

Ministry of Housing

**Minister Responsible for the
Poverty Reduction Strategy**

Office of the Minister

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Ministère du Logement

**Ministre responsable de la Stratégie
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September 8, 2017

Mr. Les Gamble
Chair
Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board
210 Mead Boulevard
Espanola ON P5E 1R9

RE: Supporting Survivors of Domestic Violence

Dear Chair Gamble:

As you are aware, the province launched the Survivors of Domestic Violence – Portable Housing Benefit (SDV-PHB) Pilot program in September 2016.

Take-up of the program has steadily increased since launched: in the first ten months of the program, over 650 survivors and their families were able to access housing assistance under the program.

The Pilot has been exceptionally effective in providing a viable alternative to social housing for survivors, giving them more choice as to where to live, helping them find housing more quickly, and providing greater housing stability. Nearly all participating households surveyed as part of the program evaluation (95 per cent) would recommend the Pilot to others who have experienced domestic violence.

The Survivors of Domestic Violence – Portable Housing Benefit (SDV-PHB) Pilot will conclude on March 31, 2018.

Following up on the strong results of the Pilot program, the 2017 provincial budget announced an investment of \$30 million over the next three years to eventually support up to 3,000 survivors of domestic violence.


As a result, I am pleased to inform you that this funding will be available across the province on an ongoing basis, subject to annual provincial budget approvals, and fulfilment of accountability requirements. Funding will be made available on a first come, first served basis to survivors who are designated under the Special Priority Policy (SPP) of the Housing Services Act, 2011, as well as current recipients under the Pilot program.

In addition, to allow for province-wide portability of the housing benefit, the province will directly deliver this program beginning in April 2018, as Service Managers work with survivors designated under the SPP to submit application forms. A formal announcement and more information will be available in the near future.

In the meantime, if you have any questions about the Pilot program, please contact Ravi Bhusia, Manager of the Program Development and Analysis Unit, at Ravi.Bhusia@ontario.ca or (416) 585-6526.

Thank you for your continued support of survivors of domestic violence in your communities.

Sincerely,

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

Peter Milczyn
Minister

c: Mr. Fern Dominelli, Chief Administrative Officer, Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board