



September 27, 2023

Honourable John Lohr
Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing
P.O. Box 216
Halifax NS B3J 2M4

Dear Minister,

As of September 19, 2023 the Affordable Housing Association of Nova Scotia' statistics show that there are 1,035 people actively homeless in HRM. While the July 2023 Sleeping Rough Survey in July found 178 individual sleeping in the rough in areas surveyed. Both of these statistics have shown growth since the last time these statistics were released.

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 are thankful for the Out of the Cold shelter, the housing at the former DoubleTree by Hilton and Future Inn and the wrap around services offered but the housing need has ballooned to include people who are employed or have been priced out of the housing market.

We urge your department in concert with the Department of Community Services 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.

The private sector will not provide deeply affordable housing and so it becomes the role of government to ensure that there is a sufficient housing stock to meet the needs of people with low incomes. We are pleased about the recent announcement of 222 public housing units for the entire Province but this is not enough. We urge you to make further investments including with other partners in HRM.

Yours sincerely,

Wanda Baker Hayward

Chair

Grace United Church Unified Board