

February 25, 2013

Hon. Kathleen Wynne
Premier
Legislative Bldg., Rm. 281
Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A1A1



Dear Premier Wynne:

On behalf of the Ontario Non-Profit Housing Association (ONPHA) we are writing to offer our sincerest congratulations on becoming Premier of Ontario and on the first throne speech of your new government. As you know for nearly 25 years, ONPHA has united the non-profit housing sector in Ontario. Our 770 member organizations operate more than 160,000 non-profit housing units and provide housing for approximately 400,000 low-income people, many of whom need additional supports.

Ontario's non-profit housing community has a deep history of collaborating with government to deliver affordable housing to low-income people who might otherwise experience difficulty within the private market.

The gap between what low-income households can afford and what is available on the private market remains substantial and the evidence supports a strategy for governments to take direct action to close that gap. Among some of the approaches for doing so are:

- investment in a modern non-profit housing program to increase the supply and keep the existing stock in a good state,
- the creation of a housing benefit,
- support for financial self-sufficiency and affordable ownership programs,
- incentives for private developers to create low cost rental housing.

A healthy affordable housing system blends all of these.

Premier, we know that you understand the many links to housing. In your speech to our 2011 ONPHA Annual Conference as Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, you stated: *"access to affordable housing is crucial to breaking the cycle of poverty, that access to affordable housing means that kids will do better in school, that access to affordable housing means that people will be healthier."*



We are also pleased that during the leadership campaign you committed to working to achieve a new national housing strategy in coordination with other Premiers and the Federal Government. This will be a difficult task and we will work with you in achieving that important goal.

In closing, let me say that ONPHA looks forward to collaborating with your government to achieve an improved affordable housing system and we would be pleased to serve as a resource and provide our support.

Sincerely,

Sylvia Patterson

President

ONTARIO NON-PROFIT HOUSING ASSOCIATION