



ONTARIO NON-PROFIT
HOUSING ASSOCIATION

March 2, 2026

RE: Challenges Facing the Supportive Housing Sector in Ontario

Dear Hon. Rob Flack, Hon. Sylvia Jones, and Hon. Michael Parsa,

On behalf of the Ontario Non-Profit Housing Association (ONPHA) and our membership, I am writing to convey emerging concerns within our sector related to the stability and long-term growth of supportive housing across the province.

As the leading voice of non-profit housing in Ontario, ONPHA has been championing affordable housing for over 30 years. Our members, including many in the supportive housing sector and those offering support within housing, provide safe, affordable, and stable housing to over half a million Ontarians. Collectively, we are one of the largest developers in the country, with built assets amounting to ~\$38 billion.

As you know, supportive housing is a key input in solving Ontario's housing crisis, particularly preventing and addressing homelessness. However, currently the supportive housing sector in Ontario is a complicated patchwork of legacy and recent programming led through three different ministries: Health (MoH), Children, Community and Social Services (MCCSS), and Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH). The provincial government has recognized that the current approach is complicated – both for providers on the ground and for individuals and families to navigate – and has proactively begun work to improve the province's supporting housing system.

While important work has begun, both near and long-term challenges remain. In the near-term, we understand that several providers who receive legacy funding under long-term Dedicated Supportive Housing agreements (through MCCSS and MoH) are facing expiring agreements with no transitional or bridge funding available. As these long-term agreements provide not only capital support but also the operational funding essential for offering rent-geared-to-income subsidies, there is an imminent risk that many providers will be unable to continue delivering their supportive housing programs if additional supports are not made available.

This will add further pressure to shelters and other downstream social services, if the province or service managers do not step up to fill the gap.

Over the long-term, there is also uncertainty regarding the province's vision for a sustainable and growing supportive housing sector. Critically, as legacy supportive housing funding declines over time and will eventually phase out, there is ambiguity on what, if anything, will follow to provide long-term predictability. All while there is growing demand for supportive housing in our communities and increasingly more complex tenancies with significant health, mental health, and addiction challenges.

Greater clarity and coordination within the province's supportive housing ministries would provide stability for the sector, improving service delivery and tenant care for the individuals who rely on these supports. By aligning multiple ministerial portfolios with a shared vision, the province can make more efficient use of funding and deliver more effective results, reducing downstream burdens on healthcare, justice, and the broader social safety net.



ONPHA looks forward to continuing to work alongside the provincial government to build a stronger, more coordinated supportive housing system in Ontario. We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss how improved cross-ministerial alignment can better support Ontarians and our social safety net.

Sincerely,

Marlene Coffey,
Chief Executive Officer, ONPHA