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*Carol Hughes*

Member of Parliament / Députée  
Algoma—Manitoulin—Kapuskasing

December 3, 2019

The Honourable Ahmed Hussen  
Minister of Families, Children and Social Development  
House of Commons,  
Ottawa, ON  
K1A 0A6

Dear Minister Hussen,

**RE: Direct Shelter Subsidy for PHB Benefit for Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board**

I have recently met with representatives of the Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board (DSB). The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the Canada-Ontario Portable Housing Benefit (PHB).

The Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB are asking the Federal Government to consider further flexibility within the Canada-Ontario PHB program, as the current model does not work for all regions and communities. They wish to bring to your attention how the Shelter Subsidy Program, a model delivered by their board, works to best respond in assisting with housing needs in the area they service.

Their statistics show that the model they are using has been quite successful. A good percentage of the low-income individuals/families they have assisted through this model have went on to exit the social assistance program much earlier than expected (within 18 months, on average). These statistics can be reviewed on Page 2 and 3 of their Issue Report (encl.)

This in no way means that the need for housing has diminished; in fact, their waiting list has increased because more and more individuals/families are requiring assistance.

The Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB ask that you, as Minister of Families, Children and Social Development, consider their recommendations as it relates to the negotiations surrounding the PHB program and wish to ensure that this flexibility be stipulated within the framework of the



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PHB program to ensure that organizations such as theirs can meet the housing assistance/needs within the communities they serve.

Fern Dominelli, CAO, and Les Gamble, Chair of the Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB would welcome an opportunity to discuss this issue further with you and I or your Parliamentary Secretary. I would appreciate if you could advise when such a meeting could be arranged.

I thank you for the consideration of their recommendations and trust that you will respond accordingly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Carol Hughes'.

Carol Hughes, M.P.  
Algoma-Manitoulin-Kapuskasing

CC: MPP Michael Mantha

Encl: (1)