



Ontario needs real action on affordable housing



Everyone needs safe, decent and affordable housing. But hundreds of thousands of Ontarian households don't have it. One-third of Ontario tenant households are in core housing need – lacking adequate, appropriate and/or affordable housing. Women, Aboriginal people, racialized groups, immigrants, renters, lone parents, and single adults are most likely to be in core housing need. In Oxford County, there are 1,700 tenant households in core housing need. One in 14 households in Oxford

County do not meet Canadian Mortgage & Housing Corporation standards for adequacy, affordability, and/or suitability.

Private developers can't build new rental housing that is affordable for most low and modest income residents at the profit rate they desire. That's why we need government action.

A long-term affordable housing strategy with dedicated funds to implement it would transform the lives of Ontarians. In 2010, the provincial government launched its long-term affordable housing strategy. While it made some changes to rules surrounding social housing, the plan lacked targets, timelines and most importantly, long-term investment.

The next government needs to introduce a plan of action that addresses:

- The affordability of housing
- The availability of affordable housing
- Supports, programs and protections
- A clear way to measure progress

Ask your candidates:

- What is your party's vision for a long-term affordable housing strategy?
- What investments would your party make to implement a long-term affordable housing strategy?
- What is your party's commitment to reduce the social housing waiting list?

Resources:

Co-operative Housing Federation of Canada, *Where's Home? 2013*:

www.onpha.on.ca/onpha/Content/PolicyAndResearch/Wheres_Home/WH2013.aspx

Wellesley Institute: www.wellesleyinstitute.com

The Homeless Hub: www.homelesshub.ca

