



Sample municipal resolution on provincial housing crisis

WHEREAS the right to adequate housing and shelter is recognized in the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights and International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;

AND WHEREAS recent data from the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation show that the number of urban households in Ontario in core housing need was over 725,000 as of 2014 and growing;

AND WHEREAS over 170,000 households in Ontario were on waiting lists as of 2015 for rent-geared-to-income (RGI) housing, with average wait times of 4 years and increasing;

AND WHEREAS between April 2016 and April 2017, the average house price in Ontario rose by 24% to \$670,000, and the provincial average for renting a one-bedroom apartment was \$12,000 per year in 2016;

AND WHEREAS most social housing in Ontario was constructed between the mid-1960s and the mid-1990s; and private housing corporations, which are focused on making profit, are unable to guarantee sufficient construction and maintenance of acceptable and affordable housing;

AND WHEREAS the 2009 Report of the Auditor General of Ontario iterated clearly that “social housing is a shared responsibility and the [Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing], in partnership with the federal and municipal governments, is accountable to Ontarians for providing sufficient and well maintained social housing across the province”;

AND WHEREAS public opinion polls consistently identify housing costs, including rental costs, as a critical issue in Ontario;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City/Town/Township/Municipality of _____ call on the provincial government to:

- **Immediately introduce a comprehensive provincial social housing program that treats housing as a public utility and delivers it according to need;**
- **Develop and implement an emergency plan to build new, publicly owned, social housing units and upgrade/retrofit existing units, to address the massive core housing need in all areas of Ontario;**
- **Legislate real rent controls and rent rollbacks for all renters in Ontario;**
- **Provide regular, frequent and thorough building inspections for rental housing, and enforce stiff penalties for landlords who fail to comply with standards;**
- **Legislate a ban on evictions of utility cut-off due to involuntary unemployment, including strikes, lockouts and layoff;**

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City/Town/Township/Municipality of _____ communicate this resolution to the Premier, with copies to the Minister of Finance, the Minister of Housing, area MPPs, and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO);

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City/Town/Township/Municipality of _____ work through AMO to encourage other Ontario municipalities to express their support for a provincial social housing program.