

Housing and Homelessness

WHEREAS rural areas of Ontario, including the County of Renfrew, are not immune to experiencing the effects of the housing and homelessness crisis undermining a healthy and prosperous Ontario;

AND WHEREAS the housing and homelessness crisis requires a range of solutions, including social supports, investment in housing infrastructure and renewal of existing community housing infrastructure;

AND WHEREAS the housing and homelessness crisis is a result of limited action from successive provincial governments who have not invested nearly enough to renew and build the housing and social services infrastructure and programs required to support those in need;

AND WHEREAS the local government responsible for community housing in our region, the County of Renfrew and the City of Pembroke, who form the Renfrew County Housing Corporation, have increasingly limited resources to tackle the burden of renewing an aged housing stock and increasingly challenging occupancy issues;

AND WHEREAS the funding that the Province of Ontario and the Government of Canada does not allow for long-term financial planning and asset renewal, nor does it appropriately fund, or allow for planning of new construction;

AND WHEREAS there are currently 1,355 people on the waitlist for a place to call home within the Renfrew County Housing Corporation, with an average of a 5 to 7 year wait;

AND WHEREAS the County of Renfrew supports and endorses the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus' plan to increase housing supply through their regional housing plan referred to as "7 in 7";

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the County of Renfrew endorses the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Call to Action on Housing and Homelessness;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the County of Renfrew endorses the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) resolution on increased funding for housing from the Federal Government;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the County of Renfrew calls upon the Province of Ontario:

- a) to acknowledge that homelessness and housing affordability in Ontario is a social, economic, and health crisis;
- b) to commit to ending homelessness in Ontario;
- c) to provide adequate, predictable, and sustainable housing infrastructure renewal funding;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the County of Renfrew calls upon the Government of Canada and Province of Ontario to ensure that application-based funding that is made available to address the province's Housing Supply Action Plan and Canada's National Housing Strategy is applicable to local governments, partnerships, and non-profits, and provides the necessary application time period to allow for appropriate community consultation and engagement;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to the Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada; the Honourable Ahmed Hussen, Minister of Housing, Diversity and Inclusion; Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario; Honourable Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing; Cheryl Gallant, MP, Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke, John Yakabuski, MPP, Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke; Association of Municipalities Ontario; Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus; City of Pembroke; and Renfrew County Municipalities.

<https://www.amo.on.ca/advocacy/health-human-services/call-action-housing-and-homelessness>