



Sent by email to: Minister.fin@ontario.ca, minister.mah@ontario.ca

September 9, 2024

The Honourable Peter Bethlenfalvy
Minister of Finance
7 Queen's Park Crescent
Frost Building South, 7th Floor
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 1Y7

The Honourable Paul Calandra
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
777 Bay Street, 17th Floor
Toronto, Ontario,
M7A 2J3

Re: Funding Allocations for Year Five of the Canada Ontario Housing Benefit

Dear Ministers Bethlenfalvy and Calandra,

We are collectively calling for your government to take immediate action to release funding allocations for Year Five of the Canada Ontario Housing Benefit (COHB) program.

Since the last correspondence received from MMAH on May 31st, 2024, Service Managers and Indigenous Program Administrators have not received communication on Year Five allocations and are unable to access COHB since the program pause on March 30th.

We are seeking rapid action to immediately expedite funding flow for Year Five of COHB to all Service Managers in September 2024 and to ensure that those allocations match or exceed allocations from Year Four to move more people into permanent housing that they can afford.

Since its inception over four years ago, COHB has proven to be a cost effective and efficient way to provide affordability to households experiencing housing instability and to move people experiencing homelessness from emergency shelters into permanent housing.

In some municipalities, this has made the program a critical driver of the positive housing outcomes and shelter outflows that Service Managers need to respond to unprecedented and ongoing pressures.

Until these COHB allocations are finalized, service planning has been brought to a standstill, all while pressures continue to grow. Without the COHB, it is increasingly difficult to move people from shelters into permanent housing solutions. Many emergency shelters are already at capacity, and we will shortly be entering the cold winter season. Full shelters without space will increase the number of


unsheltered homeless living outside in encampments. The COHB is also a vital tool to prevent homelessness, in the first place, by providing payment of rent in unaffordable situations.

Ontario's municipalities are requesting swift action so we can continue to improve housing stability and housing outcomes for our clients and households across Ontario.

Sincerely,



Henry Wall
President
OMSSA



Robin Jones
President
AMO



Michelle Boileau
Chair
NOSDA

cc: Jason Fitzsimmons, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Finance
Martha Greenberg, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing