

**Ministry of  
Municipal Affairs  
and Housing**

Office of the Minister

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234-2024-2838

June 17, 2024

Mr. Brian Hamilton  
Board Chair, Thunder Bay DSSAB  
231 May Street South  
Thunder Bay, ON P7E 1B5

Dear Brian Hamilton:

**Re: 2024-25 Confirmed Funding Allocations for National Housing Strategy (NHS) Programs**

Following the federal government's recent approval of Ontario's revised National Housing Strategy (NHS) Action Plan, I am pleased to confirm your 2024-25 NHS funding allocations.

I wanted to take a moment to acknowledge and thank you for your support in this regard. Your efforts in providing timely, project-related information were critical in achieving this outcome and reinforced our position with the federal government that collaboration is imperative to solving the housing crisis.

Your funding allocations for 2024-25 for the Ontario Priorities Housing Initiative (OPHI) and the Canada-Ontario Community Housing Initiative (COCHI) are attached to this letter as Appendix "A". The funding allocations for OPHI and COCHI remain unchanged from the planning allocations communicated to you in 2023-24. The Transfer Payment Agreements and Program Guidelines for the programs included in Appendix "A" are current and continue to apply.

Details on Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit (COHB) allocations to enroll new participants in the program for 2024-25 will be provided as soon as possible. At this time, allocations for new participants have not been confirmed.

For more information on these NHS programs, please see Appendix "B".

As you are aware, through its Action Plan, Ontario reconfirmed its commitment to achieving its existing NHS targets, including the target to expand the number of rent-assisted units by 19,660 by March 31, 2028.

Using data provided by service managers and partner ministries, we were able to confidently identify 8,644 units (44% of the target) by March 31, 2025. We continue to work with the federal government on counting additional units that have been created across the province so this number should increase and while this represents significant progress, but much remains to be done.

To ensure we achieve the final target by 2028 while avoiding the risk of a future disruption to programming and related financial impacts, Ontario's Action Plan also made commitments to a number of additional measures including: establishing annual provincial supply targets, directing NHS funding towards the achievement of these targets; and implementing robust data collection and reporting mechanisms to ensure we are capturing all units towards the target.

In the coming weeks and months, we will continue to work with the federal government as well as our service managers to validate existing eligible units that have not yet been counted towards the target. I would also encourage you to prioritize new supply projects and communicate any newly forecasted units through your forthcoming Investment Plans.

To ensure our planning accounts for updated progress while taking local priorities into consideration, we will also be coordinating sessions with service managers in the near future.

Finally, I also want to let you know that a new condition will be implemented for OPHI and COCHI. The Ontario Builds Signage requirements will need to be met for all OPHI and COCHI capital projects that were not completed before December 31, 2023. Further details on these requirements will be provided in the near future by ministry staff.

Again, we sincerely appreciate your efforts to assist vulnerable residents and to keep people safe. I look forward to continuing our work together.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Calandra', with a stylized flourish at the end.

The Honourable Paul Calandra  
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

c. William Bradica, Chief Executive Office, Chief Administrative Officer  
Ken Ranta, Director of Integrated Social Services  
Jessica Vail, Team Lead, Municipal Services Office (Northwest)

## **Appendix “A”**

### **Funding Allocations – Thunder Bay DSSAB**

<b>Program</b>	<b>2024-25 Fiscal Year Confirmed Allocation Amounts</b>
Canada-Ontario Community Housing Initiative (COCHI)	\$3,351,900
Ontario Priorities Housing Initiative (OPHI)	\$793,600

## **Appendix “B”– Program Descriptions**

### **Canada-Ontario Community Housing Initiative (COCHI)**

Launched in 2019 as part of Ontario's *Community Housing Renewal Strategy* and under the federal National Housing Strategy, COCHI is a joint federal-provincial program that provides flexible funding for social housing affordability support, the repair of existing social housing and to create new community housing supply.

COCHI provides an opportunity for Service Managers and housing providers to address the challenges associated with social housing projects reaching the end of their operating agreements and/or mortgage maturity.

### **Ontario Priorities Housing Initiative (OPHI)**

In addition to launching COCHI under the Community Housing Renewal Strategy, the Ministry also launched OPHI in fiscal 2019-20.

OPHI is a joint federal-provincial program under the federal National Housing Strategy that provides significant flexibility to address local priorities in the areas of housing supply and affordability, including new affordable rental construction, community housing repair, rental assistance, tenant supports and affordable homeownership.

### **Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit (COHB)**

Launched in April 2020, the COHB is a joint federal-provincial housing allowance program under the National Housing Strategy.

The purpose of the COHB is to increase the affordability of rental housing by providing an income-tested, portable housing benefit payment directly to eligible households in housing need that are on, or are eligible to be on, a social housing waiting list, and to households in housing need living in community housing.