

Ministry of
Municipal Affairs
and Housing

Ministère des
Affaires municipales
et du Logement

Assistant Deputy Minister's Office

Bureau du sous-ministre adjoint

Housing Division
777 Bay St 16th Flr
Toronto ON M5G 2E5
Telephone: (416) 585-6738
Fax: (416) 585-6800

Division du Logement
777, rue Bay 16^e étage
Toronto ON M5G 2E5
Téléphone: (416) 585-6738
Télécopieur: (416) 585-6800



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As you may be aware, on May 4, 2011 the *Strong Communities through Affordable Housing Act, 2011* received Royal Assent. I am pleased to confirm that the date of proclamation for the *Housing Services Act, 2011* has been confirmed as January 1, 2012.

To further support implementation of the Act, regulations under the Act have now been finalized. These will be available within 1-2 business days at www.e-laws.gov.on.ca in the section of the website titled "Source Law" under the category "Regulations as Filed". I invite you to review these regulations and forward any questions you may have to housingstrategy.mah@ontario.ca.

In order to assist you with your work to support implementation of the Act, ministry staff will offer an iCAST session to review the regulations and address questions that have been received. Details will be forwarded shortly.

Also, in order to provide additional policy context and direction to Service Managers to support the development of locally relevant plans, Minister Bartolucci, with the approval of the Lieutenant Governor in Council, has issued the Ontario Housing Policy Statement. I enclose a copy for your information.

As the *Housing Services Act, 2011* requirement for Local Housing and Homelessness Plans and the Ontario Housing Policy Statement represent significant new elements for the Ontario housing system, I would like to take this opportunity to offer a few additional comments.

The Ontario Housing Policy Statement notes, "Responsibility for housing and homelessness is shared among multiple partners including federal, provincial and local governments, as well as not-for-profit service providers, the private sector, volunteers, individuals and families." The requirement in the *Housing Services Act, 2011* for Service Managers to develop Local Housing and Homelessness Plans reflects that Service Managers are well positioned within their communities to undertake local planning that reflects and acknowledges the roles and responsibilities of these different partners.

The policy directions outlined in the Ontario Housing Policy Statement identify important areas of consideration for Service Managers and other partners in the local planning process. The Province recognizes that Service Managers have varied experience with and capacity to undertake local housing and homelessness planning, and that the needs, priorities and resources available in their communities will vary. It is expected that these significant variations will be reflected in local plans and the ways in which local plans may reflect the policy directions outlined in the Ontario Housing Policy Statement.

The Province is working in partnership with sector organizations, including the Ontario Municipal Social Services Association (OMSSA), the Social Housing Services Corporation (SHSC) and the Northern Ontario Service Deliverers' Association (NOSDA) to support Service Managers as they develop local plans.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my sincere thanks for your support and input throughout the development of the Long-Term Affordable Housing Strategy and its supporting legislation. The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing looks forward to continuing to work with you in the important work we have ahead.

Sincerely,



Janet Hope
Assistant Deputy Minister
Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

Enclosure: Ontario Housing Policy Statement