



January 31, 2024

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau  
Prime Minister of Canada  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Prime Minister:

**RE: Restoring Durham Region's Reaching Home Allocation,  
Our File: S06**

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**The Regional  
Municipality of  
Durham**

Corporate Services  
Department –  
Legislative Services  
Division

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**Alexander Harras  
M.P.A.  
Director of  
Legislative Services  
& Regional Clerk**

Council of the Region of Durham, at its meeting held on December 20, 2023, adopted the following recommendations of the Health & Social Services Committee:

“Whereas Durham Region, like other municipalities across Canada, is experiencing a homelessness crisis with homelessness in Durham increasing by 67 per cent from 2022;

And whereas the needs of unsheltered residents continue to outpace available supports;

And whereas Durham Region received notice that its funding allocation under the federal Reaching Home is decreasing by approximately 80 per cent by 2027-2028;

And whereas Reaching Home funding supports local agencies experiencing increasing demands and pressures including those delivering housing stability programs, respite beds and other emergency shelter operations;

And whereas the Reaching Home funding reduction will impact our community's most vulnerable residents.

Now therefore be it resolved that the Chair write a letter on behalf of Council to the Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities requesting an urgent revision to Durham Region's Reaching Home allocation to ensure that a minimum there is no reduction in the period of 2024-25 to 2027-28 from the \$4,956,923 funding amount committed in 2023-2024;

That staff be directed to include a request that Reaching Home be scaled up and made a permanent program be included in all federal 2024 budget consultation materials; and

That a copy of this motion and supporting letter be circulated to the Prime Minister, Federal Minister of Finance, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Ontario Municipal Social Services Association, Mayors and Regional Chairs of Ontario, Leader of the Opposition Parties, the local MPs and MPPs, and the local area municipalities in Durham Region.”

Please find enclosed a copy of supporting letter from John Henry, Regional Chair and CEO, for your information.

*Alexander Harras*

Alexander Harras,  
Director of Legislative Services & Regional Clerk

AH/ks

Enclosed

- c: Hon. Sean Fraser, Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities
- Hon. Chrystia Freeland, Federal Minister of Finance
- Carole Saab, CEO, Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)
- Brian Rosborough, Executive Director, Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
- Doug Ball, Executive Director, Ontario Municipal Social Services Association (OMSSA)
- Karen Redman, Chair, Mayors and Regional Chairs of Ontario
- Hon. Pierre Poilievre, Leader of the Conservative Party of Canada
- Jagmeet Singh, Leader of the New Democratic Party
- Yves-François Blanchet, Leader of the Bloc Québécois
- Marit Stiles, Leader of the Official Opposition Parties
- Mark Holland, MP (Ajax)
- Kerry-Lynn D. Findlay, MP (Durham)
- Jamie Schmale, MP (Haliburton/Kawartha Lakes/Brock)
- Philip Lawrence, MP (Northumberland/Peterborough South)
- Colin Carrie MP (Oshawa)
- Jennifer O’Connell, MP (Pickering/Uxbridge)
- Ryan Turnbull, MP (Whitby)
- Patrice Barnes, MPP (Ajax)
- Todd McCarthy, MPP (Durham)
- Laurie Scott, MPP (Haliburton/Kawartha Lakes/Brock)
- David Piccini, MPP (Northumberland/Peterborough South)
- Jennifer French, MPP (Oshawa)
- Peter Bethlenfalvy, MPP (Pickering/Uxbridge)

Lorne Coe, MPP (Whitby)  
N. Cooper, Clerk, Town of Ajax  
F. Lamanna, Clerk, Township of Brock  
J. Gallagher, Clerk, Municipality of Clarington  
M. Medeiros, Clerk, City of Oshawa  
S. Cassel, Clerk, City of Pickering  
R. Walton, Acting Clerk, Township of Scugog  
D. Leroux, Clerk, Township of Uxbridge  
C. Harris, Clerk, Town of Whitby  
J. Henry, Regional Chair and CEO  
S. Danos-Papaconstantinou, Commissioner of Social Services



Via Email

January 18, 2024

The Honourable Sean Fraser  
Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6  
[sean.fraser@parl.gc.ca](mailto:sean.fraser@parl.gc.ca)

**The Regional  
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**John Henry**  
Regional Chair and CEO

**Re: Restoration of Reaching Home Funding**

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Dear Minister:

Like other municipalities across Canada, Durham Region is experiencing a homelessness crisis. As outlined in our [Addressing Homelessness and Related Challenges](#) policy paper, homelessness in Durham Region increased by 67 per cent from last year.

To help support the growing need, the Region is advancing various affordable and supportive housing opportunities that align with our [At Home in Durham](#) plan. As local shelters operate at capacity, I am proud of the actions taken by Durham Region to address the urgent need. This year Council approved the purchase of a former long-term care home to provide 45 shelter beds and the Region is opening, for the first time, a winter warming centre at our Regional Headquarters.

I gratefully acknowledge the federal government's recent decision to provide a one-time top-up of \$100 million to Reaching Home in 2023-24. This additional one-time funding will support the critical needs of the unsheltered community, during the coldest months of the year.

Despite bold action, the need continues to outpace investments.

As we work to address this emergency with all hands-on deck, we were deeply disappointed to receive our federal Reaching Home funding allocation letter indicating a funding decrease of 6 per cent in 2024 and 80 per cent in 2026 for local agencies helping deliver housing stability programs, respite beds and other emergency shelter operations. The services that our local agencies deliver provide much needed support for Durham's homeless population. We know that such a drastic decrease in funding will have negative impacts on an already vulnerable population.

On behalf of the Durham Region Council, I implore you to revisit Durham's allocation of funds under Reaching Home and to at a minimum maintain the annual funding level of \$4,956,923 for the duration of the agreement. This federal funding will be a lifeline for local agencies delivering essential services over the next five years.

With the number of unsheltered individuals across Canada experiencing unprecedented growth, we also request that total program funding be increased immediately and that Reaching Home be made permanent beyond 2028. I am confident that the life-changing impacts of the \$100 million one-time funding increase in 2023 will demonstrate the value of a more robust program.

Working together, we can put an end to this crisis and help one of Canada's most vulnerable populations, in their most desperate time of need.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours truly,

Original signed by

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John Henry  
Regional Chair and CEO

c: Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada  
Chrystia Freeland, Minister of Finance of Canada  
Durham Regional Council  
Mayor and Regional Chairs of Ontario  
Durham Local Area Municipalities  
Federation of Canadian Municipalities  
Association of Municipalities of Ontario  
Ontario Municipal Social Services Association  
Durham Region MPs and MPPs  
Elaine Baxter-Trahair, CAO  
Stella Danos-Papaconstantinou, Commissioner of Social Services