



ALLIANCE TO END HOMELESSNESS OTTAWA

The Way Forward

- ✓ DEFINE THE NEED
- ✓ PLAN FOR IT
- ✓ PRIORITIZE PREVENTION
- ✓ INNOVATE

7,530 

INDIVIDUALS

Accessed a shelter in Ottawa in 2017

182 

FAMILIES

Were living in off-site motels in 2017

- * 11% of Ottawa's shelter users are **YOUTH**
- * 21% of single shelter users in Ottawa are **SINGLE WOMEN**
- * 20% of all unique shelter users, and 36% of families living in Ottawa's shelters are **NEWCOMERS**

INCREASE AFFORDABLE HOUSING OPTIONS FOR ONTARIAN'S

1) Prioritize and Invest in the Development of Ontario's Affordable Housing Stock

It is estimated investments under the National Housing Strategy will support the building of one-third of the estimated 6,900 affordable rental units a year needed to meet Ontario's population growth over the next decade.

We urge the Ontario government to invest in programs and incentives that will build the remaining needed units and make it easier for non-profit housing providers to meet the needs of their communities. This includes:

- ✓ Investing revenues from the new Non-Resident Speculation Tax and the Land Transfer Tax toward affordable housing programs.
- ✓ Providing funding and support to non-profit housing providers and community developers to qualify for the new \$15.9-billion National Co-Investment Fund.
- ✓ Ensure housing providers are at the decision-making table to expand and modernize Ontario's housing system.

2) Increase Income Levels for Ontarians Living in Poverty

Minimum wage levels and social assistance rates remain dangerously low. Low-income earners are left with insufficient income to meet basic needs such as housing, food, child care, health care needs and transportation.

The current affordable monthly shelter cost for single households at 30% of income is \$384 for OW recipients, and \$489 for OSDSP recipients. The average market rent for a bachelor apartment in Ottawa is \$836. This is unaffordable.

To alleviate the ongoing economic poverty facing many Ontarians the Alliance recommends:

- ✓ Increasing rates for all OW and ODSP recipients in an amount that would make significant progress now toward meeting the Minimum Income Standard of the Low-Income Measure (LIM) after tax.
- ✓ Implement planned increases to the minimum wage.
- ✓ Invest in upgrading labour force skills and create meaningful employment for low-income residents.
- ✓ Complete and assess the outcomes of Ontario's Basic Income Pilot Program, providing evidence-based research as to whether a basic income could be a tool to reduce poverty in Ontario.

3) Support Local Efforts to Prevent and End Homelessness

We have begun to see a shift in how communities across Canada are responding to homelessness. More evidence exists for investments being made in preventing and reducing levels of homelessness rather than in solely relying on emergency services as a 'crisis response'.

To be successful, homelessness prevention will require engagement from multiple levels of government and provincial ministries, such as those responsible for health, emergency services, child protective services, policing, corrections, justice and social services.

- ✓ Introduce an inter-ministerial approach to addressing the root causes of homelessness.
- ✓ Implement inter-departmental strategies that address early interventions and prevention approaches to the various pathways into homelessness.
- ✓ Provide funding for supportive housing that coordinates the provision of capital for housing (or housing allowances), with on-going operating funding for related support services.
- ✓ Enable municipal use of Inclusionary Zoning to create incentives for private market developers to build more affordable rental housing.

For more information visit us at:

 www.endhomelessnessottawa.ca
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