



June 20, 2011

Mr. Jay Aspin, MP
133 Main Street West
North Bay ON P1B 1T6

Dear Mr. Aspin:

On behalf of the District of Nipissing Social Services Administration Board and our Board members, I'd like to congratulate you on your recent achievement of becoming the Member of Parliament for the District of Nipissing/Temiskaming. I also want to congratulate your government's work on developing and funding the Canada-Ontario Affordable Housing Program (2009 Extension).

However, I am writing to you to express our concern over the potential cancelation of the Canada-Ontario Affordable Housing Program (2009 Extension) and the Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program. Since 2005, the Canada-Ontario Affordable Housing Program has contributed positively to our communities by adding:

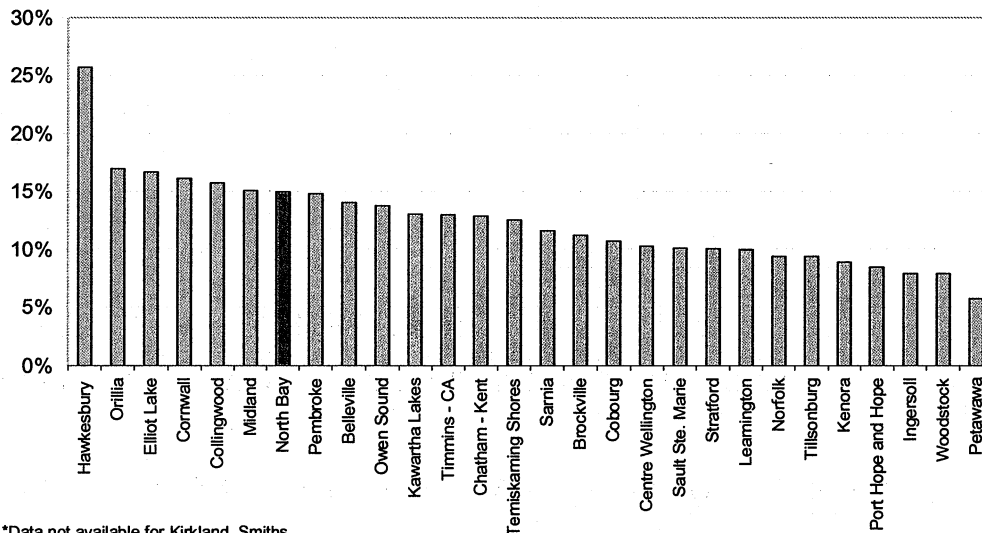
- 1) **35** new supportive affordable rental housing units;
- 2) **202** new affordable rental housing units for seniors and families;
- 3) **5** new affordable home ownership units for persons with disabilities and families;
- 4) **67** affordable housing allowances for seniors and families living in un-affordable rental housing;
- 5) **98** homes received repair funding to ensure they meet adequate health and safety standards;
- 6) **2140** social housing units received badly needed capital repair upgrades thanks to the Social Housing Renovation and Retrofit Program.

However, our affordable housing needs continue to outpace our resources to adequately address them. Between 2006 and 2010, housing and homelessness data (for many communities within the District of Nipissing) have revealed a significant change in the **affordability** (rental and purchase), **availability** (supply and vacancy rates) and **dependency** on the use of emergency shelters.

- **1.1% Vacancy Rate (2.2% 2010)**
- **2% Increase CMHC Average Market Rent (5% 2010)**

- **8.2% Unemployment Rate (11.5% 2010)**
- **1029 Families/Seniors Waiting for Rent-Geared-To-Income Housing (7% increase from 2009)**
- **18 months Avg. Wait Time for Rent-Geared-To-Income (10% increase from 2008)**
- **Core Housing Need: there are approximately 3,800 households in core housing need in the North Bay area (15% of total households). This represents a 4.5% increase since the last census (2001). The average income of these households is \$17,300 and they are spending close to 50% of their income on housing.**
- **Of these households in core housing need, 16.5% are headed by youth (ages 15 – 29 yrs.) and 22.5% are senior households (ages 65 yrs. +). In terms of household type, singles account for the majority (52%) of households in core housing need, followed by lone-parents (24%), and couple families (23%).**

Percentage of Households in Core Housing Need: Ontario's Census Agglomerations (CAs); 2006

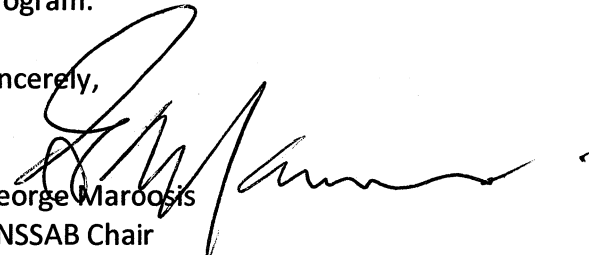


*Data not available for Kirkland, Smiths Falls, Strathroy or Wallaceburg.

We are working hard on these housing issues at the district and municipal government level: we have expended considerable resources on housing research and planning; we have mobilized the community through a public housing forum; we are supporting community planning tables that have recognized housing as a major priority; and, we have formed private and public partnerships to develop more affordable rental housing. Our overall objective is to build 80 units annually until we achieve our goal of adding 1,000 new affordable rental housing units by 2023.

But now we need the federal and provincial government to continue to partner with Nipissing to address these issues. We urge your government to support and remain committed to the Canada-Ontario Affordable Housing Program and the Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program.

Sincerely,


George Maroosis
DNSSAB Chair

cc. MPP Monique Smith