



TO: Brampton Mayor, Patrick Brown and Members of Brampton City Council

RE: Housing and Homelessness in Brampton

DATE: March 9, 2022

The Peel Alliance to End Homelessness (PAEH) is providing this letter of support for Sylvia Menezes Robert's request to declare a housing emergency in Brampton and take immediate steps towards increasing the amount of deeply affordable housing stock.

PAEH, a community collaborative of agencies from across the Region of Peel working together to end homelessness in our communities; want to ensure that homelessness is rare, brief and non-reoccurring.

The growing affordable housing crisis in Peel Region and its municipalities has placed unprecedented pressures on the shelter system. Occupancy levels and longer lengths of stays have created conditions for clients and staff that are challenging. The advent of Covid-19 even further exacerbated the crisis, which saw individuals losing their incomes as well as homes. We also know that Covid-19 took an incredible toll on Brampton's lower-income residents.

We commend Brampton's commitment to address its housing goals through the "Housing Brampton" strategy, as well as introducing and implementing initiatives to provide affordable housing stock and advocate for the right housing. As Brampton's population grows, the concern is that a production of deeply affordable housing will not keep up with demand and create more homeless situations. We do not want to see the addition or expansion of shelters, or shelter beds as this only manages homelessness and places a burden on other social services including hospitals. The only way to end homelessness is to provide housing with adequate supports.

The Region of Peel and PAEH are partners in the development of a Coordinated Access System, to better match individuals and families experiencing homelessness to services and housing based on their needs. Over 650 people listed as actively homeless on the Region's By Name List, require permanent and supportive housing. An increased investment is needed to improve housing outcomes, especially for those who are experiencing homelessness.

We appreciate the hard work by the Region to address the homelessness crisis, but as we move into a post-Covid world, deeply affordable housing must be a priority in Brampton and the rest of Peel.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to delegate on this important issue and we look forward to working with the City of Brampton to advance deeply affordable housing solutions for our most vulnerable citizens

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

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