

## AMO's Key Messages on Housing and Homelessness for Discussion with Members of Provincial Parliament (MPP)

### Housing

- Housing supply is a top priority for municipalities in every part of Ontario. We all are acutely aware of the need for more housing.
- Municipalities want to work with all orders of government and the industry to find ways of getting more homes built as quickly as possible.
- It will take collective effort for the province to build 1.5 million homes by 2031. We need solutions for the entire housing continuum, including those most in need.
- To date, the pace and scale of changes to provincial planning legislation has been hard to manage. In many instances these changes will have serious, unintended consequences. Others are based on a false premise that the housing supply crisis can be solved by limiting municipal access to infrastructure financing, eliminating environmental protections or changes to municipal governance.
- Municipalities need clarity on the new rules – and a renewed focus on improving the entire system. We also need to know more about the province's plan to fully offset financial losses associated with Bill 23 that the Minister committed to on [November 30](#).
- We need sound planning to build safe, vibrant, sustainable and affordable communities and that includes infrastructure and the adequate infrastructure financing to go with it. Otherwise, the supply of housing will not grow.
- Municipalities are taking action to improve the system and recognize we are a key player in building housing. However, we are only one piece of the housing puzzle. That is why we are calling on the Province to meaningfully consult with municipalities in 2023.
- Together, we can build a prosperous Ontario that attracts businesses to our communities, and provides a place for residents to live, work, and raise a family.

## Homelessness

- We cannot talk about housing without addressing the increasing visibility and complexity in homelessness across our province.
- The homelessness crisis is a systemic, made-in-Ontario crisis brought about by the policy decisions and choices of successive provincial governments over the past three decades. The pandemic exacerbated this crisis, and local governments have been severely impacted by this.
- The downloading of social housing and homelessness to municipalities in the 1990s hides the fact that our homelessness crisis is a product of provincial choices and policy levers entirely within the provincial sphere of authority, financial responsibility and accountability.
- Inadequate investment in the health and mental health systems, and outdated approaches to addictions have failed people and families. Provincial policies on financial assistance contribute substantially to growing income disparity and poverty. Failures in provincial child welfare, social services, justice and corrections systems compound barriers to economic participation and contribute directly to homelessness.
- Homelessness will not end by changing planning legislation. It calls for an economic, social and health policy response. While municipalities and District Social Service Administration Boards are contributing and doing their part, this problem is clearly beyond the scope of municipalities to solve alone.
- The Government of Ontario has the tools and resources to end the homelessness crisis it has created over decades. It must possess the leadership, capability and political will to get the job done.
- AMO and partners across Ontario stand ready and willing to work with the Government of Ontario to take integrated and collaborative action to end homelessness in Ontario. We must act urgently to help our most vulnerable.