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REGION OF PEEL

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Armagh

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Mississauga, ON L5J 4S6

Charity Number 118789635RR0001

October 20th, 2023

TO: The Regional Chair and members of Regional Council

RE: Affordable Housing and Homelessness Crisis

Armagh is providing this letter of support for the Region's Housing Service's request to enhance supports for affordable safe housing (**Item 8.2 Enhancing Housing Subsidy and Supports**).

We agree with Regional staff that redesigning a placed-based needs outreach program should not come at the expense of much-needed investments in homelessness prevention and permanent housing solutions and that addressing the affordable housing crisis is a priority for Regional Council.

We have seen long wait lists for Victims of Family Violence priority housing units, lack of transitional housing units and shelters at capacity as a main driver behind survivors staying with their abusers and putting their lives and the lives of their children at risk. 100% of Armagh's service users cannot afford market rent in the Region of Peel. People without safe housing are experiencing an epidemic.

In addition, Armagh encourages members of Council to commit to future recommendations brought forth by Regional staff that address the findings presented at the Regional Council Education Session, regarding the affordable safe housing and homelessness crisis.

Reducing and ending homelessness and increasing safe housing must be a council of term priority and the 2024 budget should reflect that priority. People on our streets, in shelter and in precarious situations such as those living with their abusers are suffering and, in some cases, dying from lack of access to basic needs. We need additional transitional housing options for families fleeing violence.

Armagh and its community partners are ready to work with the Region in a coordinated community system response. Action and change are required to save lives and deliver better services for the most vulnerable members in our community.

Finally, Armagh believes that safe housing is a human right and that we need to apply this and an equity lens to policy decisions and practices.

Sincerely,

Jannies Le
Executive Director
Jannies@armaghhouse.ca

REFERRAL TO _____
RECOMMENDED _____
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