

## NATIONAL HOUSING DAY 2023 MESSAGE FROM ONPHA'S CEO

I've been thinking about something our friend Neil Hetherington, CEO of the Daily Bread Food Bank, said at our Community in Action event during the ONPHA Conference just a few weeks ago:

*"There's a wonderful saying from Bryan Stevenson, who said that the opposite of poverty is not wealth but justice. I'd say by learning today about how to build more houses, and by learning how you make housing in Ontario more accessible and decent, you are spreading justice."*

More and more we are understanding this connection between housing and justice.

Ontario is made up of many complex systems, and we can confidently say that affordable housing is at the core. When our housing system isn't healthy, we feel it everywhere. We're living the realities of this right now with unsustainable pressure on our food banks, a stretched health care system, skyrocketing cost of living, and the list goes on.

We can address the housing crisis and upcycle the economy towards the future with strong investments in social infrastructure, including housing and direct community supports.

That's why ONPHA remains committed to advocating for our three key solutions: Build, Protect, and Support.

### **BUILD**

Housing providers have experience, assets, and thousands of acres of land to help deliver on the supply front. We're ready to partner and support the immediate construction of 99,000 community housing and supportive housing units over 10 years.

### **PROTECT**

ONPHA members alone own ~170,000 units across the province (~5% of Ontario's overall housing

market), and we must protect these assets. We're calling for the development of a new capital repair program to protect existing stock.

### **SUPPORT**

We need to assist Ontarians who are priced out of the housing market by funding rent supports to ensure all forms of housing are accessible to those in need.

As a critical part of the ONPHA community, we need your help to reinforce these advocacy pillars in meetings with your local representatives. Together, we can lead the way, but we certainly can't do it alone.

We continue to call on governments to help us fill the gaps. ONPHA has strong working relationships with our municipal, provincial, and federal leaders. We're also ready to find and partner with new friends in the private sector and social service sectors to get the job done.

We're using every tool available to us, including new technology and data to clearly demonstrate to government the potential to activate land and grow our sector's footprint through new housing, redevelopment, or intensification. I look forward to sharing more with you about new advocacy initiatives.

Thank you for your continued hard work and support of the ONPHA community. I wish you all a happy National Housing Day.

Sincerely,



Marlene Coffey  
CEO, ONPHA

