

## Adopted Resolution 2018 HOUSING FOR ALL IN ONTARIO For Club Use Only

The complete **Housing for All** background, in support of the Housing Policy adopted May, 2018, is available on the CFUW OC website in the Briefs, Submissions, Backgrounders section of the Ontario Council Policy & Resolutions page.

### Advocacy: Acting Locally

Municipal or local government is undoubtedly where things happen in terms of planning and housing. It is the community that experiences the impact first hand.

Local advocacy should always be driven by the spirit of the CFUW Ontario Council **Housing for All** policy. The goal is to ensure affordable housing for all, according to one's circumstances. Key is the integration of all types of housing in your city to foster a sense of community, safety and access to services.

### What you need to know locally:

**Ontario's Housing Continuum** (MAH, 2011) provides a helpful basis for understanding the full range

Affordability should be viewed on a continuum, rather than at a specific price point. Within Ontario's housing continuum, there are varying degrees of affordability. The range and diversity of housing needs means that community responses to the challenge of affordable housing require a range of approaches, based on community needs. Within the continuum, communities may face affordability challenges both in absolute terms (the price of housing) as well as in relative terms (types of housing). Given the diversity in land values across Ontario, similar housing types may vary in terms of affordability from one community to another.

## ONTARIO'S HOUSING CONTINUUM



of housing required for healthy urban centres. With the shifting urban landscapes involving development, redevelopment, upgrading / retrofitting and restructuring dysfunctional and decaying social housing projects in large urban centres, there are many points at which advocacy might be required at the municipal level.

### Land Use Planning Guides:

A series of **Citizens' Guides to Land Use Planning** are available online. There are 9 on various topics. For a list with links to each, visit the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing's (MAH) website : <http://www.mah.gov.on.ca/Page338.aspx>

Number 2 covers Official Plans. Number 6 covers the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal through which individuals or groups can express their interests. Number 7 deals with Northern Ontario, where due to its size and the propensity of crown land, the planning is shared through three authorities.

### Your community's Official Plan:

Every municipality has an Official Plan which should be posted on the municipality's website. Has Inclusionary Zoning (IZ) been incorporated into your city's plans? See the MAH's information on IZ: <http://www.mah.gov.on.ca/Page13790.aspx>.

Note: IZ is not mandated. Parameters such as thresholds are determined by the municipality.

## **Core Housing Need:**

See the data for your location. There is a breakdown by city:

<http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/dp-pd/chn-biml/index-eng.cfm>

The Homeless Hub is also a source of data. See: <http://homelesshub.ca/communityprofiles> for a breakdown by city & county providing data such as number of homeless, rental costs, etc.

## **Renter Protection**

There are provincial limits on rent increases. However, landlords can exceed this limit through the **Above Guideline Rent Increase** (AGRI) for the purpose of significant renovations and repairs. It is not surprising that this can be abused. Renters can appeal through the Landlord and Tenants Board of Ontario: <http://www.sjto.gov.on.ca/ltb/>. The cap for 2019 is 1.8%.

## ***Suggested Actions for Clubs***

### **Education & Outreach** (Club Members or Broader Community)

Is there is a social housing renewal project in your community? Invite a speaker such as a planner, councillor or a residents' association representative to speak about the plans, challenges and goals of the project. Organize a site visit. Tour a service provided such as a childcare centre, community garden, etc. Attend a community event. Check if there are needs to which your club could contribute.

Support and / or partner with a housing service provider in your area, such as the YWCA.

Support renters in a complex at risk due to a rent increase, if you support their arguments.

If there is community backlash due to, for example, a proposed residence for people with mental illness be prepared to offer education to your members and or the public. The needs of people with mental illness are on a continuum; housing required depends on the level of need. For example, Supported Housing offers both housing and support, with staff on hand in the residence. Supportive Housing offers independent apartments or housing cooperatives where support may come from outside of the home through case management. It is also used by the government to house very low income people.

## **Advocacy**

Locally housing can be handled by the municipal, regional, district or county governments. This page from the Association of Municipalities Ontario will tell you what level your community responds to. <https://www.amo.on.ca/AMO-Content/Municipal-101/Ontario-Municipalities.aspx>

Meet with your councillors/aldermen to discuss needs in your community, specific projects, etc. Point out needs or problems you have identified, such as the need for more affordable, safe and convenient housing for seniors. If gentrification threatens current residences, advocate for subsidized housing units in the community. Advocate to save old housing stock that can be renewed or upgraded or ensure affordable options are included in new buildings.

Attend local government meetings when housing issues arise. Prepare an oral and / or written submission. Is there a need in your community for:

- Housing for seniors?
- Housing for LGBTQ2SA youth who need a safe environment and are at serious risk for homelessness?
- Housing for the mentally ill?
- More co-operative housing?
- Shelters for victims of violence?

When the opportunity arises, participate with other stakeholders in the community engagement process with municipal and local planners to ensure your voice is heard.