

Housing for All: Acting Locally

September 2018

At the 2018 CFUW Ontario Council AGM last May, the ***Housing for All in Ontario*** resolution was passed. With the upcoming municipal elections on October 22, 2018 and the promise of federal funding for housing flowing directly to municipal governments to meet specific needs, (National Housing Strategy) it is time to mobilize our advocacy efforts. We must let our local candidates know we want action and that we expect them to have a plan for relieving housing needs in our communities.

Housing is a women's issue. The gender wage gap leaves many women at risk for living in substandard housing or struggling to make ends meet in market rental housing. We also must consider the needs of economically disadvantaged older women and women fleeing domestic abuse or human trafficking, in need of transitional housing or subsidized rental housing, both of which are in demand.

A Toronto councillor expressed that housing is the most complex policy area local governments face. When one wades through all the policies, agreements, and requirements, as well as all the different types of housing needs, it is easy to understand why. We shouldn't let this be a deterrent. Through partnerships and / or smaller local projects, we can make a difference in our communities.

Preparation of ***Housing for All in Ontario: Backgrounder for Advocacy*** is underway and will be ready and up on our CFUW Ontario Council website in time for the September 29th Legislation Workshop. It will provide sources of information for acting locally and practical suggestions for action.

We hope to have one or two guests with expertise in local housing initiatives to open the discussion, provide strategies and help us prioritize. Come prepared to share any experience with housing issues your club has had, or work in progress.