

Subject: Minister Wynne's response to your letter requesting a meeting re: to discuss the following topics: the NOSDA report of March 2012, the consolidation of housing and homelessness programs, and funding allocations under the IAH program - FILE 56975

Date: Tue, 10 Jul 2012 09:36:23 -0400

From: minister.mah@ontario.ca

To: cjstewart05@hotmail.com

12-56975

July 10, 2012

Mr. Gary Scripnick

Chair

Northern Ontario Service Deliverers Association (NOSDA)

c/o Cochrane District Social-Services Administration Board

cjstewart05@hotmail.com

Dear Mr. Scripnick:

Thank you for your letter requesting a meeting with me to discuss the following topics: the NOSDA report of March 2012, the consolidation of housing and homelessness programs, and funding allocations under the Investment in Affordable Housing (IAH) program.

With respect to program consolidation, I remain committed to reflecting the advice and recommendations of our municipal partners in the development of a framework for program consolidation. Since last June, we have been collaborating with a working group comprising nine Service Manager representatives from across the province. These representatives – nominated by AMO and the City of Toronto – have provided us with their input and advice. Our partner working group has been instrumental in informing this process, and much of their input reflects the issues involved in your letter.

As Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, I also share your commitment to ensuring that the IAH program is a success and meets the housing needs of Ontarians most in need. This initiative will help build or repair approximately 7,000 units of affordable housing and will create over 5,000 jobs in Ontario over four years.

Under the IAH program, Service Managers have the flexibility to invest in a range of programs and initiatives. This includes assistance for home renovations under the Ontario Renovates component of the IAH program. Most of the northern Service Managers have chosen to deliver Ontario Renovates in order to meet local needs.

Ontario Renovates will provide forgivable loans to low-income homeowners to make necessary repairs to bring their homes up to acceptable standards or to increase accessibility.

I appreciate your work in this crucial area and I commend your commitment to addressing these important housing matters. However, I regret that I am unable to meet with you at this time, as my schedule is heavily committed. If you would like to discuss the allocations for IAH funding further, Mr. Keith Extance, Director of the ministry's Housing Funding and Risk Management Branch, or Mr. Rob Cressman, Director of the ministry's Housing Programs Branch, are available to speak to you. You can reach Mr. Extance by telephone at 416-585-7524 and Mr. Cressman at 416-585-7021.

Lastly, our government recognizes that Ontario needs a long-term funding commitment from the federal government to ensure the future of safe, affordable housing in the province. That is why we are collaborating with other provinces and territories to engage the federal government to create a national housing framework for Canada – including stable long-term funding. We encourage our housing partners and stakeholders to work with us to secure a long-term funding commitment from the federal government.

Although my schedule does not permit a meeting right now, I look forward to having an opportunity to meet with you or your association the next time I am in your area.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Wynne
Minister