



Wayne Emmerson
Chairman and CEO
The Regional Municipality of York
17250 Yonge Street
Newmarket, Ontario
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DEC 08 2016

Daniele Zanotti
President and CEO
United Way Toronto & York Region
26 Wellington Street East, 12th Floor
Toronto, Ontario
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Dear Messrs. Emmerson and Zanotti,

On behalf of the Honourable Jean-Yves Duclos, Minister of Families, Children and Social Development, I am responding to your letter of November 7, 2016, which enclosed a copy of *Understanding the Numbers: Working Together to Prevent, Reduce and End Homelessness in York Region*.

As you know, the Government of Canada is investing nearly \$600 million over five years (2014-2019) in the Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS). The HPS aims to prevent and reduce homelessness in Canada and provides direct financial support to 61 designated communities, as well as Aboriginal and rural and remote communities across Canada to help them address their local homelessness needs. Furthermore, through the Social Infrastructure Fund, the HPS will receive an additional \$111.8 million over two years (2016-2018), an increase of approximately 50 per cent. This direct financial support gives communities flexibility to invest in proven approaches that reduce homelessness at the local level.

It is through the HPS that the Government of Canada is proud to support communities like York Region in the collection and sharing of homelessness data. This strong collaboration helps to clarify the complex characteristics of Canada's homeless population, inform program direction on homelessness, and assist stakeholders across the country, including service providers, researchers, and governments, to establish baseline data related to the use of emergency shelters in Canada. Additionally, to help us continue to develop a strong national understanding of homelessness, and building on the success of the first Canadian coordinated Point-in-Time count, a second nationally coordinated count will be held between March 1 and April 30, 2018, to continue to help communities measure their progress in reducing homelessness.

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The Government of Canada also recently consulted with Canadians, as well as housing industry experts and stakeholders, to get their views on the broad housing outcomes, as well as the vision and key themes for a National Housing Strategy. Public consultations opened online in late June and closed on October 21, 2016. Canadians had a lot to say about homelessness and the Minister of Families, Children and Social Development recently released a What We Heard report and outlined next steps in establishing a National Housing Strategy. More information on the consultations and a copy of the report can be found online at <https://www.letstalkhousing.ca/learn-more/index.cfm>.

Going forward, the Government of Canada will look to continue working with communities like York Region in their efforts to collect and share data and ultimately prevent, reduce and end homelessness. The Government of Canada also looks forward to further dialogue and engagement in the lead up to the renewal of the HPS.

Thank you for bringing this information to our attention.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Catherine Scott". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent than the last.

Catherine Scott
Director General
Community Development and Homelessness Partnerships Directorate