
Homelessness

Action

Group

c/o Trinity-St. Paul's United Church

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ACTION ALERT

Provincial Housing Allowance Funding Deception

The Ontario government in its March 2007 budget announced housing allowances which are funded not by new provincial dollars but by federal dollars designed and allocated for affordable housing. In so doing it is not only breaking the terms of an agreement with the federal government but also breaking its 2003 election promises. This deception must not go unnoticed and unchallenged.

Canada-Ontario Affordable Housing Program

- Bill C-48 the Liberal/NDP budget deal of June 2005 authorized new funding for the Canada-Ontario Affordable Housing Program intended as capital for affordable housing
- The federal Conservative budget of 2006 allocated \$1.4 billion of this money to trust funds for provinces, territories and off-reserve aboriginal housing
- Ontario's share of this money is \$392.5 million (including aboriginal housing dollars). It was not committed until February 2007 as a result of an unrelated dispute with the federal government over the so-called fiscal imbalance

Broken Agreement

- The federal-provincial agreement states that "The Affordable Housing Trust Fund is not intended to support ongoing operational funding for existing housing stock, RENT SUBSIDIES, or to replace provincial and territorial investment in affordable housing"
- The March 2007 provincial budget announced a housing allowance program which will pay a housing subsidy of \$100 per month to 27,000 low-income working families
- This means that about 60% of federal dollars meant for housing has been used instead for housing allowances (in effect rent subsidies)

Broken Election Promises

- In 2003 the Ontario Liberal Party promised to address homelessness and housing with 20,000 units of affordable housing, 6,600 units of supportive housing and 35,000 housing allowances
- It was assumed these were separate not “either-or” promises
- The new housing allowances added to previously delivered ones appear to fulfill the 2003 promise but at the expense of capital housing funds

Action

Please write or e-mail to the Premier and send copies to the Leaders of the Opposition. If possible also copy the Minister of Finance, Minister of Municipalities and Housing, and your MPP. Express your reactions to these deceptions regarding the housing allowances and the Government’s failure to deliver BOTH the capital funding and housing allowances required to meet the homelessness/housing crisis in Ontario. Please copy your e-mail or letter to: coordinator@homelessness.on.ca. Let us know about any response you receive. Your efforts are appreciated.

Contact Information

Hon. Dalton McGuinty, Legislative Building, Queen’s Park, Toronto ON M7A 1A1
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John Tory MPP, Rm 381, Main Legislative Building, Toronto ON M7A 1A8
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Howard Hampton, Rm 114, Main Legislative Building, Toronto ON M7A 1A4
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Hon. John Gerretsen, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, 777 Bay St., 17th floor, Toronto ON M5G 2E5 (jgerretsen.mpp@liberal.ola.org)

Hon. Greg Sorbara, Minister of Finance, 7 Queen’s Park Crescent, 7th floor, Toronto ON M7A 1Y7 (gsorbara.mpp@liberal.ola.org)

For your MPP contact information go to www.gov.on.ca. From “Contacts” go to “MPPs” then “Current members”.