



Co-operative Housing Federation of Canada
Fédération de l'habitation coopérative du Canada

Ontario Region / Région de l'Ontario

313-720 av Spadina Avenue, Toronto Ontario M5S 2T9

Fax / télécopieur (416) 366-3876

www.chfc.ca www.fhcc.ca

Tel. / téléphone (416) 366-1711

November 22, 2007

Ms. Sophia Aggelonitis
MPP Hamilton Mountain
Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Small Business & Entrepreneurship
99 Wellesley Street West, Whitney Block, 1st Floor, Room 1306
Toronto, ON M7A 1W2

Dear Ms. Aggelonitis,

On behalf of the Ontario Region of the Co-operative Housing Federation of Canada I want to extend our hearty congratulations to you on your election as a Member of Provincial Parliament.

The Ontario Region is the voice of 550 non-profit housing co-operatives – home to more than 125,000 people – across Ontario. Co-op members were very active in the recent provincial election. There were two issues in particular that they focused their attention on during the campaign:

- the need for more affordable housing and ensuring that co-operative housing is part of the mix, and
- uploading the costs of municipally administered housing co-ops back to the Province, with program administration provided under contract by the Agency for Co-operative Housing.

To give you a greater sense of these issues as well as activities of the co-operative housing sector in Ontario, I am pleased to enclose the latest edition of our Ontario *Newsbriefs* publication. I have also included a list of housing co-ops in your riding.

We very much appreciated that the Liberal election platform committed to creating a “long-term strategy for affordable housing that contains a mix of non-profit and co-operative housing”. We look forward to working with the McGuinty government to develop an approach to meeting the need for affordable housing in Ontario that is comprehensive, forward-looking and recognizes the benefits that come with the co-operative model.

The issue of uploading a range of social services from the municipal level back to the Province received considerable attention during the campaign. We welcome Premier McGuinty’s commitment to act on the recommendations of the Provincial/Municipal Review Panel with the goal of finding long-term, sustainable solutions for sharing costs and responsibilities between the Province and municipalities.

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We think that our proposal to the Review Panel to upload co-operative housing has significant benefits for the Province, municipalities and housing co-ops and can be an important part of the solution to the “who does what” puzzle.

If you would like any more information on these issues or on co-operative housing in general, please do not hesitate to call our Manager of Government Relations, Harvey Cooper at 1-800-268-2537 ext 237, hcooper@chfcanda.coop

It has been our pleasure to work very closely with the Liberal Government during your first term at Queen’s Park. We look forward in the coming years to developing that relationship further to create and support housing communities all across this province that we can all be proud of.

Once again, congratulations on your election victory.

Yours truly,



Amanda Yetman
President
Ontario Council
Co-operative Housing Federation of Canada

Enclosures:

- November 2007 Ontario *Newsbriefs*
- Housing Co-ops in Your Riding