

May 26, 1999

A special message for housing co-op members in Ontario:

Vote for co-op housing on June 3rd

Ontario voters elect their next government on June 3rd. Co-op housing is not on the ballot, but you can still support co-op housing by voting for the party with the best housing policies. Before you vote, look at the housing promises of the three major political parties. CHF Ontario Region has prepared the attached *Tally Sheet* to help you make your decision. A few notes:

- **Co-op demands:** These were set by the Ontario Council of CHF Canada, and are based on a resolution passed by members at the 1998 annual meeting. They outline the key policy areas where co-ops are seeking promises from the parties and are a handy guide to rate the responses of each party.
- **Liberal:** The replies come from the official Liberal campaign platform, plus written responses to a detailed questionnaire from *Putting Housing Back on the Public Agenda*. This is an advocacy group also known as “Housing Again”.
- **New Democratic Party:** The replies come from the official campaign literature, plus the NDP reply to the Housing Again questionnaire.
- **Progressive Conservative:** The PCs refused to respond to the Housing Again questionnaire and there is no reference to housing in their campaign literature. The replies come from the actions of the Harris government over the past four years.
- **Press the candidates:** Some candidates will go beyond the official position of their party and become true advocates on housing and homelessness issues. Question the candidates in your riding. Ask for any special flyers on housing and homelessness. Please call CHF Ontario Region once you have spoken with the candidates in your riding. Send us a copy of any flyers. We’re building a detailed log for each political party.

If you would like more information, including a copy of the responses of the Liberals and New Democrats to the Housing Again questionnaire, please call **Michael Shapcott** or **Brian Eng** at CHF Ontario Region at 1-800-268-2537 (in Toronto, call 416-366-1711). E-mail: mshapcott@chfc.ca or beng@chfc.ca

**Housing and homelessness: Where the parties stand
a Tally Sheet from CHF Ontario Region**

Co-op demands	Liberals	New Democrats	Conservative
New co-op / non-profit housing: 3,000 units in year one, 4,000 in year two, 5,000 in year three and after	- \$40 to 55 million a year for “new affordable housing” including co-op / non-profit (no unit targets)	- 16,000 co-op and non-profit units over four years	- cancelled 17,000 co-op and non-profit units in 1995 - no commitment to specific targets
Acquisition / rehabilitation of private rental housing: 5,000 units annually to convert to co-op / non-profit	- no commitment	- no commitment	- no commitment
Rent supplements for non-profits: 5,000 units annually for co-ops / non-profits	- no commitment	- 50% of new co-op / non-profit units to be RGI (8,000 units over four years)	- Harris government ended undetermined # of RGI units in co-ops / non-profits
Public housing conversion to co-op management: where tenants agree	- no commitment	- no commitment	- initial go-ahead to convert Alexandra Park to co-op - municipalities to decide future of other public housing with no tenant choice
Welfare increases: restore 21.6% cut to welfare	- no commitment	- “boost “ shelter allowances - ensure welfare “adequate” - reform welfare - repeal workfare	- Harris government made 21.6% cuts, more barriers to welfare for those who need it
New supportive housing: construction of 2,800 units annually, plus supports	- establish 7,500 “community care units” over an unspecified period	- build 14,000 supportive housing units, plus services, over an unspecified period	- \$45 million over three years for housing and support

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Reform of provincial social housing programs: real reform, with providers as full partners	- no commitment	- no commitment	- key proposals from Social Housing Committee report not acceptable to co-ops / non-profits - after 7 months, no response from Minister to report
Upload social housing back to province: Restore funding of social housing to province, where it belongs	- no commitment	- no commitment	- Harris government plans to complete download by turning over administration of housing to municipalities - negotiating social housing transfer deal with Ottawa
Tenant protection: restore rent controls, controls on demolition and conversion, anti-discrimination laws	- restore rent controls and <i>Rental Housing Protection Act</i> - “enforcement measures” to ensure landlords do maintenance and repairs	- restore rent controls and controls on demolition and conversion of rental housing	- Harris government cut rent controls - Harris government eliminated demolition / conversion laws
Rent supplements for private tenants: funding for 82,500 tenants	- no commitment	- no commitment	- will restore 300-400 rent supplement units out of 3,000 cut in recent years
Other housing and homelessness proposals from parties	- \$250 million children’s benefit - PST rebate on housing - discharge protocol for psychiatric hospitals - federal government “must take the lead role”	- “housing-first” for surplus provincial lands - encourage municipalities to lower taxes and fees - construction financing at provincial borrowing rate	- PST rebate on housing - public lands to be made available for 500 units (but no construction financing)