



February 10, 2026

Natalie Pierre, MPP Burlington  
306-3027 Harvester Rd.  
Burlington, ON L7N 3G7

CC:

- Hon. Doug Ford, Premier
- Hon. Rob Flack Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
- Marianne Meed Ward, Burlington Mayor
- Effie Triantafilopoulos, MPP North Burlington
- Hon. Karina Gould, MP Burlington
- Hon. Adam van Koeverden, MP North Burlington

Dear Ms. Pierre,

CFUW Burlington is writing to ask whether the Ontario Government is making housing and homelessness a priority and whether it is prepared to:

- Contribute more funding to adequately address the homelessness crisis in Ontario.
- Enact legislation to measurably decrease the number of homeless individuals and families in Ontario.
- Listen actively to the concerns and suggestions of a broader constituency when considering ways to address the homelessness crisis in Ontario.

The Ontario government is aware of the growing homelessness crisis in recent years. The numbers are out there for all to see:

- In 2025, 85,000 people were known to be homeless in Ontario - a 33% increase in 3 years.
- Most homeless people live in urban centres, but rural areas have seen a 150% increase and Northern Ontario communities have seen a 206% increase.
- Most people facing homelessness are adults, but 1/4 are children (0-15) and youth (16-24).
- Refugee homelessness has grown more than 600%.
- In some communities, 50% of the homeless are Indigenous peoples.
- Homelessness will grow to 300,000 in ten years, without innovative approaches and actions.

While Federal and Municipal governments have increased their housing contributions, the provincial government's share of housing and homelessness funding has been stagnant. The Ontario government spends approximately 3% of their revenue stream on housing and homelessness. Meanwhile Municipalities have been shouldering a greater share of the burden. Recent research tells us that to truly address the housing and homelessness problem, we will need to spend \$1 billion over ten years to create 75,000 affordable and

supportive housing units, and \$2 billion over eight years to house people living in encampments. Right now, the government is spending just 4% of that. Is the Ontario government prepared to spend more?

With due respect, current Ontario legislation and policies do not appear to be getting the job done.

Bill 6 - *The Safe Municipalities Act (June 2025)* displaces and criminalizes people living in encampments, moving them with often no place to go. This legislation does not get the homeless into stable, affordable housing. A 2024 Abacus Poll found taxpayers in Ontario preferred a housing-focused approach over encampment action.

Bill 60 - *Fighting Delays and Building Faster (November 2025)* has resulted in a weakening of tenants' rights, making it easier for property owners to evict them. This legislation does not focus on providing stable and affordable housing. It puts vulnerable people at risk of losing their homes and leads to increased homelessness.

*The Building Faster Fund (2023)* is not moving the needle fast enough to achieve the government's goal of building 1.5 million homes by 2031. Building construction has stalled in Ontario, with the province reaching just 26% of its housing target. *The Building Faster Fund* needs more than a "tweak," to quote Premier Ford. Is the Ontario government prepared to enact legislation that makes a real change?

Homelessness is a massive, multi-sector challenge. One set of Cabinet Ministers is not going to solve that challenge. The larger community has innovative ideas. We need voices with varying perspectives, working together to make real change. We were disappointed to see that a partisan piece of legislation, Bill 28 *Homelessness Ends with Housing*, did not pass in the Legislature in October 2025. One provision of the bill aimed to set up a provincial strategy to end homelessness in 10 years. Ontario is one of the few provinces without a strategic plan. Is the Ontario government prepared to broaden the conversation and listen to a range of community voices?

The Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) is a world-wide, national, and provincial organization, which includes 49-55 Ontario clubs with 6,000+ women members. We advocate for the advancement of women and girls, promote education, and work to influence public policy at the provincial level. In May 2025, our clubs studied, voted on, and passed a Resolution, *Affirming Housing as a Human Right and Social Good*.

Our Resolutions form the basis of our advocacy efforts. We look forward to discussing the homelessness issue and other areas of concern when we meet with you soon.

Respectfully,

Ruth Levkoe, President

CFUW Burlington