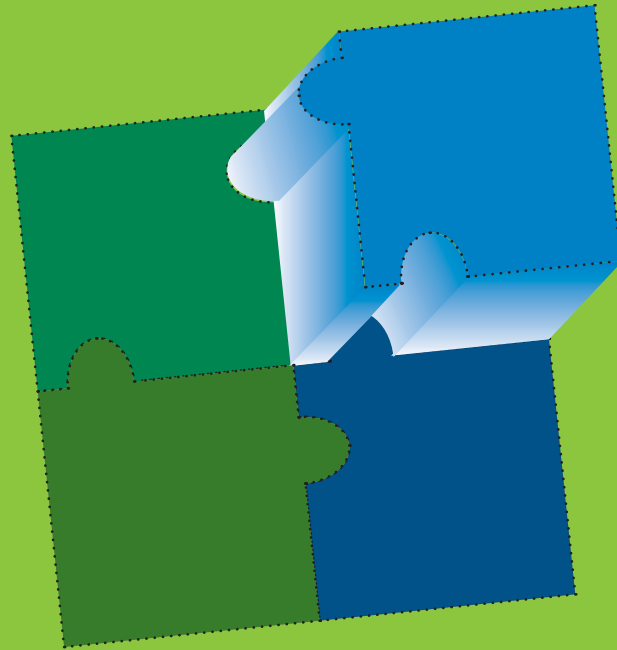


Creating financial relief for municipalities



A proposal to upload co-operative housing

The Fiscal and Service Delivery Review

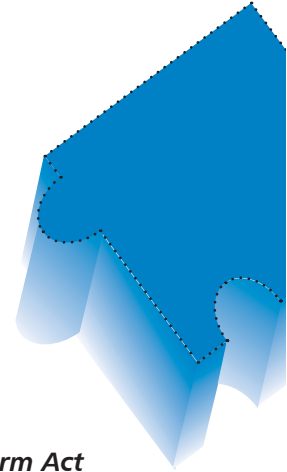
The Government of Ontario, in partnership with the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and the City of Toronto, is reviewing the funding and delivery of a range of services, including social housing. The goal is to find a long-term, sustainable solution for sharing these responsibilities.

The Ontario Region of the Co-operative Housing Federation of Canada has a proposal that can be part of the solution. We have sent our proposal to the Government of Ontario, AMO and the City of Toronto.

proposal

Our proposal

- 1 Return the cost and control of co-operative housing to the provincial level.** There are 261 co-operatives with 21,631 units under municipal administration – about 8% of the portfolio of municipally funded social housing.
- 2 Amend the *Social Housing Reform Act (SHRA)* to create a more effective and accountable program.** Many features of the Act have proved unworkable for resident-controlled housing co-ops.
- 3 Enter into an agreement with the Agency for Co-operative Housing to administer a reformed program.** The Agency already administers 18,920 units of co-operative housing in Ontario.



Why we are making this proposal

The SHRA, passed in 2000, put in place an overly complicated program framework that makes no allowance for important differences in how co-ops and other non-profits operate. The Act also shifted responsibility for program administration and funding from the Province to municipalities.

The arrangement has not worked well for co-ops or the municipal service managers that work with them. Here's why:

- Housing co-operatives are the only form of resident-controlled non-profit housing in Ontario. They operate within a different legal framework—both corporate and landlord-tenant.
- The rule-bound SHRA has stripped away member control and many advantages of the co-operative model of mutual self-help are being lost.
- Service managers face many challenges and are hard pressed to deal with the differences between co-ops and other parts of the social housing portfolios that they administer.

benefits

The benefits

Our proposal to upload co-operative housing will offer real benefits for all the parties involved.

Benefits for municipalities

- substantial savings in program funding (estimated at \$100 million per year)
- no liability for unknown future program costs like capital repairs
- more efficient administration of the remaining portfolio of similar providers
- for GTA municipalities, earlier relief from pooling costs
- continued use by housing co-ops of municipalities' central waiting lists
- creation of an effective communications protocol to ensure prompt response to municipal inquiries.

Benefits for the Province

- a cost-effective way to give municipalities a significant but contained measure of financial relief from the costs of downloaded services
- expert, accountable program administration through the Agency for Co-operative Housing, with better policy and program outcomes
- no need for the Province to re-establish a program administration capacity.

Benefits for housing co-operatives

- more control over operating results and greater accountability for them
- increased ability to benefit from the advantages of the co-op housing model
- a program administrator that specializes in co-operative housing, winning the trust of co-ops
- program administration for all Ontario housing co-ops under one roof.



upload

Uploading

We need your help

The downloading of co-op housing has not worked. It is not a good fit for co-ops, municipal governments or the Province.

Our uploading proposal offers a way forward and can be part of the solution to the *who does what* puzzle. It merits support from all parties.

We are asking you to contact AMO President, Doug Reycraft, or Toronto Mayor, David Miller, to

- **tell them that you support this proposal and**
- **call on them to act on it as part of the Fiscal and Service Delivery Review.**

www.chfcanada.coop



The Agency for Co-operative Housing

The Agency was set up in 2004 to administer federal co-op housing programs under contract with Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. It operates in Ontario and three other provinces.

The Agency is a specialized program administrator providing high-quality services tailored to the needs of both housing co-ops and government.

You can find more information on the Agency's risk-based, data-driven and client-focused approach on its website at www.agency.coop.

The Co-operative Housing Federation of Canada

The Co-operative Housing Federation of Canada has served for nearly 40 years as the national voice and advocate for co-operative housing. CHF Canada's Ontario Region is the voice of co-op housing at Queen's Park, representing more than 500 housing co-ops across the province.

For more information on our proposal contact:

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