

**Minister of Municipal Affairs
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To the members of the Co-operative Housing Federation of Canada

I am pleased to send my best wishes for a successful annual meeting of the Co-operative Housing Federation of Canada (CHF) in Quebec City. I am disappointed that scheduling conflicts prevent me from attending your meeting this year.

Just last week I had the opportunity to meet with members of your Ontario Council and learn more about the current issues facing co-op housing. Council members raised a number of concerns they have with the *Social Housing Reform Act* and the effect it is having on their communities. They also told me about the problems Ontario co-ops have with the current process for evictions and they have asked me to support changes that will enable the system to work better for both the co-ops and their members. I will be examining both of these issues over the next several months.

During the election, our government ran on a platform that values building strong communities. I know we share this concern with housing co-operatives and I recognize that housing co-operatives are a unique form of tenure where members from diverse economic and social backgrounds commit to working together to manage affordable housing. This government applauds your 35-year track record of building strong communities across Ontario. The CHF model is to be admired and I assure you that this government wants to see housing co-operatives continue to succeed as member-controlled communities that play an important role in providing Ontarians affordable housing.

I would like to meet with the Ontario Council again in the near future, so that we may work towards establishing a positive working partnership.

I wish you well in your deliberations today and I look forward to working with you to build on co-op housing's record of success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Gerretsen".

John Gerretsen
Minister