

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

March 26, 2024

The Honourable Sean Fraser
Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities
180 Kent St., Suite 1100
Ottawa, ON
K1P 0B6

Dear Minister Fraser,

I am writing today on behalf of Ontario's municipalities to urge against any cuts to federal funding for affordable housing. AMO members were deeply concerned to learn last week that your government is considering withholding almost \$355 million in funding under the National Housing Strategy. This would have devastating impacts on low-income families and individuals, and further exacerbate the housing crisis across the province.

Ontario's municipalities share your government's commitment to increasing the supply of deeply affordable, community, and supportive housing. It is a critical part of addressing the homelessness crisis that is undermining the health, social and economic foundations of families, communities and businesses across the country.

We also agree that these systemic issues decades in the making can only be solved if all three orders of government come together and contribute to solutions. As you are aware, Ontario municipalities are unique within Canada regarding our housing responsibilities, with the 47 municipal Service Managers and District Social Services Administration Boards (DSSABs) directly responsible for housing and homelessness.

Municipalities and DSSABs rely heavily on National Housing Strategy funding to make critical investments to both preserve the existing social housing stock and create new supply.

Despite these investments, the current community housing landscape in Ontario remains a significant challenge. As the provincial government has rightly pointed out, Ontario has the among the oldest stock in the country with a significant capital repair backlog, putting many existing units at risk.

Ultimately, we need to fundamentally re-think the way we fund community housing in Ontario and in Canada. But the answer is not unexpected funding cuts in the middle of a homelessness crisis. AMO urges you to work with the provincial government to develop an NHS Action Plan that works for all parties without penalizing Ontario's most vulnerable. Ontario's municipalities stand ready to work in partnership.

AMO has been eager to meet with you to talk about housing and infrastructure in Ontario, and we would welcome the opportunity to do so at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Colin Best', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

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

Cc: The Honourable Paul Calandra, Ontario Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Martha Greenberg, Deputy Minister, Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Kelly Gillis, Deputy Minister, Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada