Ontario
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February 4, 2026

Ryan Erb, Executive Director
United Way Perth-Huron
32 Erie St.
Stratford, ON N5A 2M4

Re: Comment on Speak Up for Community Housing Petition

Dear Ryan,

Thank you for your letter and for sharing the *Speak Up for Community Housing* petition and the perspectives gathered through United Way Perth-Huron's Social Research and Planning Council. I appreciate the important work your organization does to support individuals and families across Perth-Huron, and I value the opportunity to hear directly from residents about the housing challenges they face in our rural communities.

Our government recognizes that housing affordability and homelessness present real and pressing challenges, particularly in rural Ontario where solutions must reflect local realities. That is why the Ontario government continues to make historic investments to expand housing supply, support supportive housing, and address homelessness across the province, including in Huron-Bruce.

Through programs such as the Community Housing Renewal Strategy, the Homelessness Prevention Program, the Canada-Ontario Community Housing Initiative (COCHI), and the Ontario Priorities Housing Initiative, Ontario is working in partnership with municipalities and community organizations to protect existing community housing, create new units, and support people experiencing or at risk of homelessness. For example, in 2023, the Government of Canada and the Province of Ontario collaborated to provide $6,424,000 to help create 20 affordable community housing units in the Municipality of South Huron, through the Canada-Ontario Community Housing Initiative (COCHI). This is just one of many projects that has demonstrated our government's commitment to supporting new diverse neighbourhoods and strengthening social networks of those residing in communities in Huron County.

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We also recognize that ending homelessness requires more than housing alone. Ontario continues to invest in mental health, addictions, and supportive services that are critical to helping individuals achieve long-term stability. Local service managers play a vital role in identifying priorities and directing funding to meet the unique needs of their communities.

As Member of Provincial Parliament for Huron-Bruce, I remain committed to advocating for rural perspectives in provincial decision-making and to working with municipal leaders, service managers, and organizations like United Way Perth-Huron to strengthen housing solutions for our region. Your feedback is an important part of these ongoing conversations.

Thank you again for your letter and for your continued leadership in Perth-Huron. Please be assured that our government remains focused on increasing housing supply and supporting vulnerable Ontarians, while working collaboratively with local partners to deliver results. I appreciate all United Way Perth-Huron is doing, as a valued partner in creating viable solutions.

Sincerely,

Lisa Thompson
MPP Huron-Bruce