



Matthew Rae, MPP
Perth-Wellington

Dear community members,

Thank you for taking the time to participate in the United Way Perth-Huron, *Speak Up for Community Housing* campaign. The United Way Perth-Huron have shared the petition and comments with me.

Providing supports for those who may be unhoused, building rent-gear to income housing, and affordable housing in our small and rural municipalities remains a top priority of myself.

As Ryan Erb mentioned in his email to me, the Government of Ontario has invested millions in affordable housing projects across the province, over \$50 million last fiscal year to be exact. Working with the United Way Perth-Huron, my office and I were able to secure a \$200,000 investment in the United Housing's 10-unit project in Listowel. An important first step to addressing the shortage of affordable housing locally.

Earlier this year, the provincial government also provided the City of Stratford \$300,000 through the Encampment Response Initiative (ERI) for seven new shelter beds. These shelter beds are located in Stratford, but also Milverton and Mitchell.

In the 2023 provincial budget, the government increased funding for the Homelessness Prevention Program by over 40 per cent. Annually, this program provides almost \$700 million to our Service Managers to support deeply affordable housing and those who may be unhoused. Service Managers were also informed of the new amount they would be receiving annually until 2026. This consistency in funding allows our Service Managers to implement long-term plans, because they know what they will be receiving each year.

Locally, the City of Stratford, as the Service Manager, receives over \$3 million annually through the HPP.

I agree more needs to be done to address our rural housing challenges.

The Homelessness Prevention Program (HPP) is up for renewal in 2026, and I will advocate for funding that meets the needs of Perth-Wellington's local Service Managers.

I know that there is always more that can be done. To this end, I will continue to work with all levels of government and my colleagues at Queen's Park to address this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Matthew Rae".

Matthew Rae, MPP

Perth-Wellington