

Sent by e-mail to: minister-ministre@infc.gc.ca

May 14, 2024

The Honourable Sean Fraser
Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities
180 Kent Street, Suite 1100
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 0B6

Dear Minister Fraser,

We are collectively writing you on behalf of municipal governments and the 47 Consolidated Municipal Service Managers (CMSMs) and District Social Services Administration Boards (DSSABs) to urge you to work collaboratively with municipalities and the province to find a clear path forward on critical National Housing Strategy (NHS) funding.

As you know, we are in a housing crisis across Canada and the need for deeply affordable, community, and supportive housing in Ontario has never been greater. This is the exact time when all three orders of government need to be working in partnership to make concrete progress toward a solution and not adding additional uncertainty into an already challenging landscape.

We appreciate your commitment to continuing to flow the federal portion of NHS funding. This is absolutely critical so that projects can stay on track, providers can continue to operate, and households continue to receive subsidies they need to remain housed. These investments are needed to address the homelessness crisis that is undermining the health, social and economic foundations of families, communities, and businesses in Ontario and across the country.

While this is an important commitment, significant questions remain regarding both important details in the near term and long-term stability of the NHS in Ontario. As municipalities, municipal Service Managers, and DSSABs, we strongly believe that securing this stability and addressing this crisis requires a functional trilateral approach with the provincial and federal governments. All three orders of government must work together and contribute to solutions collaboratively.

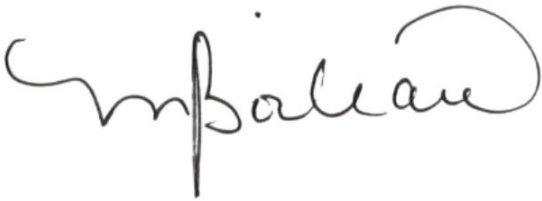
Ontario's provincial and municipal governments have a strong history of effective collaboration, governed by the Ontario-Association of Municipalities Ontario Memorandum of Understanding (AMO-MOU) and the Toronto Consultation and Collaboration Agreement (TOCCA). This structure has supported successful trilateral discussions in the past and could provide an excellent venue for constructive discussions on how to move forward on NHS funding collectively.

The most vulnerable Ontarians are relying on us to work together collaboratively. We would welcome the opportunity to meet at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Colin Best". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Colin Best
President, Association of Municipalities of Ontario
Regional Councillor, Halton Region

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michelle Boileau". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, rounded 'M' and 'B'.

Michelle Boileau
President, Northern Ontario Municipal Services Deliverers Association
Mayor, City of Timmins

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Henry Wall". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'H' and 'W'.

Henry Wall
President, Ontario Municipal Social Services Association
CEO, Kenora District Social Services Administration Board

cc: The Honourable Paul Calandra, Ontario Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Kelly Gillis, Deputy Minister of Infrastructure and Communities, Government of Canada
Martha Greenberg, Deputy Minister, Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Brian Rosborough, Executive Director, Association of Municipalities of Ontario
Doug Ball, Executive Director, Ontario Municipal Social Services Association
Fern Dominelli, Executive Director, Northern Ontario Municipal Services Deliverers Association