



# AT YOUR DOORSTEP

WITH THE LATEST NEWS, UPDATES AND TIPS!

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 2, JUNE 2018

## NEWSROOM

### NATIONAL HOUSING STRATEGY

In November 2017, the federal government announced Canada's first [National Housing Strategy \(NHS\)](#), a 10-year, \$40-billion plan that will be cost-shared with the provinces and territories. The Strategy includes a number of initiatives to increase the affordable housing supply, support the community housing sector through repair and renewal of social housing units, and provide financial support to renters. Since the Strategy's announcement, federal, provincial and territorial ministers responsible for housing endorsed a multilateral Housing Partnership Framework to advance the NHS. The framework includes a commitment to cost-sharing, coordinating program design, and sharing data to report on outcomes.

In May 2018, the federal government announced the National Housing Co-Investment Fund, which includes grants and loans to fund [new affordable housing](#) and [repair and renewal of existing units](#) over the next 10 years. You are encouraged to learn about the funding opportunities under the Co-Investment Fund.

### FROM THE PROVINCE

In the lead-up to the June election, the province has been busy rolling out initiatives that may impact your work.

As part of its continued work to modernize the social housing framework in Ontario, the province released a second [technical discussion paper](#) to facilitate discussions with housing providers and service managers. Consultations with stakeholders in the social housing sector, including housing providers, service managers, and social housing tenants/members and applicants, are ongoing. We will share additional details with you as they become available.

In May 2018 the province and the federal government announced the signing of a [National Housing Strategy Bilateral Agreement](#), committing \$4.2 billion of federal and provincial investment to protect, renew and expand affordable housing across the province. The agreement also signals the province's participation to implementing the Canada Housing Benefit, a monthly benefit for renters in Ontario to launch in 2020.

### HOUSING SERVICES

accessyork@york.ca  
1-877-464-9675

[york.ca/housing](http://york.ca/housing)



# FROM YOUR SERVICE MANAGER

## GEMS FROM THE GM

On Friday, May 11, 2018 I had the honour to emcee the day for over 100 participants attending **Stronger Foundations, York Region's Housing Provider Professionals Day**. I was overwhelmed with the commitment of our housing providers and enjoyed networking and learning with many as I hope others did. I wish I could have talked with more! With modernization on the horizon, the day gave us an opportunity to learn, prepare and to identify opportunities.

Our very own Katherine Chislett, Commissioner of the Community and Health Services Department, spoke about the importance of the work we do together and the impact we have on the lives of families in York Region. We can't do it alone.

Daniele Zanotti, President and CEO of United Way Greater Toronto, gave a special keynote encouraging us to 'disrupt' the way things have always been done and focus on new ways to meet gaps in our system.

Steve Pomeroy of Focus Consulting provided an abundance of information on what modernization means, end of operating agreements (EOA)/end of mortgage (EOM), collaboration and taking stock of our assets. Get a snapshot of Steve's modernization talk by clicking [here](#).

Afternoon sessions focused on board governance, asset management, business transformation, taking care of yourself and financial health. Presentations will be posted on the Information for Housing Providers section of the Region's website.

Thanks to all who attended and I'm looking forward to our work together!



## REGIONAL UPDATES


In March 2018, York Regional Council approved new income and asset limits for subsidized housing tenants/members and applicants. Council approved an income limit for applicants and tenants/members of \$80,000, an asset limit of \$75,000 for applicants, and an asset limit of \$150,000 for current tenants/members receiving a rent subsidy. Regional staff will collaborate with housing providers to implement the new policies. More information will be available over the coming months. There will be no impact on existing applicants or existing tenants/members until 2019.

### Decision Review Process (formerly Internal Review Process)

We have updated the internal review process. The NEW Decision Review Process came into effect on Monday, June 4, 2018. The process and timelines were updated to reflect regulatory requirements, ensure a fair and transparent process, create efficiencies and support positive relationships between housing providers and their tenants/members. The new Program Instruction - Decision Review Process and updated forms are now available on [york.ca/housing](http://york.ca/housing).

Housing Providers with questions about the new income and asset limits should contact their Program Co-ordinator for more information.





## MANAGING YOUR ASSESTS

The provincial government introduced the Social Housing Apartment Improvement Program (SHAIP). The Region received approximately \$17 million dollars in notional funding allocation. The funding comes from the province's Climate Action Plan. The source of funds available are generated from the province's carbon market auction sales each fiscal quarter for the duration of the program. The program has been broken into the following program years:

### SHAIP

Year 1 - 2017/18, eligible social housing apartment buildings with 150 units or more

Year 2-4 funding - 2018/19, 2019/20, 2020/21, eligible units with 100 units or more

The provincial government in cooperation with Housing Services Corporation (HSC) has also created the GreenON Social Housing Program to fund improvements which will reduce carbon emission to social housing apartment buildings with less than 100 units. This program was introduced in 2018 and must be completed by 2021 to receive the funding. The Region received an allocation of \$1,436,709 to distribute to eligible housing providers.

An expression of interest will be issued to all qualified housing providers for both programs in June. Housing providers will have the ability to submit an application for funding that best represents a reduction in carbon emissions within the program guidelines. An information session will be held at the end of June for eligible providers.

## UPDATED HOUSING SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE PORTFOLIO

Housing Access staff welcomed Susan Booth to the team earlier this year as a Housing Service Representative. Updated Housing Service Representative portfolios are as follows:

### Aurora, Markham, Stouffville and Vaughan

Susan Booth (ext. 72474)

### East Gwillimbury, Georgina and Newmarket

Eileen Caranci (ext. 72475)

### King and Richmond Hill

Ann Witt (ext. 72473)

### Special Priority Status applicants

Yvonne Farrell-Stinson (ext. 72472)

Bernadette Breen (ext. 72409)

As reported in our last newsletter, our Housing Service Representatives are conducting move-in ready assessments with applicants at the top of the wait list. We have reviewed the scope of the framework with several housing providers and will schedule meetings with remaining housing providers in the coming months.



## COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

### Have you heard about the Community Volunteer Income Tax Program (CVITP)?

The CVITP is a partnership between community organizations and the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA). Community organizations host free tax preparation clinics and arrange for volunteers to complete income tax and benefit returns for eligible individuals. The CRA provides a coordinator to guide the organizations as they deliver the program, and offers training and tax software to the volunteers.

Community Partnerships and Support Services was a host agency for the 2018 tax filing season, hosting seven tax preparation clinics throughout social housing sites in York Region. Using the CVTIP, 38 free tax returns were e-filed.

For more information call **Lisa Whitney, Community Development Coordinator 1-877-464-9675 ext. 73573**



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# LEARNING ALL THE TIME

## Hoarding and Decluttering

**Date:** June 14, 2018

**Time:** 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

**Cost:** FREE

**Where:** 62 Bayview Parkway, Trillium Room, Newmarket

Hoarding among older adults is becoming a serious psychiatric and community problem - and it is grossly under-detected and untreated. Increasingly, social service agencies are identifying older adults who are at risk of losing their tenancy due to hoarding, unclean, cluttered and unmaintained homes.

[Please contact your Program Coordinator if you are interested.](#)

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## ONPHA WEBINARS

### Should you Reconsider? Making Good Decisions under the HSA

**Date:** June 21, 2018

**Time:** 2 p.m. to 3 p.m.

**Cost:**

- Housing members: FREE (Registration still required)
- Associate, developing associate and service manager partners: \$50+HST
- Non-members: \$75+HST

Registration details coming soon

[LINK TO REGISTER](#)

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### Transforming Our Thinking on the Portable Housing Benefit

**Date:** September 12, 2018

**Time:** 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.

**Cost:** FREE

**Speakers:** Sheldon Laidman, Director, Housing and Social Services Department, City of Kingston

The portable housing benefit (PHB) is one of many tools introduced to housing administrators as an alternative to existing social housing programs to support meeting local housing needs.

In this webinar Sheldon will share the path that the City of Kingston has taken to pilot a PHB project with its local housing corporation (LHC). By piloting this program, the Service Manager and the LHC will be able to analyze the cost savings and potential benefits to the LHC as well as make a determination if households prefer to have the freedom and independence a PHB would allow and are able to find suitable housing in the city, prior to implementing the program system-wide.

From this webinar you will learn:

- How they got started- the rationale
- Developing assumptions, concept and approach
- Piloting the project with the LHC
- Criteria used for implementation
- Preliminary observations and outcomes
- Lessons learned

[LINK TO REGISTER](#)

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# THE CALENDAR

#### HOUSING PROVIDER ADVISORY TABLE

**Date:** September 13, 2018

**Time:** 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

**Who:** Board and Staff

**Where:** York Region Administrative Building, Seminar Room

#### HOUSING PROVIDER ADVISORY TABLE

**Date:** December 4, 2018

**Time:** 9:30 a.m.

**Where:** Landsberg/Lewis Housing Co-op