

HOMELESSNESS AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING

ANGLICAN PROVINCIAL SYNOD OF ONTARIO

Anglicans across Ontario wish to work in partnership with the government to develop and implement a comprehensive plan to increase and maintain the available stock of affordable housing.

Housing people makes sound economic sense as homelessness and precarious housing have significant fiscal impacts in the increased costs imposed on health care, social services and the justice system. Equally important are the human costs of homelessness such as the loss of dignity, isolation and death. This crisis affects people of all races, creeds, ages, genders and cultures.

Anglicans actively participate in housing solutions including direct financial support and the provision of surplus property for development. Throughout Ontario we mobilize to respond to immediate needs through support services such as shelters, drop-ins, food programs, Out of the Cold programs and providing spaces for support workers to meet with clients.

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We need government partnership and help to:

- 1. Provide portable housing benefits to low-income households (attached to the client NOT the unit) allowing them to avoid falling into homelessness and simultaneously relieving pressure on social housing.**
- 2. Facilitate faith groups participation in development of affordable housing units by offering inclusionary zoning, waiving development fees and granting tax exemptions.**
- 3. Provide stable funding to ensure emergency shelters can operate and be equipped appropriately to serve the most vulnerable people in their communities.**
- 4. Support regulations and by-law amendments that help to build a strong network of community based supports that those in need can access to break the cycles of isolation, help develop skills and provide a basis for civic engagement and healing.**

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