



c/o Social Planning Council of Kitchener-Waterloo  
151 Frederick Street, Kitchener ON N2H 2H2  
November 27, 2013

The Hon. Kathleen Wynne, MPP  
Premier of Ontario  
By email to: [kwynne.mpp@liberal.ola.org](mailto:kwynne.mpp@liberal.ola.org)

The Hon. Linda Jeffrey, MPP  
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing  
By email to: [ljeffrey.mpp@liberal.ola.org](mailto:ljeffrey.mpp@liberal.ola.org)

The Hon. Teresa Piruzza, MPP  
Minister Responsible for Poverty Reduction  
By email to: [tpiruzza.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org](mailto:tpiruzza.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org)

The Hon. Ted McMeekin, MPP  
Minister of Community and Social Services  
By email to: [tmcmeekin.mpp@liberal.ola.org](mailto:tmcmeekin.mpp@liberal.ola.org)

Dear Premier Wynne, Minister Jeffrey, Minister Piruzza, and Minister McMeekin,

Since the Ontario Government made its commitment to create a comprehensive poverty reduction strategy in 2008, Social Planning Council of Kitchener-Waterloo and its partners in the Poverty Free Kitchener Waterloo Action Group hosted many consultation meetings, community conversations and public forums.

We are writing to you now in support of the letter sent by the Income Security Advocacy Centre on behalf of the coalition of provincial and regional networks urging you to ensure permanent investment in housing-supports and homelessness prevention programs in Ontario.

Poverty Free Kitchener-Waterloo Action Group is developing local criteria to assess poverty reduction plans and strategies<sup>1</sup> and we are hearing a lot about the positive impact of housing-support programs and, on the other hand, about the detrimental consequences that housing

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<sup>1</sup> Local Framework for Successful Social Assistance Reform Outcomes, Social Planning Council of Kitchener-Waterloo, 2013, [www.waterlooregion.org/poverty-reduction](http://www.waterlooregion.org/poverty-reduction)





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instability has on health, social and economic integration of low-income individuals and families. The raise of the number of guests in shelters has been increasing in the last two years in Kitchener-Waterloo, and with continuous lack of funds, we are looking at a cold and grim winter again. The accumulating effects of living on low income, augmented with the housing instability and recurrent homelessness experiences, are making impossible for people to regain their physical and mental health, let alone employment or social capital.

Besides the services that help people find and maintain affordable and decent housing, individuals and families that are in a vulnerable situation benefit immensely from the system navigation, individual advocacy and social integration supports provided.

Without continued funding for benefits that were essential to ensure low-income people find and keep stable housing, especially with social assistance rates being inadequate and municipalities responding to diminished budgets with transition in service delivery, people of Ontario need an investment from their government in both direct homelessness prevention and housing support service navigation.

Confident that you will recognize the importance that \$42 million in permanent funding would bring to municipalities serving low income Ontarians, we expect you to provide leadership we need.

Sincerely,

Aleksandra Petrovic Graonic  
on behalf of the Poverty Free Kitchener-Waterloo

Action group members  
Social Planning Council of Kitchener-Waterloo  
YWCA of Kitchener-Waterloo  
Out of the Cold  
Homelessness Awareness Week  
Canadian Federation of University Women – Kitchener-Waterloo  
Waterloo Regional Labour Council  
Disabilities and Human Rights Group





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CC: Ken Seiling, Regional Chair, [Kseiling@regionofwaterloo.ca](mailto:Kseiling@regionofwaterloo.ca)  
Tom Galloway, Regional Councillor, Chair of the Administration and Finance Committee,  
[TGalloway@regionofwaterloo.ca](mailto:TGalloway@regionofwaterloo.ca)

