

CONCLUSION

This Report Card has outlined some of the issues facing the Region. The face of homelessness in our community is changing. We are not solely focused on those who are visible on the streets. In Peel, we are increasingly dealing with ordinary families and citizens who are losing the battle to make ends meet. The proportion of those in our shelters that are working is a clear reflection of this trend. Failure to adequately identify and address the root causes of homelessness will only result in the costly provision of services to citizens after they become homeless.

We are focussing on cost effective programs and services that increase capacity. That means we need to work with our partners in government and in the community, to intervene with those currently housed, including those living in assisted housing, to prevent instability from occurring. And we work with those same partners to respond to the crises we have been unable to prevent.

Over the next year, we will assess in more detail what is contributing to the cycle of poverty, what is causing family and support breakdown. We will continue to improve service coordination and promote housing options. We will enhance our ability to measure our success in terms of how our initiatives and policy are achieving increased capacity.

If we are to remain a healthy and self-reliant, vibrant community, the root causes of homelessness and poverty must be addressed.