

May 21, 2024

Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building, Queen's Park
Send electronically via email
premier@ontario.ca

Dear Premier Ford,

Re: Municipal Task Force on Housing and Homelessness

At its May 15, 2024 meeting, Essex County Council received the enclosed correspondence from the Municipality of Trent Hills regarding the Municipal Task Force on Housing and Homelessness.

141-2024

Moved By Sherry Bondy
Seconded By Larry Verbeke

That Essex County Council support correspondence received from the Municipality of Trent Hills regarding the Municipal Task Force on Housing and Homelessness.

Essex County Council resolved to support this initiative as an issue impacting all municipalities in the Province of Ontario and calls on the Province to significantly increase funding for housing, shelters, and other necessary social services to ensure adequate levels of service to meet the needs of our residents.

Should you require further information, please contact me by email at macdonald@leamington.ca or by phone at 519-613-3925.

Regards,



Hilda MacDonald
Essex County Warden

Municipal Task Force on Housing and Homelessness


May 21, 2024

Encl:

- Letter from the Municipality of Trent Hills dated April 25, 2024

CC:

- Honourable Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
minister.mah@ontario.ca, Paul.Calandra@pc.ola.org
- Honourable David Piccini, Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development David.Piccini@pc.ola.org
- Doug Irwin, Director, Legislative Services/Clerk, Municipality of Trent Hills Doug.Irwin@trenthills.ca
- Association of Municipalities of Ontario amo@amo.on.ca
- Local MPPs
 - Anthony Leardi anthony.leardi@pc.ola.org
 - Trevor Jones trevor.jones@pc.ola.org
 - Andrew Dowie andrew.dowie@pc.ola.org
 - Lisa Gretzky LGretzky-CO@ndp.on.ca
- Local Municipal Partners

 519-776-6441 ext. 1327
TTY 1-877-624-4832

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Suite # 314 Essex, ON N8M 1Y6

 countyofessex.ca

April 25, 2024

Honourable Doug Ford
Premier's Office
Room 281
Legislative Building, Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1
doug.fordco@pc.ola.org



Come for a visit. Stay for a lifestyle.

Re: Northumberland Inter-Municipal Task Force on Housing and Homelessness motion re: Funding Social Services

At its meeting of April 25, 2024, Council considered the update brought forward by Councillor Rob Pope re: Northumberland Inter-Municipal Task Force on Housing and Homelessness motion re: Funding Social Service and passed the following motion:

Motion No. THC-240425-21

Moved by Councillor Rob Pope
Seconded by Councillor Daniel Giddings

Whereas Ontario is experiencing a housing crisis, with housing costs far exceeding affordable levels by any standard including in Northumberland County;

And Whereas the prevalence of homelessness is quickly increasing beyond the capacity of local governments to create new emergency, transitional, or affordable housing;

And Whereas homelessness is a condition that can largely be prevented with adequate resources, but that nonetheless puts an increasing number of residents at risk of considerable harm or death;

And Whereas insufficient housing and social services fail not only to provide for those experiencing homelessness, but also cause significant economic costs to lower and upper tier municipalities as well as to the province in the form of higher policing, first responder, healthcare, and economic development costs, among others;

And Whereas insufficient housing and social services fail not only to provide for those experiencing homelessness, but also cause significant social costs in communities that experience social estrangement, insecurity, and fear associated with increased crime and visible drug use, all of which causes considerable social and political unrest;

And Whereas the Province of Ontario dictates the requirement for social services including emergency shelters, but limits their operation through insufficient funding, thereby causing said economic and social costs at the upper and lower tiers of municipal governance;

And Whereas the municipalities of Northumberland County recognize our moral and legal obligation to provide adequate shelter and public safety for all residents, but are limited in our capacity to unilaterally do so by constrained finances;

Now therefore be it resolved that the Municipality of Trent Hills, along with other Northumberland County municipalities, call upon the Province of Ontario to significantly increase funding for housing, shelters, and other necessary social services to ensure adequate levels of service to meet the needs of our residents;

And that this resolution be forwarded to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, to the Honourable Paul Calandra, Minister for Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Honourable David Piccini, Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development and MPP for Northumberland-Peterborough South, and to all Ontario municipalities.

Carried.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Municipality.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Douglas Irwin', written in a cursive style.

J. Douglas Irwin
Director of Legislative Services/Clerk