

Ministry of  
Municipal Affairs  
and Housing

Office of the Minister

777 Bay Street, 17<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Toronto ON M7A 2J3  
Tel.: 416 585-7000

Ministère des  
Affaires municipales  
et du Logement

Bureau du ministre

777, rue Bay, 17<sup>e</sup> étage  
Toronto (Ontario) M7A 2J3  
Tél.: 416 585-7000



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June 1, 2023

Your Worship  
Mayor Andrea Horwath  
City of Hamilton  
[Janet.Pilon@hamilton.ca](mailto:Janet.Pilon@hamilton.ca)

Dear Mayor Horwath:

Thank you for sharing the City of Hamilton's endorsement of the Town of Cobourg's Homeless and Unsheltered Persons resolution. I appreciate the time you have taken to write.

Our government believes everyone deserves a place to call home, including the most at-risk people in the province. That is why my ministry provides annual funding in homelessness prevention, supportive housing and various other housing programs to local Service Managers across Ontario. Service Managers, like the County of Northumberland and City of Hamilton, have flexibility to use those funds to support a wide range of services for people experiencing, or at risk of, homelessness, including mental health and addictions supports.

On April 6, 2023, our government introduced our most recent housing supply action plan, Helping Homebuyers, Protecting Tenants as well as the Helping Homebuyers, Protecting Tenants Act. Our plan is the latest in a series of steps we are taking to increase housing supply and help more Ontarians find a home they can actually afford. Our plan builds on initiatives in More Homes Built Faster, More Homes for Everyone and More Homes More Choice, our first three housing supply action plans. Ontario's Housing Supply Action Plans complement our investment of nearly \$4.4 billion over three years to grow and enhance community and supportive housing, and to address homelessness for vulnerable Ontarians.

In partnership with our municipal and Indigenous partners, the government has provided unprecedented support to ensure vulnerable people in Ontario have access to safe and appropriate housing.

Last year, we launched the new Homelessness Prevention Program (HPP) and invested an additional \$25 million annually to help more people experiencing homelessness find safe housing and the support they need.

And as was just announced in Budget 2023, we are investing an additional \$190.5 million annually and ongoing through the HPP to help those experiencing or at risk of homelessness and support the community organizations delivering supportive housing, including to build new supportive housing units. This includes an 18% increase in funding for Hamilton to \$27.9 million, and a 48% increase in funding for Northumberland County to \$2.3 million. With this significant commitment, my ministry will be investing nearly \$654 million per year through the HPP.

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We are also enhancing our investments in the Indigenous Supportive Housing Program (ISHP). This program, delivered by two Indigenous Program Administrators, provides culturally appropriate housing assistance and support services to Indigenous people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. Program Administrators have the flexibility to use this funding for both capital and ongoing operating of supportive housing. Funding for the ISHP is increasing nearly 40 per cent, from \$30 million in 2022-23 to \$41.5 million in 2023-24.

To better connect people experiencing homelessness to housing and supports, we required all Service Managers across the province to have a By-Name List, which is a real-time list of people experiencing homelessness in a community that can help connect people to services and supports they need. As a condition of HPP funding, the province introduced new By-Name List requirements which must be implemented by April 1, 2023. The new requirements include more frequent updates, broader coverage and comprehensiveness, and a more extensive set of data points to help communities better understand the needs of people experiencing homelessness to effectively prioritize and connect people to services and supports they need.

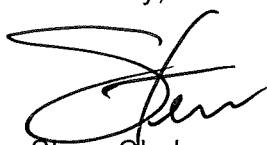
We recognize that it is important to connect people with the right types of housing assistance and support services they need at the right time. That is why my ministry is working closely with the Ministries of Children, Community and Social Services and Health to explore how supportive housing can be improved across Ontario. In November 2022, former Associate Minister of Housing, Michael Parsa, hosted seven supportive housing roundtable sessions with approximately 150 stakeholders from across the province, including Francophone communities; Indigenous people; municipalities; and organizations representing or serving persons with disabilities, seniors, youth, and survivors of domestic violence.

We are currently analyzing this feedback and will use it to inform our ongoing work to improve supportive housing across Ontario.

We will continue to support Service Managers to ensure Ontario municipalities receive their fair share of funding under the National Housing Strategy and will continue to advocate to the federal government who is underfunding Ontario by about \$480 million for housing and homelessness over the term of the National Housing Strategy.

Once again, thank you for sharing the City of Hamilton's endorsement. Please accept my best wishes.

Sincerely,



Steve Clark  
Minister

- c. The Honourable Michael Parsa, Minister of Children, Community and Social Services  
[ministtermccss@ontario.ca](mailto:ministtermccss@ontario.ca)
- The Honourable Sylvia Jones, Minister of Health [ccu.moh@ontario.ca](mailto:ccu.moh@ontario.ca)
- The Honourable David Piccini, MPP Northumberland – Peterborough South  
[David.Piccini@pc.ola.org](mailto:David.Piccini@pc.ola.org)