



**County of Simcoe**  
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January 2, 2025

The Honourable Paul Calandra  
Office of the Minister  
Minister of Municipal Affairs & Housing  
777 Bay St., 17<sup>th</sup> Floor.  
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3

**County of Simcoe Written Pledge**

Dear Minister Calandra,

The County of Simcoe, like other communities across Ontario, has a significant number of people who are experiencing homelessness. The County of Simcoe's Housing & Homelessness Services team is working tirelessly every day to support people experiencing homelessness, who are unsheltered or who are staying in temporary shelters, to move to permanent housing. The announcement of the top-up to the Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit (COHB) will further increase the positive flow of individuals toward permanent housing.

Throughout 2024, the County of Simcoe has invested significantly in four modular facilities so that it could create more space in the shelter system to access rapid rehousing programming and, in turn, permanently free up much-needed shelter beds for those living outside. The recent announcement for One-Time Shelter Expansion / Encampment Response Initiative Funding under the Homelessness Prevention Program (2024-2025) aligns perfectly with the County's 10-Point Homelessness strategy (attached) and its most recent efforts to bring people living in encampments inside through its rapid rehousing modular facilities.

Please accept this letter as a written pledge of our continued commitment to support unsheltered individuals living in encampments and in shelters to successfully transition to safe and stable housing and our commitment to continue to optimize the use of shelter spaces by ensuring effective flow in the system.

We appreciate the enhanced funding to help us address this ongoing challenge.

Sincerely,

Basil Clarke, Warden  
County of Simcoe

c Mina Fayez-Bahgat, General Manager Social & Community Services, County of Simcoe  
Mark Aitken, Chief Administrative Officer, County of Simcoe

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# HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION STRATEGY 10-POINT PLAN

01

## MAKE AFFORDABLE HOUSING MORE ATTAINABLE TO END HOMELESSNESS

Providing deep **Rent Subsidies** for individuals and families (\$600-\$800) distributed through Housing First and Outreach teams

02

## CREATING NEW SUPPORTIVE HOUSING PROGRAMS

Increase creative **Supportive Housing Programs** by converting existing community housing into supportive housing programs

03

## CREATING PEACE OF MIND WHEN USING SERVICES

Offering **Storage Unit Solutions** for people who are homeless to store belongings safely while accessing services

04

## IMPROVING SAFETY AND WELL-BEING FOR THE COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE

Enhancing and mobilizing mobile **Outreach Services** to improve safety and well-being for all

05

## INCREASING HOUSING AVAILABILITY IN CURRENT PROGRAMS

Increasing housing availability through increased **Affordable Housing** stock and **Supportive Housing** units, and lifting the funding freeze on the **Domiciliary Care Program**

06

## CREATING EASIER WAYS TO HELP ACCESS SERVICES

Implementing a **Centralized Intake System** that is available after hours for services

07

## ENHANCING OUR COMMUNITY SHELTERS SERVICES AND STANDARDS

Increasing funding to the **Shelter System** and supporting the **Temporary Shelter** at Rose Street over the winter months

08

## INCREASING EVICTION PREVENTION SERVICES AND ACCESS TO HOUSING FOR FAMILIES

Improving access to housing through **Housing Retention Funding** by doubling the grant limits for families

09

## IMPROVING SHELTER ON THE HOUSING CONTINUUM

Addressing repairs/maintenance needs through the **Retrofits & Upgrades Program** (up to \$50K per grant)

10

## FINDING NEW OPPORTUNITIES

Continued attention to **Potential Capital/Operating Opportunities** to increase housing