



Called to Celebrate Grace...

Deep Spirituality, Bold Discipleship, Daring Justice...

September 26, 2023

Mr. Sam Austin
Councillor, Dartmouth Centre
sam.austin@halifax.ca

Dear Councillor,

We know that you are well aware of the housing situation in Dartmouth as we imagine, that you, like us, have people who are unhoused and who are precariously housed come to you for help. We are deeply concerned.

We are aware that the provincial government constitutionally has the primary responsibility for housing. We have already written to the responsible ministers and the Premier as well as MLAs (as well as MLAs from Dartmouth) 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.

We want to express our appreciation for the work that the Council has been doing for people who are homeless. We want you to know that we have been adding our voices to yours in calling the provincial government to assume greater responsibility. We hope that you will continue to work with partners to help resolve the housing crisis.

Yours sincerely,

Wanda Baker Hayward
Chair
Grace United Church Unified Board