

Provincial
Election
Vote
June 12!

K-W RESIDENTS VOTE



Poverty Free
Kitchener-Waterloo

Poverty Elimination Framework

Support to All Low-Income People

We need investment in livable and affordable housing in Ontario

Ontarians have a long wait for affordable housing in many communities across the province. Livable and affordable housing has a major role to play in our physical and mental well-being. Housing and homelessness prevention program is going through a transformation after closing the Community Start Up and Maintenance Benefit and municipalities are struggling for funds to support all low-income people. Unstable housing and homelessness causes serious physical and mental health problems, problems accessing health care, being assaulted, going hungry and dying much earlier than people with stable housing. For many people with health issues, stable housing includes supports ensuring life in dignity. The **Liberal party platform states the commitment of investing \$294 million over 4 years in homelessness prevention initiatives and is asking the federal government to contribute to the affordable housing program. The other party that recognizes the importance of investment in housing is the Green party but their proposal is limited to investment for energy saving repairs for current house owners and does not address homelessness prevention, housing stability or affordable housing for Ontarians.**

Investing in stable housing

The Ontario government can take steps to make a real dent in the problem:

- Invest in ongoing funding for Community Homelessness Prevention Initiatives -\$42 million per year
- Adopt a comprehensive housing strategy with bold targets and timelines new affordable housing
- Create a housing benefit that would make private, rental, co-op and non-profit housing more affordable, within a plan that safeguards and expands social housing
- Invest in housing based social supports to assist people to access services and, in general to help the places people live be safe, healthy living environments

Ask your candidates:

- What will your party do to create affordable housing and safeguard existing stock?
- What are your party's plans to ensure access to healthy and affordable housing for all Ontarians and end homelessness?
- How will your party ensure that all people with physical and mental health issues have their housing needs met?

Resources:

- Homelessness and Housing Umbrella Group of Waterloo Region: <http://www.hhug.ca/>
- Ontario Non-Profit Housing Association (ONPHA): www.onpha.on.ca
- Wellesley Institute: www.wellesleyinstitute.com



Social Planning Council
of Kitchener-Waterloo
Community Information Centre
of Waterloo Region

How, where, when & why to vote
Issues worth voting for
www.waterlooregion.org/election-ontario-2011

This fact sheet was adapted from a series produced by Social Planning Toronto.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING