

Ministry of Housing

**Minister Responsible for the
Poverty Reduction Strategy**

Office of the Minister

777 Bay Street, 17th Floor
Toronto ON M5G 2E5
Tel.: 416 585-6500
Fax: 416 585-4035

Ministère du Logement

**Ministre responsable de la Stratégie
de réduction de la pauvreté**

Bureau du ministre

777, rue Bay, 17^e étage
Toronto ON M5G 2E5
Tél. : 416 585-6500
Télec. : 416 585-4035



OCT 27 2017

17-74994

OCT 24 2017

OCT 27 2017

Your Worship
Mayor Les Gamble
Chair
Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board
210 Mead Blvd.
Espanola, ON P5E 1R9

Dear Mayor Gamble:

I would like to thank you and Fern Dominelli, Chief Administrative Officer for taking the time to meet with me at the 2017 Association of Municipalities Ontario (AMO) Conference in Ottawa.

Your input and knowledge of local matters are important to me. I appreciated hearing your thoughts about the level of funding the DSSAB receives under the Investment in Affordable Housing program, as well as the efforts the board has made in relation to the development of a municipally funded direct subsidy shelter program.

We have put our focus on restoring the important partnership between the province and our municipalities. Our government was asked for stable and additional funding for housing programs and on this front we have gone above and beyond the request. Since 2003, the province has committed more than \$5 billion in funding for affordable housing. This has helped fund and build more than 22,000 new, affordable rental units and has helped repair or improve 335,000 other units.

As part of Ontario's continued commitment to increasing affordable housing options across the province, in August 2017 we announced an increase in funding of \$84 million in 2018-19 under the Investment in Affordable Housing (IAH) program.

As part of our efforts to end chronic homelessness by 2025, we launched the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative in 2013. Since its launch, the province has distributed \$1.1 billion in funding to design proactive programs based on local needs and local priorities.

To further help us meet our goal of ending chronic homelessness, we have boosted operating funding for housing assistance and support services up to a total of \$100 million annually beginning in 2019-20, bringing the total investment up to \$200 million over three years. This will assist up to 6,000 households to find stable housing.

Ontario is also providing new funding for repairs and retrofits to social housing across the province in order to improve living conditions and fight climate change. The province will invest up to \$657 million for repairs and retrofits to social housing apartment buildings over five years, contingent on carbon market proceeds.

We're investing in these projects because we're committed to building your municipalities up. Ontario's towns and cities are wonderful places to live, work and raise our families.

If your staff would like to discuss these matters further, ministry staff would be pleased to assist them. Please feel free to contact Kathy Horgan, Manager, Local Government and Housing, Northern Municipal Services Office (Sudbury) at (705) 564-6851 or kathy.horgan@ontario.ca.

Once again, thank you for meeting with me at the conference. I look forward to working with you and your colleagues in the months ahead. Together we will help build a stronger Ontario.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Milczyn', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Peter Milczyn
Minister

c. Michael Mantha, MPP
Algoma - Manitoulin