



September 27, 2023

Ms Claudia Chender, MLA
33 Ochterloney Street
Suite 360
Dartmouth NS B2Y 4P5

Dear Ms Chender,

Recently released statistics show a growth in homelessness (Affordable Housing Association of Nova Scotia: 1,035 people actively homeless in HRM (September 19, 2023) and Sleeping Rough Survey:178 (July 2023)). As a downtown Dartmouth Church, we are all too aware of the situation of people who are unhoused and who are precariously housed. They come to our door for help and we also meet them in the programming we offer with partners. We are deeply concerned.

We have already written to the responsible ministers and the Premier to express our thankfulness for past efforts but also to call upon the government to respond to the urgent need for emergency housing as well as deeply affordable housing in Dartmouth. The emergency housing offered needs to be more than an emergency shelter that only operates on a nightly basis. This does not offer people the stability and security that people need to leave their tents and tiny shelters.

Time has shown us that the private sector has no interest in providing deeply affordable housing and it becomes the role of government to ensure that there is a sufficient housing stock to meet the needs of people with low incomes. Although the recent announcement of 222 public housing units for the entire Province is most welcome, it will not meet the need. We need the government to make further investments including with other partners in HRM.

We are writing to you as a MLA for Dartmouth as we are sure that you are dealing with these issues in your constituency role. We hope that you will be able to urge the government to undertake these actions as well as to work with other partners to help resolve the housing crisis.

Yours sincerely,

Wanda Baker Hayward
Chair
Grace United Church Unified Board