayor  
71 Main Street West, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Hamilton, Ontario L8P 4Y5

Dear Mayor Eisenberger:

I am writing in response to your letter of November 17, 2021, addressed to the Prime Minister and subsequently forwarded to my office, regarding the City of Hamilton's endorsement of the resolution from the County of Huron concerning homelessness in Ontario. I understand the circumstances that prompted you to write.

The Government of Canada is concerned about homelessness and affordable housing. Homelessness has an impact on every community in Canada. It affects individuals, families, women and children fleeing violence, youth, seniors, veterans and people with disabilities. Through the National Housing Strategy (NHS), the federal government is making significant investments to improve access to suitable housing.

As part of the NHS, federal homelessness programming now represents a \$3.1 billion investment over 10 years, and this includes the original NHS investment from 2017 and funding announced through the 2020 Fall Economic Statement and Budget 2021 for Reaching Home: Canada's Homelessness Strategy. This funding is in addition to the approximately \$400 million invested under Reaching Home in 2020-2021 to support the homeless-serving sector in their efforts to reduce transmission and impacts of COVID-19 as well as to support communities in implementing more permanent housing solutions.

You may be interested to know that federal, provincial and territorial governments are partners in housing and have shared responsibilities and corresponding roles. Reaching Home: Canada's Homelessness Strategy is a community-based program aimed at preventing and reducing homelessness across the country. Reaching Home funding is administered in eligible communities primarily through the Community Entity delivery model. Under the Community Entity model, the Government of Canada entrusts a community body, often a community's municipal government or an established not-for-profit, to select and manage Reaching Home projects in their area.

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Additionally, through complimentary NHS initiatives, the government is hard at work to increase the supply of affordable housing to match demand. Among these initiatives are the National Housing Co-Investment Fund, the Rapid Housing Initiative, the Federal Lands Initiative, and many more. I encourage you to consult the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation's (CMHC) progress report on the NHS, which provides an overview of new affordable units built, repaired or renewed, as well as the households receiving other forms of support from the federal government. You can access the report at the following website: <https://www.placetocallhome.ca/progress-on-the-national-housing-strategy>.

Finally, as the Federal Crown Corporation responsible for housing in Canada, CMHC is dedicating its efforts toward improving housing affordability across the nation. It has set the ambitious goal that by 2030, everyone in Canada has a home that they can afford and that meets their needs.

Please rest assured that the federal government is committed to working with all orders of government, local communities and stakeholders to implement longer-term solutions to homelessness. Success relies on cooperation between all orders of government and interested parties.

With respect to the mental health and addictions concerns raised in your letter, since it falls more closely under the purview of the Honourable Carolyn Bennett, Minister of Mental Health and Addictions, I have taken the liberty of forwarding a copy of your correspondence to her office for consideration.

Thank you for taking the time to write.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ahmed Hussien', written in a cursive style.

The Honourable Ahmed Hussien, P.C., M.P.  
Minister of Housing and Diversity and Inclusion