



Looking to the Future:
Updates on the Long-Term Affordable Housing Strategy

Ministry of Housing

Ontario West Municipal Conference
December 2, 2016

Context

- The 2014-2019 Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS), *Realizing Our Potential*, committed the government to update the province's Long-Term Affordable Housing Strategy (LTAHS) to reflect lessons learned and new research on best practices related to housing and homelessness
- The PRS also committed the government to a long-term goal of ending homelessness in Ontario and to seek expert advice, including from those with lived experience, on: defining the problem; developing new measures to collect and track data; and, defining a baseline and setting a new homelessness-related target
- In October 2015, the report of the Expert Advisory Panel on Homelessness was released and in response, Ontario committed to immediate and longer-term actions
- On March 14, 2016, the government released the update to the Long-Term Affordable Housing Strategy
- As part of the LTAHS Update, the government re-introduced Bill 7, the *Promoting Affordable Housing Act, 2016*, on September 14, 2016.

LTAHS Update – Vision

The strategy is based on an **updated vision**:

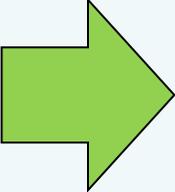
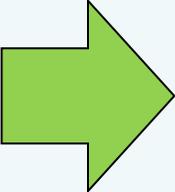
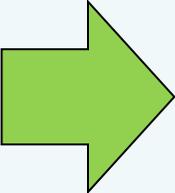


LTAHS Update – Outcomes

- This vision is associated with **two overarching outcomes**:
 - Decreased number of people who are homeless
 - Increased number of households achieving housing stability
- Achieving these outcomes can potentially impact a range of **associated outcomes**, including long-term cost avoidance in other sectors such as:
 - Decreased inappropriate use of emergency health care services
 - Decreased use of policing and correctional services
 - Increased employment
 - Increased education outcomes



Housing and Homelessness System Transformation

Current System		Transformed System
Inadequate supply of affordable housing in many communities with financially unsustainable not-for-profit, co-operative and municipal housing stock		A range of adequate and affordable housing options, provided by the private, not-for-profit, co-operative and municipal sectors
Social housing wait list system that operates separately from parallel systems providing access to other forms of housing assistance		Coordinated system so that people can access the assistance they need (both financial and non-financial) to achieve housing stability
Range of financial assistance – from a limited number of highly-responsive Rent-Geared-to-Income (RGI) subsidies (tied to physical unit), to rent supplement programs and housing allowances		People with housing need can equitably access financial assistance that is responsive to their changing needs, is portable so that it moves with them, and encourages economic and social inclusion
Various supportive housing programs managed separately by different ministries, with different (and sometimes uncoordinated) access systems		People are able to access appropriate housing and support services that best meet their needs
An emergency shelter system in transition to support stable housing options for people		Emergency shelters and homeless service-system provides responsive, culturally appropriate services to assist people to become stably housed

LTAHS Update Themes

Theme	Description
1. Appropriate and Sustainable Supply of Housing	<p><u>A. More Affordable Market Housing</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance/expand land use planning and municipal finance tools to support the development of affordable housing • Support small landlords through legislative changes <p><u>B. Vibrant Non-Profit and Co-operative Sector</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote a vibrant non-profit and co-operative sector that operates on more business-like principles, while maintaining its social purpose and increasing supply wherever possible • Disentangle the provision of social programs (municipal responsibility) from the provision of the physical asset (provider responsibility)
2. Equitable, Portable System of Financial Assistance	<p><u>A. Framework for a Portable Housing Benefit</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a provincial framework for an income-based benefit that would form a best practice going forward for new investments, and shift current forms of financial assistance to the new standard as appropriate over time <p><u>B. Simplified Rent-Geared-to-Income (RGI) Calculations</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meanwhile, streamline and simplify the calculation of RGI subsidies and administration by establishing new rules for in-year income changes and increased flexibility for Service Managers in calculating income

LTAHS Update Themes Cont'd

Theme	Description
3. People-Centred, Efficient Housing Programs	<p><u>A. Modernized Social Housing Programs</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Articulate key elements for social housing programs in the future • Undertake some immediate reforms to support modernization • Commit to a process to define the path forward <p><u>B. Coordinated Access System</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Move towards a more coordinated, effective system that better matches people with housing needs to an appropriate form of assistance <p><u>C. Transformation of Supportive Housing System</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commit to working with sector stakeholders to transform the supportive housing system, guided by a Supportive Housing Policy Framework
4. Indigenous Housing Strategy	<p>Commit to an ongoing process of engagement with Indigenous communities and organizations to develop an Indigenous specific housing strategy, reflecting the unique housing and homelessness needs of Indigenous communities</p>
5. Key Steps to End Homelessness	<p>Commit to policy changes and proposed initiatives related to provincial priorities and local enumeration that, combined with related initiatives in the strategy update and previously announced commitments, will support the government's key steps to end homelessness</p>
6. Evidence-Informed System	<p>Continue to build an evidence-informed system that has the capacity to respond effectively to changing needs</p>

Current Funding and Investments

2016 Ontario Budget	Federal Social Infrastructure Funding (Ontario)
<p>Supportive Housing More than \$100 Million over 3 years</p>	<p>Doubling Investment in Affordable Housing Program \$336.7 Million over 2 years</p>
<p>Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative \$15 Million increase in each of next 3 years</p>	<p>Seniors – New Construction and Renovation \$67.2 Million</p>
<p>Survivors of Domestic Violence Pilot \$17 Million over 3 years</p>	<p>Survivors of Domestic Violence – New Construction and Renovation \$27.9 Million</p>
<p>Innovation, Capacity and Evidence Fund \$2.5 Million over 3 years</p>	<p>Social Housing Renovation and Retrofit \$209.4 Million</p>
<p>Other Ontario Expenditures</p>	
<p>Green Investment Fund SHEEP/SHARP \$92 Million</p>	

National Housing Strategy

- Ontario is working with the federal government and other provinces and territories (PTs) to develop a National Housing Strategy (NHS).
- The federal government completed consultations on a National Housing Strategy earlier this year and released “What We Heard” on November 22, 2016 (National Housing Day).
- Minister of Housing also recently held a series of targeted stakeholder roundtables to help inform Ontario’s position regarding a National Housing Strategy.
- The NHS will inform federal investments beyond the \$2.3 billion in short-term initiatives announced in the 2016 federal budget.
- Federal government plans to release a draft strategy by early 2017.

Provincial Consultations - National Housing Strategy

Overview

- Provided an opportunity for the Minister to develop relationships with housing and homelessness stakeholders across the Province while enabling him to hear from a cross-section of stakeholders with broad and substantive perspectives that will help inform Ontario's position regarding a National Housing Strategy.
- These roundtable consultations supplemented existing feedback that the Ministry of Housing has received from stakeholders through the 2015 consultations on the Long-Term Affordable Housing Strategy Update.
- Eight roundtables were held across Ontario between August and October, 2016.
 - The first roundtable was held in London on August 17, 2016.

Attendees:

- Key stakeholder organizations (private and non-profit sectors)
- Municipal governments/Service Managers
- Indigenous partners
- Individual housing providers
- People with lived experience

What We Heard

- Throughout the roundtables, a number of common themes and ideas emerged for Ontario to consider in shaping the National Housing Strategy.
 - The full report can be found on the Ministry's website at <http://ontario.ca/czqu>
1. Collaboration and Alignment Across Orders of Government is Key
- The National Housing Strategy should:
 - Recognize and respect the unique municipal role in the administration of housing and homelessness in Ontario
 - Reflect the challenges associated with housing and homelessness in a province with such a varied geography (e.g. north, south, urban, rural) and diverse communities
 - Support Ontario's transformation and policy agendas and align with the strategic directions, principles and outcomes of Ontario's Long-Term Affordable Housing Strategy
 - Balance and align housing supply/demand initiatives with supports for people
 - Recognize that housing is linked to a series of other shared areas of responsibility including health, poverty, homelessness, justice and social services.

What We Heard

2. Governments Need Flexibility to Address Housing Needs in their Communities
 - Municipal Service Managers need the flexibility to tailor programs and funding to reflect a variety of local needs.
 - Governments should streamline program and funding rules and ensure efficiency in program design and administration.

3. Long-Term Funding and New Financial Tools are Necessary
 - Governments should explore new models of funding and financing of affordable housing that will allow both the private and non-profit sectors to leverage existing assets to facilitate the development of new housing stock.
 - The federal government should provide a strong and flexible funding framework for housing that includes long-term, predictable and sustainable funding.
 - Governments should examine ways to incentivize the private and not-for-profit sectors to build new affordable housing.

4. Governments Should Increase Support for Indigenous Housing in Ontario
 - The National Housing Strategy should include a dedicated section on Indigenous housing.
 - Governments should work together to fund and support culturally-appropriate, Indigenous-led, person-centred housing and homelessness solutions.