

Resolution No. COU-2024-112

Moved by Councillor Jeff Wheeldon

Seconded by Councillor Anne Butwell

Whereas Ontario is experiencing a housing crisis, with housing costs far exceeding affordable levels by any standard, including in Northumberland County; and

Whereas the prevalence of homelessness is quickly increasing beyond the capacity of local governments to create new emergency, transitional, or affordable housing; and

Whereas homelessness is a condition that can largely be prevented with adequate resources, but that nonetheless puts an increasing number of residents at risk of considerable harm or death; and

Whereas insufficient housing and social services fail not only to provide for those experiencing homelessness, but also cause significant economic costs to lower and upper tier municipalities as well as to the province in the form of higher policing, first responder, healthcare, and economic development costs, among others; and

Whereas insufficient housing and social services fail not only to provide for those experiencing homelessness, but also cause significant social costs in communities that experience social estrangement, insecurity, and fear associated with increased crime and visible drug use, all of which causes considerable social and political unrest; and

Whereas the Province of Ontario dictates the requirement for social services including emergency shelters, but limits their operation through insufficient funding, thereby causing said economic and social costs at the upper and lower tiers of municipal governance; and

Whereas the municipality of Brighton recognizes our moral and legal obligation (according to the mandates of our respective tiers) to provide adequate shelter and public safety for all residents, but are limited in our capacity to unilaterally do so by constrained finances; and

Whereas the Association of Municipalities of Ontario has requested a social and economic prosperity review, in recognition of these and other challenges faced by municipal governments as a result of insufficient funding;

Now therefore, be it resolved that the municipality of Brighton calls upon the Province of Ontario to significantly increase and sustain funding for housing, shelters, and other necessary social services to ensure ongoing and adequate levels of service to meet the needs of our residents; and

Be it further resolved that this resolution be forwarded to AMO; to all Ontario municipalities; to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario; to the Honourable

Paul Calandra, Minister for Municipal Affairs and Housing; and to the Honourable David Piccini, MPP for Northumberland - Peterborough South.

Carried