

AFFORDABLE HOUSING STRATEGY CONSULTATIONS LAUNCHED

McGuinty Government Seeks Input On Long-Term Plan

NEWS

June 3, 2009

Ontario is launching consultations on a long-term affordable housing strategy that will improve access to adequate, suitable and affordable housing.

Housing partners and the public are being asked for input on how to improve and streamline housing services. By visiting ontario.ca/housingstrategy (<http://www.mah.gov.on.ca/LTAHS/ENG/ltahs-eng.html>), launched today, Ontarians interested in sharing their advice can learn more about the consultation process, dates and locations of public sessions and submit their input online.

Developing a long-term affordable housing strategy is part of *Breaking the Cycle: Ontario's Poverty Reduction Strategy* (<http://www.growingstronger.ca/english/default.asp>), which will reduce the number of children living in poverty by 25 per cent over 5 years — lifting 90,000 kids out of poverty — by boosting benefits for low-income families and enhancing publicly-funded education.

QUOTES

"We want to hear creative ideas on how to make affordable housing accessible to everyone who needs it. The Ontario government, together with our government partners and the housing sector, will look at ways to improve the delivery of housing programs."

- Jim Watson, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

"Affordable housing is extremely important for ensuring the stability and well-being of Ontario's families. This another step forward in the implementation of our poverty reduction strategy and our efforts to improve the quality of life for all Ontarians."

- Deb Matthews, Minister of Children and Youth Services

QUICK FACTS

- Ontario, in partnership with the federal government, has committed \$1.2 billion for social and affordable housing infrastructure initiatives as part of Budget 2009.
- As part of the Poverty Reduction Strategy the province has provided \$100 million in grants to Service Managers to help them make urgent repairs to social housing.
- Every new unit of affordable housing results in two years of construction jobs.

REFERRAL TO _____
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