



ONTARIO NON-PROFIT  
HOUSING ASSOCIATION

The Honourable Doug Ford  
Premier of Ontario  
Legislative Bldg Rm 281  
Queen's Park, 111 Wellesley St. West  
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

December 12, 2021

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

Dear Premier Ford,

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.

ONPHA and our members greatly value the strong partnership and working relationship between your government and the community housing sector. We appreciate ongoing opportunities to work closely with your colleagues across a number of ministries to support the long-term sustainability of the housing sector, including through Ontario's Community Housing Renewal Strategy. ONPHA engages regularly with our diverse membership and as such, we are well positioned to share a variety of perspectives and priorities from across the community housing sector, informed by on-the-ground experience and expertise.

We are pleased to see your government moving ahead with initiatives to address the critical, complex, and urgent issue of Ontario's housing affordability crisis, including through the upcoming **Provincial-Municipal Housing Summit** and the **Housing Affordability Task Force**. To achieve our shared vision of meeting the diverse, growing needs 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 municipal, provincial, federal, and Indigenous governments and leaders, the private sector, and the community housing sector.

We call on your government 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.

As the compounding effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and the affordable housing crisis continue to disproportionately impact low-income, racialized, and other marginalized communities, the community



housing sector has a key role to play in providing safe, secure, and affordable housing that can meet diverse community needs over the long-term. At the same time, investment in social infrastructure, like housing and direct community supports, is integral to ensuring strong socioeconomic recovery for Ontario.

We understand and appreciate your intention to engage with municipalities and the development community to address market housing supply and affordability, and strongly support the goal of Ontario's Housing Supply Action Plan 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.

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

Sincerely,

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

CC:

Hon. Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing  
Hon. Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance  
Andrea Horwath, Leader, Official Opposition  
Jessica Bell, Critic, Official Opposition, Housing  
Steven Del Duca, Leader, Ontario Liberal Party  
Stephen Blais, Critic, Ontario Liberal Party, Municipal Affairs and Housing  
Mike Schreiner, Leader, Green Party of Ontario  
Brian Rosborough, Executive Director, Association of Municipalities of Ontario  
Doug Ball, Executive Director, Ontario Municipal Social Services Association  
Tim Ross, Executive Director, Co-operative Housing Federation of Canada