June 6, 2024

The Honourable Sean Fraser, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities
House of Commons
Ottawa K1A 0A6

Dear Minister:

I write to urge you to make the federal investments that will allow Hamilton's non-profit housing providers to start building, right now, badly needed new affordable and supportive housing units. They are ready to build the 400+ units of supportive housing and 600 units of affordable housing detailed on the back of this letter. They just need the federal government to approve the funding to let them move ahead.

Those investments would allow Hamilton to make substantial inroads quickly on its challenges with the most desperate of those experiencing homelessness. Hamilton has about 1,600 identified individuals who are experiencing homelessness, of whom several hundred are currently living in encampments. Much greater investments will be needed to *end* homelessness and to reduce core housing need, as your government committed to do with the National Housing Strategy—28,055 Hamilton households were in core housing need at the time of the 2021 census. That is a lot of people at risk, a lot of people living with high stress, pinching their pennies, wishing they had better options.

Federal investments since 2019 in Hamilton provided funding for badly-needed repairs to preserve existing public housing units, which is vital, but only to build about 990 units of new housing, at various levels of affordability. Those results matter but much, much more is needed.

Our non-profit housing providers are proven builders and they are ready to build more, now, if they get the federal support that their projects—and people struggling in this city—need and deserve. Knowing that we have no guarantee that a new government will make any investments in non-market housing makes your response even more urgent.

I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

Hamilton's Housing Sustainability and Investment Roadmap (HSIR) targets creating 200 new supportive housing units for people leaving shelters and encampments. Hamilton Is Home partners can double that with 418 units ready to build in 2024. Construction can begin within 30 days, with occupancy starting within 15 months.

We need $193 M in financial investments from CMHC and Ontario to leverage Hamilton's co-investments, including $30.52 M CMHC loans and $62.55 M CMHC grants.

1067 Barton St. E YWCA 90 units, ATH Women, post-shelter $2.1 M CMHC loan $24.5 M CMHC grant $13.5 M ON grant	204 Gage Ave. N Sacajawea 40 units, BNL Indigenous focus $5.8 CMHC loan $3 M CMHC grant $6 M ON grant	Acorn Flats Indwell 23 units, ATH Families $3.8 M CMHC loan $1.7 M CMHC grant $3.45 M ON grant	Location pending Indwell 18 units, BNL Post-encampment $2.5 M CMHC loan $1.35 M CMHC grant $2.7 M ON grant
120 Wentworth N Indwell 50 units, BNL Aging, health $3.5 M CMHC loan $3.75 M CMHC grant $7.5 M ON grant	King Street East YWCA + partner 10 units, ATH Women fleeing violence $2.4 M CMHC loan $750,000 CMHC grant $1.5 M ON grant	174 Ottawa N. Indwell 32units, ATH Indigenous focus $42,000 CMHC loan $2.4 M CMHC grant $4.8 M ON grant	Mary Street Good Shepherd 155 units, BNL Post-shelter $10 M CMHC loan $11.6 M CMHC grant $44.6 M ON grant

ATH = Access to Housing waitlist. BNL = By-Name list of people experiencing homelessness

2025-2026 Construction starts	Clarence Avenue Good Shepherd 75 units, women $41 M capital $3 M operating	Mountain site Indwell 41 units, BNL $18 M capital $1.7 M operating	Park Street Good Shepherd 50 units, youth $27 M capital $2 M operating	Ottawa Street Good Shepherd 75 units, families $41 M capital $3 M operating

Hamilton is Home is also ready to build more than 600 units of affordable housing.

Affordable Housing units			
Can be built in the next 18 months			
Address	**Units**	**Developer**	**Capital estimate**
60 Caledon Ave.	260	Kiwanis Homes	$150 M
450 James N.	164	CityHousing Hamilton, Indwell	$80.7 M
1540 Upper Wentworth	126	Kiwanis Homes	$58 M
1362-1374 Barton E.	60	Kiwanis Homes	$28 M
3 North Park Ave.	2	Habitat for Humanity	$480 K
Total	612		
Beyond 18 months. All costs are tentative.			
Biindigen Well Being	100	Ontario Aboriginal Housing	$45 M
Gage	90	Hamilton Regional Indian Centre, OAHS	$40.5 M
Kenilworth	85	Ontario Aboriginal Housing	$38.25 M
58 Macassa Phase 2	50	CityHousing Hamilton	$30 M
58 Macassa Phase 1	44	CityHousing Hamilton	$26.4 M

Total	369		