

Ministry of HousingHousing Programs Branch
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SEP 25 2017

September 19, 2017

Mr. Patrick Wittmann
Supervisor, Infrastructure and Asset Management
Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board
210 Mead Boulevard
Espanola, P5E 1R9

Dear Mr. Wittmann,

Thank you for meeting your requirements under the *Housing Services Act, 2011* (O. Reg. 367/11) requiring Service Managers to prepare local housing and homelessness plans to address matters of local housing need and to report those plans to the public.

Service Managers' 10 year Housing and Homelessness Plans play an important role in addressing housing affordability, coordination of homelessness and related support services, as well as homelessness prevention.

The results reported by Service Managers in 2016 demonstrate the strength of communities to adapt in times of adversity in meeting the needs of people experiencing and at risk of homelessness. Several common trends observed across Ontario include:

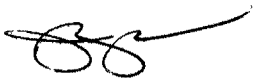
- Exploring new or expanding on existing partnerships with local service providers to coordinate service delivery to improve client outcomes.
- Developing strategies to better support the chronically and episodically homeless such as implementing standardized assessment tools.
- Engaging with service providers, service users, and the general public to share information, and discuss issues and ongoing activities to improve housing stability.

The ministry would also like to take this opportunity to remind Service Managers of the five-year review of the Housing and Homelessness Plans mandated under the *Housing Services Act, 2011*. In 2016, the MHO released the "Policy Statement: Service Manager Housing and Homelessness Plans", which aligns provincial priorities with the 2016 update to the Long-Term Affordable Housing Strategy and provides policy context and direction to Service Managers to support the development of local Plans. The revised policy statement took effect on July 1, 2016 and replaces the earlier "Ontario Housing Policy Statement". In June of 2016, Service Managers were notified via their MSOs that

their Plans will be required to be consistent with the new policy statement by January 1, 2019. In the coming months, MHO will be distributing resource material to assist Service Managers with the five-year review process.

I would like to thank you for taking the time to update your plan and report to the public for the 2016 calendar year. Your work to address homelessness and to respond to the housing needs of your communities is very much appreciated.

Sincerely,



Janet Hope
Assistant Deputy Minister
Housing Division

c.: Cindy Couillard, Team Lead, Regional Housing Services - Northeast