

Northumberland County to receive \$1,809,026 to Invest and Improve Affordable Housing

Province Making Community Housing Safer, More Efficient and Sustainable

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NORTHUMBERLAND, ON - The Ontario government is putting people first by providing more than \$1 billion dollars in 2019-20 to help sustain, repair and grow affordable housing and help end homelessness. In April, our government also revealed the province's new Community Housing Renewal Strategy, outlining our plan to transform a fragmented and inefficient system into one that is more streamlined, sustainable and ready to help people who need it most.

Under the funding, Northumberland County will receive \$1,809,026 to invest and improve affordable housing:

- \$32,100.00 in Investment in Affordable Housing in Ontario
- \$1,054,654.00 through the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative
- \$697,600.00 under Ontario Priorities Housing Initiative
- \$24,672.00 from the Canada-Ontario Community Housing Initiative

"Our government's plan is to make affordable housing safer, more efficient and sustainable to make sure we help people who need it most," said David Piccini, MPP for Northumberland-Peterborough South. "We know that housing is an important social determinant of health, and we will work with our municipalities and non-profits to address issues like safety, overcrowding and long wait lists."

"As local municipalities and partner agencies work to address housing and homelessness challenges in Northumberland, ongoing provincial support is critical," said John Logel, Northumberland County Warden. "We thank the provincial government for this investment in sustaining, repairing and growing community housing, and look forward to ongoing partnership as we strive to respond to the needs of the community."

Ontario's new *Community Housing Renewal Strategy* includes early steps to improve community housing across the province:

- Encouraging tenants to seek opportunities at school and work by removing existing penalties for working more hours or going to college or university;
- Making rent more predictable by simplifying rent calculations;
- Freeing up the waitlist by having tenants prioritize their first choice and accept the first unit they are offered, while allowing Service Managers flexibility to make exceptions in extenuating circumstances;
- Protecting tenants who receive child support payments by ensuring their rent is not impacted by payments;
- Making housing available to those who truly need it by requiring an asset test;
- Making housing safer by empowering housing providers to turn away tenants who have been evicted for criminal activity.

The Ontario government is investing more in housing and homelessness, including supportive housing, than any other level of government. The province is committed to matching the federal dollars under the National housing Strategy and look forward to negotiations on the Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit.

Quick Facts

- In 2014-18, Ontario contributed **57 per cent** of housing and homelessness spending, compared with just 17 per cent from the federal government.
- Community housing is provided by non-profit, co-operative and municipal housing agencies. It includes a range of programs from subsidized social and affordable housing, including housing for Indigenous people, to rent supplements and portable housing benefits that help people find housing in the private market.

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