

His/Her Worships
Ontario's Big City Mayors
December 12, 2021

Subject: Inclusion of the community housing sector in initiatives to address Ontario's housing affordability crisis

Dear Mayors, Regional Chairs, and Councils,

As you may know, the Ontario Non-Profit Housing Association (ONPHA), founded over 30 years ago, is a member funded and directed association that represents nearly **700 non-profit landlords and local housing corporations** throughout the province. The community housing sector provides safe, affordable, and stable housing for **half a million low- and moderate-income Ontarians**, with built assets close to \$30 billion.

We are pleased to see governments at all levels working together on initiatives to address the critical, complex, and urgent issue of Ontario's housing affordability crisis, including through the upcoming **Provincial-Municipal Housing Summit** and Ontario's **Housing Affordability Task Force**. To achieve our shared vision of meeting the diverse, growing needs in communities across the province, **it is critical that all housing sector partners are at the table** and involved in discussions to address the housing affordability crisis and develop solutions that meet needs along the housing continuum, including deeply affordable rental options. This must include ongoing, strong partnerships between all levels of government, Indigenous leaders, the private sector, and the community housing sector.

We are seeking your support to call on the Province to include ONPHA and the community housing sector as a true partner in initiatives to address Ontario's housing affordability crisis, which must include deep affordability for the most vulnerable Ontarians. This could include providing the opportunity for ONPHA to participate in the upcoming Provincial-Municipal Housing Summit and the Housing Affordability Task Force, either as a permanent member or as a key agenda item for discussion.

We understand and appreciate the Province's intention to engage with municipalities and the development community to address market housing supply and affordability, and strongly support the need to increase the supply of the full range of housing options across the province. To do so, it is critical that all housing sector partners can meaningfully engage and collaborate on the solutions required to address the complex and urgent issue of housing affordability in Ontario, including not-for-profit development options. Our efforts help strengthen the voice of your local housing corporation and community housing providers – as a sector.

As a natural and experienced community partner, ONPHA and our members are eager to continue working with municipal and provincial leaders and other housing sector partners to develop and implement innovative solutions that ensure an equitable, sustainable housing system for our communities.



## Sincerely,

Marlene Coffey, MA, MAES, MCIP, RPP Chief Executive Officer

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