

STAKEHOLDER TEMPLATE LETTER: LONG-TERM FUNDING

Dear Minister Kenney:

On behalf of the Municipality of _____, I am writing to impress upon the federal government the urgent need to come back to the table as a partner with the Provinces and Territories in funding long term social and affordable housing for our most vulnerable residents.

We are very concerned that the federal funding for housing is declining and your government currently appears to be exiting the long term commitment to address the housing needs of the country.

If Ottawa does not change course, social housing providers across Ontario will see a \$1.3 billion decrease in federal funding over the next ten years. It was disheartening to see that this serious funding shortfall was not addressed in the recent federal budget. Municipalities and provinces will be left footing the bill.

This situation is made worse because the evidence shows that Ontario does not receive its fair share of federal funding for housing and homelessness either on the basis of population or core housing need. Ontario should receive just over 38 per cent of federal funding on the basis of population but only receives approximately 33 per cent.

With long-term federal support for social housing declining, there is a real risk that these tenants will lose their housing. These cuts will make it more difficult to continue to help the over 260,000 Ontario families that currently live in social housing and make it increasingly challenging to help the 627,000 families that are in danger of losing their housing. We need to ensure that these tenants' homes are protected and that we remain able to help Ontarians in need of affordable housing.

Canadians deserve a national housing strategy that includes the creation of new affordable housing and maintains our existing social housing units.

It is imperative you come back to the table and sit down with Provincial/Territorial housing ministers to work on a long term plan that addresses the need for housing across the country. The time to act is now.

Sincerely,

Head of Council,
Municipality of _____

Chair _____
District of _____ Social Services Administration Board

CC: Linda Jeffrey, Minister – Government of Ontario - Municipal Affairs and Housing