

FONOM

The Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities

March 11, 2014

Honourable Jason Kenney
Minister of Employment and Social Development
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0A6

Dear Minister Kenney,

The Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) is asking that the federal government work in partnership with the Provinces and Territories towards funding long-term social and affordable housing for our most vulnerable residents.

Northeastern Ontario provides its own unique set of challenges where the need for social and affordable housing is high, yet the ability to provide is low. Across the north, residents have lower than average median household incomes and higher than average unemployment rates. Providing social and affordable housing proves to be difficult as a result of municipalities not being able to generate significant revenues from limited tax bases.

FONOM wishes to express its concern regarding the decline in federal funding for social and affordable housing as well as a lack of long-term commitment to address the housing needs of the country. The province needs assistance to ensure that tenants' homes are protected and that it is able to help Ontarians in need of affordable housing.

FONOM supports the Ontario's government's request for a national housing strategy that would include the creation of new affordable housing and would maintain our existing social housing units. Without sustained federal funding, facilities deteriorate and the current number of rent-geared-to-income tenancies cannot be continued, despite the growth in demand for social housing.

It is imperative that the federal government work with Provincial/Territorial housing ministers to work on a long-term plan that addresses the need for housing across the country.

Sincerely,



Alan Spacek, President

FEDERATION OF NORTHERN ONTARIO MUNICIPALITIES

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cc: Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board
Cochrane District Social Services Administration Board
Northern Ontario Service Deliverers Association
Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association
Hon. Ted McMeekin, Ministry of Community and Social Services

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