



February 27, 2014

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

Dear Minister,

On behalf of the Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board, I am writing to impress upon the federal government the urgent need to come back to the table as a partner with the Provinces and Territories in funding long-term social and affordable housing for our most vulnerable residents.

We are very concerned that the federal funding for housing is declining and your government currently appears to be exiting the long-term commitment to address the housing needs of the country.

If Ottawa does not change course, social housing providers across Ontario will see a \$1.3 billion decrease in federal funding over the next ten years. It was disheartening to see that this serious funding shortfall was not addressed in the recent federal budget. Municipalities and provinces will be left footing the bill.

This situation is made worse because the evidence shows that Ontario does not receive its fair share of federal funding for housing and homelessness either based on population or core housing need. Ontario should receive just over 38 per cent of federal funding based on population but only receives approximately 33 per cent.

With long-term federal support for social housing declining, there is a real risk that these tenants will lose their housing. These cuts will make it more difficult to continue to help the over 260,000 Ontario families that currently live in social housing and make it increasingly challenging to help the 627,000 families that are in danger of losing their housing. We need to ensure that these tenants' homes are protected and that we remain able to help Ontarians in need of affordable housing.

Canadians deserve a national housing strategy that includes the creation of new affordable housing and maintains our existing social housing units.

It is imperative you come back to the table and sit down with Provincial/Territorial housing ministers to work on a long-term plan that addresses the need for housing across the country. The time to act is now.

Respectfully yours,



Les Gamble,  
Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB Chair

C.c. Honourable Linda Jeffrey, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing  
Michael Mantha, MPP Algoma-Manitoulin  
Carol Hughes, MP Algoma-Manitoulin-Kapusksing  
Federation of Canadian Municipalities  
Association of Municipalities of Ontario  
Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities  
Northern Ontario Service Deliverers Association  
Ontario Municipal Social Services Association  
DSB Member Municipalities