



Housing & Homelessness

Committee of the Whole:
Education session

February 14, 2024



Municipal Service System Manager: Housing & Homelessness

- In Ontario, community housing and homelessness prevention programs are co-funded, planned and administered by 47 Municipal Service System Managers.
- On behalf of the Region of Durham, the Department of Social Services is provincially legislated as the Service System Manager for housing and homelessness.
- This mandated role holds responsibility for system planning, program management and funding to provide housing options, and meet homelessness and homelessness prevention needs for the residents of Durham Region.
- Through our provincial association: Ontario Municipal Social Services Association (OMSSA) we work with the provincial and federal governments to improve access and affordability across the full spectrum of housing options in our communities.

Why we are here today:

- Municipalities are facing a crisis in housing and homelessness across Ontario.
- Encampments and visible homelessness are increasing in communities – every community in Durham.
- Shelters, warming centres and community housing units are at full capacity with supply not keeping up with demand.
- A mental health and addictions crisis, including opioids and fentanyl has compounded the challenge.
- Rental vacancies are low, and the cost of rent is unaffordable to many. Housing supply, prices, and mortgage renewals are resulting in more people being at risk of homelessness.
- The issue is complex with many root causes that must be addressed through strong stakeholder relationships, advocacy and innovative solutions.

Agenda

Housing:

- Ray Sullivan of Canadian Housing and Renewal Association
- Alan Robins, Director of Housing Services
- Gary Muller, Director of Affordable Housing Development & Renewal
- Graeme Hussey of Cahdco

Homelessness:

- Tim Richter, Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness
- Video: Tom's experience with homelessness
- Sahar Foroutani, Service System Manager