

2018 Housing & Homelessness Annual Report

Message from Warden John Logel

The 2018 Housing and Homelessness Report highlights the progress made by Northumberland County and community partners over the past year to build a robust and responsive housing and homelessness system.

As we reflect on efforts throughout 2018 to advance the objectives established in the County's 10-Year Housing and Homelessness Plan, Council is inspired by the progress being made to respond to housing needs in our community. This progress is all the more notable when we consider the ongoing challenges resulting from a limited rental housing supply and rising housing prices. Ending long-term homelessness in Northumberland is a complex and collaborative goal that requires continuous dialogue, innovation and action.

This past year, we have undertaken a variety of programs and initiatives that have allowed us to make great strides towards this goal. In 2018, we completed our second homelessness enumeration, providing us with valuable insight into the needs of our community's homeless population. Through collaboration between community partners, member municipalities, developers, landlords and residents, we produced a draft framework for the Northumberland County Affordable Housing Strategy, which will be finalized in 2019. With the development of essential frameworks such as these and ongoing strategic investments through the Social Infrastructure Fund (SIF), and the Consolidated Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI) for programs such as Housing Support Program, Renovate Northumberland and ReNew It Program, we have continued to make positive change in our community. This report takes a look at these programs and services, spotlighting key accomplishments and statistics from 2018, and highlighting the community partnerships that were essential to delivering outcomes.

County Council is incredibly proud of the collaborative efforts over the past year to strengthen the community's response to housing and homelessness challenges. As we look to develop a renewed plan throughout 2019, we look forward to further milestones including the completion of the Affordable Housing Strategy as well as the development of a Social Housing Master Plan and the Northumberland County Housing Corporation Asset Management Plan – plans that will contain important insight and provide comprehensive strategic direction to help us achieve our objectives.

Access to safe and affordable housing is vital. Northumberland County looks forward to continued partnership with community agencies, in 2019 and beyond, to achieve new milestones in fulfillment of the principle that a home for everyone is key.



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Alternative formats of this document are available upon request.

Section 1: The Northumberland Context

Where we've come from ...

2018 was a year of growth for Northumberland as we worked together to envision the future housing and homelessness systems that will provide needed supports and services to our community. In 2018 we learned more about the critical elements of a successful and responsive housing and homelessness system through our second homelessness enumeration which took place April 16-20, 2018, the completion of a comprehensive needs assessment for the Northumberland County Affordable Housing Strategy and the continued push for a coordinated response system to homelessness.



Throughout 2018, Northumberland County Community and Social Services (NCCSS) has expanded housing and homelessness supports and programs through continued investment of Social Infrastructure Fund (SIF) and Consolidated Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI) dollars. With these investments, Northumberland County has been successful in the continuation of Renovate Northumberland and the Housing Support Program providing monthly rental subsidies to support households reach housing stability. These funds have further supported family homelessness diversion programming, landlord engagement and case management services across the County.

Despite these efforts, the rental housing shortage continues to impact our ability to support community members and clients seeking housing security. The continued efforts to finalize the Northumberland County Affordable Housing Strategy; commitment to seek opportunities for the expansion of rent-geared-to-income (RGI) and market rental housing through Northumberland County Housing Corporation (NCHC); and the preservation of existing RGI housing through non-profit housing providers are key priorities of the County.

In recognition of the interconnectedness of the housing and homelessness systems, NCCSS remains committed to seeking local solutions to support housing retention and eviction prevention to keep people experiencing housing insecurity housed. NCCSS is committed to seeking opportunities to expand the rental and affordable housing stock across the County. NCCSS also remains committed to continued collaborations with community agencies, non-profit and affordable housing providers, member municipalities and local committees.

Section 1: The Northumberland Context (cont'd ...)

Yes, in our backyard ...

Over 2018, Northumberland County continued to raise awareness of the housing realities throughout our community. Some key realities include:

- The average market rent in Northumberland is more expensive than neighbouring communities, including the City of Peterborough, the City of Kawartha Lakes and Hastings County.
- The average resale price of a home in 2018 was \$451,720, affordable only to households in the 8th income decile or higher.
- The waitlist for social housing in Northumberland is now approaching 9 years in some communities.
- According to CMHC, there has been a decrease in the number of private market rental units between 2017 and 2018 (by 6), with the total number of private market units increasing by only 9 since 2015.

Northumberland County's Affordable Housing Strategy looked at local data collected through our homelessness enumeration, waitlist statistics, local rental listings; custom data tabulations based on Statistics Canada 2016 Census; and data available through the CMHC. Based on this analysis, the Affordable Housing Strategy found that:

- 22.2% (7,925 households) of households are spending more than 30% on housing costs.
- 8.7% (3,115 households) of households are spending more than 50% on housing costs.
- The centralized waitlist has increased by approximately 260% in 10 years.
- Northumberland has a larger and growing proportion of smaller households (1-2 persons) than Ontario, but has a much larger proportion of single detached dwellings.
- The average market rent is not affordable to many low income households.

Access to rental housing in Northumberland is limited, particularly in larger urban areas, where the rental market is characterized by high rents and low vacancy/availability rates. It is notable that in all three municipalities where data is available, rates are on track with, or lower than, the provincial average.

Rental Market Costs and Vacancies in Northumberland County		
Location	Average Market Rent for 1-bedroom unit	Vacancy Rate
Cobourg	\$ 865	0.4%
Port Hope	\$ 1100	1.7%
Brighton	\$ 752	1.1%

(Source: Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation., "Housing Market Information Portal, Primary Rental Market Statistics", accessed May 7, 2019, <https://www03.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/hmiportal/en/#Profile/7165/3/Cobourg>)

Section 1: The Northumberland Context (cont'd ...)

In December 2018, there were a total of 93 Individuals and 10 Families on the By-Name List.



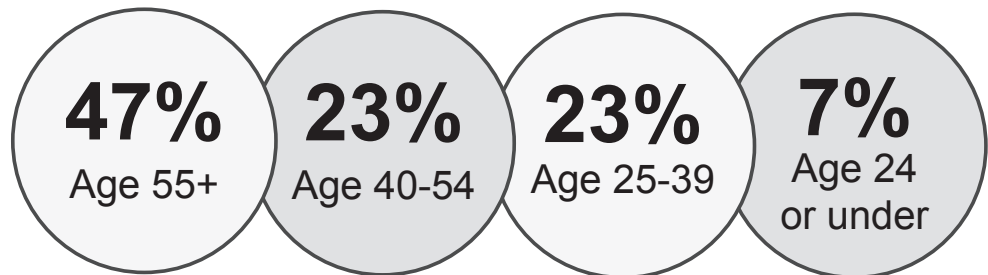
25

new households entered
onto the By-Name List in 2018

Section 1: The Northumberland Context (cont'd ...)



Households on Waitlist for Subsidized Housing in 2018



Applicants indicate on their application which housing locations (one or more) that they would like to be considered for. Approximate wait time for social housing varies depending on locations selected.



- Colborne — 6% of applicants, up to 4 years wait time
- Hastings — 3% of applicants, up to 3 years wait time
- Warkworth — 3% of applicants, up to 3 years wait time

Referrals made to other services for assistance based on Rent-Geared-to-Income (RGI) applications received in 2018:



Section 2: Measuring against our 10-year objectives

(for full list of objectives see appendix)

Affordable Housing

Creation and maintenance of affordable housing stock

Construction continued on a 31 unit affordable housing build in Cobourg geared to seniors and people with disability. (HHP Objective 1)

- Completed a draft framework for an Affordable Housing Strategy and continued the development of final strategies into early 2019. (HHP Objective 10-11)
 - Including engagement with residents, developers, member municipalities, community agencies, landlords and County staff and the presentation of the Framework for an Affordable Housing Strategy. (HHP Objective 4, 8-11)
- Entered into a service agreement with Habitat for Humanity Northumberland for the ongoing administration of the Home Ownership Revolving Fund for the continued creation of affordable home ownership opportunities.

Investments in existing social housing stock

- Engaged in initial planning for the creation of a Social Housing Master Plan, and an Asset Management Plan for the Northumberland County Housing Corporation (NCHC) to guide future planning and portfolio management as both the sole shareholder of the NCHC and the service manager responsible for social housing planning. (HHP Objective 4)
- Additional capital investments made by the County into the NHCH included: (HHP Objective 4)
 - Unit refurbishments (bathroom, kitchen and flooring)
 - Common area improvements including painting, landscaping and ceiling tile replacement
 - Reshingle of roof at 41 Wellington Street
 - Parking lot repaving
 - Balcony Refurbishment
 - Sewage line work
 - Security camera installation
- Application for GreenON Social Housing Fund for energy efficiency retrofits for the NCHC and non-profit housing providers. (HHP Objective 4)

Capacity for non-profit housing providers

- Continued implementation of a Subsidy Surplus Sharing policy for non-profit social housing providers to encourage sound business practices by allowing non-profits to retain a portion of their surplus subsidy payments. (HHP Objective 4)

Section 2: Measuring against our 10-year objectives

(cont'd ... for full list of objectives see appendix)

- Annual Technical Advisory Group meeting with non-profit providers, seeking strategic input into the renewal of the ten year housing and homelessness plan and legal issues training focusing on human rights accommodations and cannabis legalization. (HHP Objective 4 & 24)
- Continued support to non-profit housing providers in implementing asset management practices through ongoing monitoring of Asset Planner software and annual capital investments (HHP Objective 4).
- Support to the Board of Directors of non-profit housing providers in strategic planning for end of operating agreements/end of mortgages. (HHP Objective 4).
- Completed annual operational reviews for 3 housing providers.
- Sought the creation of a Non-Profit and Service Level Standard Reserve Account to maintain levy dollars currently allocated to non-profit housing providers to support the sustainment of social housing post-end of operating agreements/mortgages beginning in 2019. (HHP Objective 4)

Emergency Housing

Homelessness system planning

- Completed full procurement process to select agency able to provide emergency shelter to adults within Northumberland, and able to provide a housing first approach to clients. Following this procurement process, Transition House was the successful proponent. (HHP Objective 6 & 7)
- Worked with the Board of Directors of Transition House to develop modernized services within the emergency shelter providing a low barrier, transparent and efficient services to those with the deepest needs, within the re-opened emergency shelter (HHP Objective 6 & 7)
- Continued to lead and develop a coordinated response with our partners through the Homelessness Coordinated Response Team (HCRT) ensuring that the people experiencing homelessness are offered support and services based on priorities and resources available. (HHP Objective 7)
- HCRT agreed to use one objective triage and assessment Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool (VI SPDAT). This tool is a survey administered both to individuals and families to determine risk and prioritization when providing assistance to people experiencing homelessness and people at-risk of homelessness. (HHP Objective 7)

Section 2: Measuring against our 10-year objectives

(cont'd ... for full list of objectives see appendix)

Homelessness system responses

- Reviewed Home Share program following successful pilot and developed future improvements, to increase the geographical coverage to be County wide and to remove required age for participants, to increase access for all women.
- Created diversion training and tools for system partners to increase consistency and knowledge within the community. (HHP Objective 7 & 15)
- Improved the tracking and data collection requirements for CHPI funded programs to include customized and qualitative data tracking requirements to enable further analysis of homeless population demographics and identify where services have the most impact.
- HCRT updated its membership in 2018 to include Cobourg Police Services and Rebound Child and Youth Services at the table. HCRT also updated its Terms of Reference and the supporting suite of documents in 2018 to ensure that there was a consistent package of information that all agencies were using (HHP Objective 7)
- Two staff members and one community member completed SPDAT 'train the trainer' training in order to be able to facilitate training sessions in Northumberland County to expand the front line agency members who are able to use this tool with individuals and families who are experiencing homelessness.
- Northumberland County facilitated six community agencies to have a staff member obtain the RentSmart trainers certification to be able to offer sessions across the County for any tenant or prospective tenant (HHP Objective 15 & 24)

Municipal Planning

Collaboration with Member Municipalities

- Consulted with member municipalities through the Affordable Housing Strategy, to begin identifying possible opportunities for municipal-led investments in affordable housing, striking a working group with representation from 3 member municipalities to review recommendations coming out of the strategy. (HHP Objective 10)
- Engaged with senior leadership and planners of member municipalities to discuss plans for the creation of an affordable housing strategy. (HHP Objective 10 and 11)
- Partnered with the Municipality of Port Hope and the Town of Cobourg in submitting applications for the Development Charges Rebate Program.

Section 2: Measuring against our 10-year objectives

(cont'd ... for full list of objectives see appendix)

Service Provision and Collaboration

Eviction Prevention Model of Social Housing

- Transitioned to an eviction prevention model of social housing, developed tools and processes to guide tenant relations aligning with eviction prevention model. (HHP Objective 15 & 24)
- Initiated the development of a housing retention framework and policies to support eviction prevention delivery of social housing. (HHP Objective 15 & 24)
- Continued meeting with Facilities Department staff and hosted a joint training with Housing Services and Facilities to support housing retention delivery of social housing within the NCHC by both Facilities and Housing. (HHP Objective 15 & 24)

Tenant Engagement Programming

- Continued providing tenant engagement program throughout NCHC properties focusing on health promotion, seniors' engagement and children's programming and the distribution of fresh produce to tenants in partnership with Food4All.
- Partnered with the Port Hope Northumberland Community Health Centre to deliver summer programming for children at NCHC properties and seniors programming throughout the year, along with exploring options for expanding programming.

Community Agency Collaboration

- Community agencies throughout Northumberland form the composition of the Northumberland Affordable Housing Committee (NAHC). Northumberland County remains an active partner of NAHC.
 - NAHC organized all candidates meetings focused specifically on ensuring candidates would address the local need for affordable housing. NAHC will continue these efforts leading up to the 2019 federal election. (HHP Objective 21)
 - NAHC continues as an advisor for the Affordable Housing Development Group. NAHC has been a key voice in promoting the local need for rental housing. NAHC has worked with Northumberland County on a "Yes in my Backyard" campaign to support the creation of rental units across the county. (HHP Objective 21)
- Community collaboration continues to be a central theme throughout homelessness response and services throughout the County. This is demonstrated through the community response when the emergency shelter closed unexpectedly in late 2017. Community agencies came together, and collaborated to ensure that all available services were directed to the most vulnerable people in the community. Collaboration continued through the holiday and New Year period with daily and weekly conference with agencies finding community focused solutions to offer support.

Section 2: Measuring against our 10-year objectives

(cont'd ... for full list of objectives see appendix)

- Following a fire and subsequent evacuation at 48 Wellington Street in Spring 2018, the community and agencies quickly responded with practical support and assistance to 24 families who were immediately homeless. Northumberland County took a coordination role in this response, and worked with community members and agencies to identify priorities and focus resources.

Regional Collaboration

- Staff participated in quarterly regional housing and homelessness meetings with the City of Kawartha Lakes and the City of Peterborough to share resources, best practices, and provide support on joint funding applications. (HHP Objective 17)
- Staff participated in quarterly regional homelessness meetings with the CELHIN Service Manager Steering Committee. (HHP Objective 17)
- Staff, working with the local service managers in City of Kawartha Lakes-Haliburton and City of Peterborough worked to support and utilize the regional housing coordinator position (which was developed through this regional collaboration and funded for the three areas through the CELHIN.) The Regional Housing Coordinator has work plans that are determined annually by the service managers to support key priority projects in each municipality. Staff also supported with the employing agency (FourCast) to develop a new job description to fill a vacancy, and was involved in supporting the recruitment process to fill the position. (HHP Objective 17)
- Staff participated in regional service manager networks to share resources, best practices and to navigate changing provincial and federal funding landscapes. (HHP Objective 17)

Northumberland County Housing Corporation Governance

- Review of existing governance model within the NCHC, begin process of electing a new Board of Directors representing a diverse range of skillsets, alongside a refreshed administrative model, to support a vibrant and strategically positioned local housing corporation. (HHP Objectives 3 & 4)

Rental Subsidies

- Continued the Housing Support Program using Social Infrastructure Fund (SIF) Housing Allowances and Rent Supplements providing monthly rent subsidies to low income households in private rental agreements. (HHP Objective 15 & 24)
 - These programs have served households in all municipalities throughout the County and provide deeper subsidies than historically have been allowed.
 - A key component of the program is ongoing case management on housing stabilization to support households in transitioning out of the program.

Section 2: Measuring against our 10-year objectives

(cont'd ... for full list of objectives see appendix)

- Referrals from the social housing waitlist were made for both the Housing Support Program as well as the Housing Allowances delivered by the Ministry of Finance through the Investment in Affordable Housing – Extension program. (HHP Objective 15 & 24)

Support for Homeowners

- Re-investment in Home Ownership programming with Habitat for Humanity Northumberland, completing 4 new homes in the County through SIF funding, and other Habitat builds through a new Service Agreement for the ongoing re-investment of the Home Ownership Revolving Fund. (HHP Objective 15)
- Expansion of Renovate Northumberland, a program supporting low to mid-income earning homeowners to make critical repairs to their homes, supported through SIF funding and administered in partnership with Habitat for Humanity Northumberland. (HHP Objective 15)
- Continuation of ReNew It Program with Habitat for Humanity Northumberland, providing interest-free loans to homeowners to make repairs to their home, broadening the criteria to include capital repairs, in addition to accessibility repairs. (HHP Objective 14 & 15)

Outreach, Education and Evaluation

Raising Awareness

- Published results from the 2018 Registry Week, providing key information on households experiencing homelessness in Northumberland County (HHP Objective 21)
- Council Proclamation recognizing November 22, 2018 as Housing Awareness Day in Northumberland County. (HHP Objective 21)
- 'Yes, in our backyard' awareness and media campaign outlining the housing realities in Northumberland and ways to help. (HHP Objective 21)

Community Presentations and Training

- Provided presentations throughout the year to increase understanding of housing and homelessness services offered within the County and to raise awareness of the housing realities in our community. (HHP Objective 21 & 25)
- Presented the Affordable Housing Strategy Framework to Northumberland County Council as a key deliverable to the Northumberland County Affordable Housing Strategy. (HHP Objective 21)
 - Presented the Framework to the Council of the Municipality of Port Hope as information. (HHP Objective 21)
- Presented to all member municipalities ahead of the 2018 Registry Week to provide an overview of the state of homelessness in Northumberland. (HHP Objective 21)

Section 2: Measuring against our 10-year objectives

(cont'd ... for full list of objectives see appendix)

Landlord Engagement

- As part of the development of the Affordable Housing Strategy, consulted with local landlords, property management companies and developers to raise awareness for the need of more rental housing. (HHP Objective 24)
- Through the existing rent supplement programs, worked with private landlords to support successful tenancies through ongoing communication with the landlord and tenant along with and annual inspections of the unit. (HHP Objective 24)
- Worked with local not for profit agency to plan investment for a landlord liaison position to support improved communications and working relationships between individual tenants and landlords (HHP Objective 24)

Engagement with Indigenous Organizations

- Enhanced relations with off-reserve Indigenous organizations to support the increased availability of culturally competent and relevant programming within Northumberland County, including the Ontario Aboriginal Housing Services and the Nogojiwanong Friendship Centre. (HHP Objective 7, 12 & 22)

Purposeful Engagement with Service Agencies

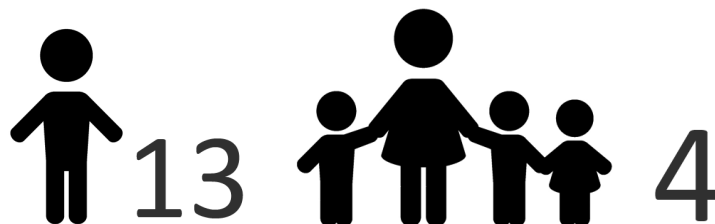
- Participated or led community committees such as the 20,000 Homes Advisory Committee, Thrive Northumberland, Home Share Northumberland Community Advisory Committee, Green Wood Coalition's Persons with Lived Experience Community Advisory Group, the Northumberland Affordable Housing Committee, Landlord Engagement Strategy and the Situation Table. (HHP Objective 7, 12, 15, 24 & 25)
- Engaged with service agencies to review service agreement reporting requirements. (HHP Objective 15)
- Engaged with service agencies through the development of the Affordable Housing Strategy, including through representation on the Working Group tasked with guiding and reviewing proposed recommendations. (HHP Objective 8 & 12)

Section 3: Establishing our Impact

2017		2018
80	# households from waitlist housed	44
39	# recipients in IAH-E Housing Allowance Program while on waitlist	43
489 \$335,690	# households received a total of ... through the Shelter Benefit	270 \$202,006
229	# moved to long-term housing (from homelessness or transitional housing)	108
12	# moved from emergency shelter to long-term housing	9
230	# at risk of homelessness stabilized by ...	143
112	• utility arrears	84
102	• rent arrears	49
153	• last month's rent deposit	90
5	• utility deposit	5
0	• bed bug treatment	3
88	• moving expenses	29
197	# served by County-funded Enhanced Homelessness Support Worker Programs	286
99 3,652	# people provided with emergency housing by Transition House including total # Hostel Days (Jan-Oct)	48 803
136 786	# people served by Salvation Army Hostel Program including total # Hostel Days	167 3,679
29	# people supported to find housing by Housing Locator (Landlord Engagement Strategy)	21

Section 3: Establishing our Impact (cont'd ...)

Total number housed
from the By-Name List
in 2018



In 2018, **52** households were provided with **Rent-Geared-to-Income** assistance through a **Rent Supplement Agreement** with a private landlord.

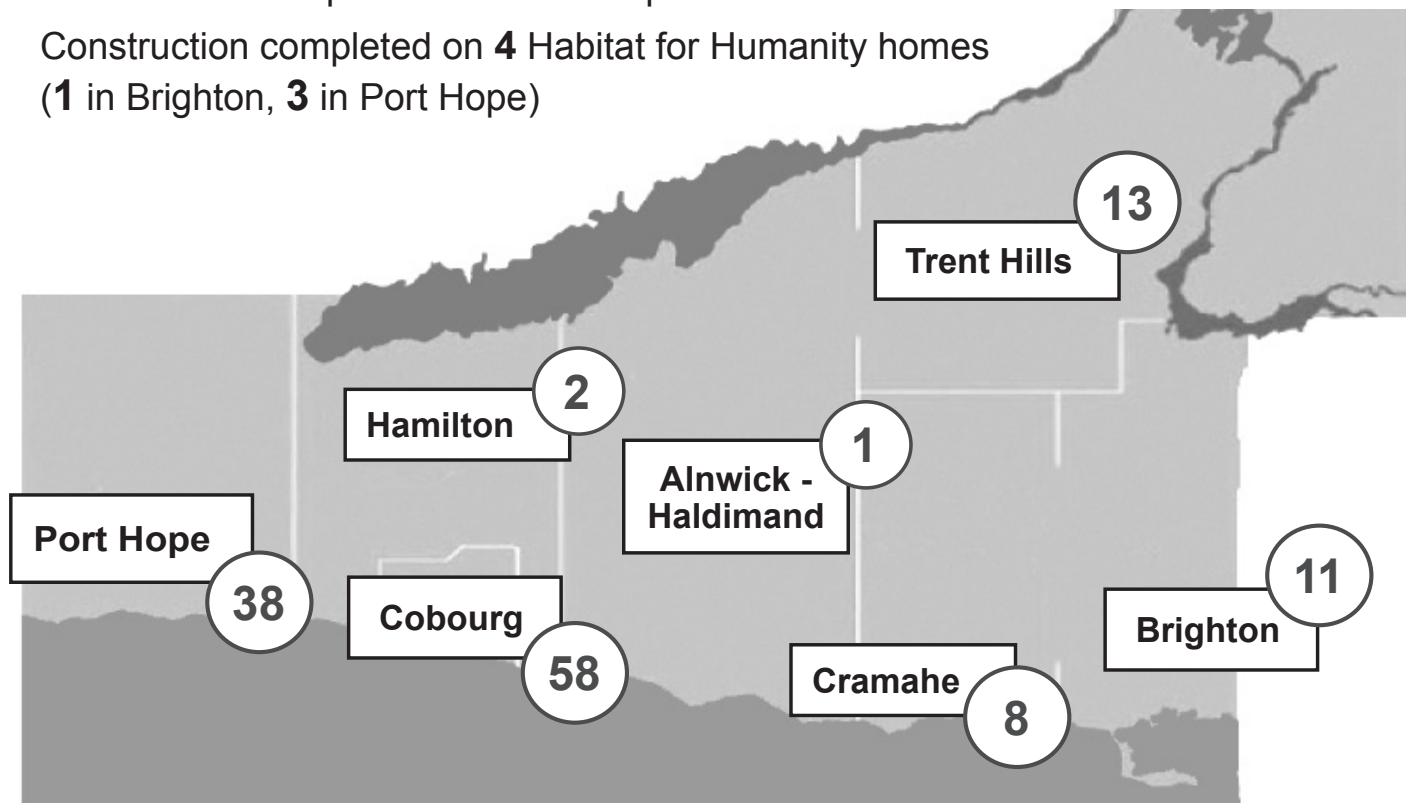
In 2018, through the **Social Infrastructure Fund (SIF) Program** and **Investment in Affordable Housing (IAH) - Extension Program**, Northumberland County helped renters and homeowners attain or maintain affordable housing:

13 households through **Rent Supplement Agreements** with private landlords

93 households in receipt of **Housing Allowances**

21 homeowners through **Renovate Northumberland** and **4 ReNew/It** completed **22** critical repairs to their homes

Construction completed on **4** Habitat for Humanity homes (**1** in Brighton, **3** in Port Hope)



of households by geographic area

Section 3: Establishing our Impact (cont'd ...)



We appreciate the support that the County and the Housing Services department provides to us so that we can provide very essential seniors housing in Warkworth. Having access to programs such as the Asset Planner and training programs to help with Human Rights Legislation and Landlord Tenant Board Issues makes it possible for us to provide the very best housing that we can. The staff at the County are so nice and helpful to deal with. We make a great team.

*Liz Law, Administrator & the Board of Directors
Percy Township Non-Profit Housing Corp.*



We are always excited to partner with the County and provide services at their Housing Communities. Working with kids in the summer, the women's social hour and our BBQ events are a lot of fun, as well as a good way to meet people and gain understanding of their needs.

*Linda Thompson, Director of Community Services
Community Health Centres of Northumberland*



In 2018 Habitat for Humanity Northumberland entered into the second year of our ambitious 5-year Strategic Plan to serve 50 families between 2017-2021. At least half of these families will be served by providing them with access to affordable homeownership through Habitat's homebuilding program. In order to support these efforts, Habitat Northumberland partnered with Northumberland County to deliver services that supported families trying to achieve or maintain affordable homeownership. This support came from funding for the Homeownership program and ongoing investment in the ReNew It home repair program. Additionally, we delivered the second year of Renovate Northumberland, in partnership with Northumberland County, which provided financial support for home renovations to 17 homeowners in Northumberland County. Finally, in 2018 Habitat Northumberland partnered with Northumberland County in an expanded ventures into homelessness services by delivering the Furniture Program to 22 families in the community. As a result of these partnerships Habitat Northumberland was able to help 8 families either achieve or maintain affordable homeownership and assist and additional 39 families in maintaining affordable housing.

*Meaghan Macdonald, Executive Director
Habitat for Humanity Northumberland*

Section 4: Journey to a Renewed Plan

The Province requires reviews and updates to Service Manager Housing and Homelessness Plans every 5 years. In July 2016, the provincial government released an updated policy statement on Service Manager Housing and Homelessness Plans which provides policy context and direction to Service Managers. Service Managers' Housing and Homelessness Plans are required to be consistent with the new Policy Statement by December 31, 2019.

The renewal of the Northumberland County 10 year Housing and Homelessness Plan is well underway and is anticipated to be presented to County Council in late 2019. As a part of this work, an engagement strategy was developed that focused on three activities to garner feedback from critical stakeholders including individuals with lived experience of homelessness, targeted population groups who are at higher risk of experiencing housing insecurity, non-profit housing providers, community agencies providing housing and homelessness related services, private residential developers and landlords, and Northumberland County and member municipality staff. As a result of this project, a renewed Northumberland County Housing and Homelessness Plan will be created that includes key outcomes and targets, along with the creation of an ongoing monitoring and reporting template.

Section 5: Where we go from here

Building on progress made in 2018, key priorities for 2019 include the following:

- Completion of the Northumberland County Affordable Housing Strategy, including member municipalities strategies
- Initiate the development of a Social Housing Master Plan and NCHC Asset Management Plan
- Development of a renewed Ten Year Housing and Homelessness Plan
- Implementation of the Housing Retention Framework and Policy
- Election of a skills-based Board of Directors for the NCHC
- Creation of a Non-Profit and Service Level Standard Reserve Account to support non-profit housing providers as mortgages expire
- Implementation of new provincial and federal funding opportunities in new programs: Canada-Ontario Community Housing Initiative and Ontario Priorities Housing Initiatives
- Preparations for 2020 mandated enumeration
- Deliver training to new and prospective tenants using the RentSmart program working with licensed trainers from homelessness service agencies
- Continue to build skills and capacity with our community partners by offering training on Consent and also continued VI-SDAT training
- Develop PWLE project into calls to action for Northumberland Community and Social Services and consider implementation options
- Continue to lead HCRT to further develop and present a coordinated entry model with clear shared vision for the County outlining the homeless reduction targets
- Develop a training plan with Transition House for the management and staff team
- Promote HomeShare as a County-wide option for all women experiencing homelessness and women who have spare living space
- Review of CHPI funding priorities-using data and evidence to focus available investment to prioritize people who are experiencing homelessness or those at highest risk of homelessness
- Develop a minor repairs program with Habitat for Humanity to support people to remain in their homes
- Aligning homelessness services and activity with other county-wide strategic initiatives including Community Safety and Well-being plan and County strategic objectives.

Appendix: List of 10 Year Housing and Homelessness Plan Objectives

Affordable Housing

1. The priority for the extension of the Federal-Provincial Investment in Affordable Housing (IAH) or similar programs should be creating new rental housing, especially one bedroom barrier-free units.
2. A portion of the upcoming IAH funding should be used to fund a pilot project to renovate existing older hotels/rooming houses to create cost efficient single room occupancies for low income single individuals, including linking to supports as appropriate.
3. Northumberland County should examine its own social housing stock and encourage non-profit and co-op housing providers to look at their existing housing sites for the potential for cost effective infill housing, potentially in collaboration with other developers of housing.
4. Northumberland County should work towards a long term strategy for existing social housing, (to preserve affordability, ensure good repair for the long term and improve energy and water efficiency), in collaboration with municipal and housing sector organizations.

Emergency Housing

5. Persistent overcrowding at Cornerstone Family Violence Prevention Centre is unacceptable. The Province should provide an increase in funding to expand services to meet the need in the community.
6. The existing shelter system should be examined to assess emergency housing needs of various population groups and the best shelter options for different user groups (singles, families, youth, those with mental health issues, addictions and dual diagnosis).
7. Homelessness services offered in the County should implement a Housing First approach, with emphasis on services that keep at-risk people from becoming homeless, and on support services that help shelter users to quickly get housing and to keep stable housing.

Municipal Planning

8. Area Municipal Official Plans and zoning by-laws should be updated to permit the creation of second units in homes in municipally-serviced areas. This will help create needed rental housing and also assist some homeowners with their own housing costs.
9. Area municipalities should strengthen their Official Plans to include clear requirements for new residential developments to include affordable housing units. Definitions of affordable housing should be consistent with the Provincial Policy Statement under the Planning Act.

Appendix: List of 10 Year Housing and Homelessness Plan Objectives

Municipal Planning (cont'd ...)

10. Area municipalities should inform builders/developers of approaches to meeting the requirement for affordable housing in their development plans/plans of subdivision upon the initial meetings between municipal officials and the builders/developers.
11. The new Northumberland County Official Plan should include provisions recognizing the importance of affordable housing, encouraging and supporting affordable housing, and setting targets for affordable housing.

Service Provision and Collaboration

12. Improved service coordination and outreach should be pursued, so that all of the housing and support agencies are aware and up to date on the services offered across the County.
13. The Northumberland for Youth advisory committee should examine the provision of youth specific support services, with the goal of identifying significant gaps in available youth supports and strategies to address service gaps and engage youth to prevent youth homelessness.
14. The County should actively encourage the Habitat for Humanity ReNew It program and other initiatives to assist homeowners to maintain their homes in good repair.
15. The County should continue to develop services to prevent homelessness by supporting people in their homes, to address evolving needs and current service gaps.
16. NHH, 4CAST, CMHA, and the CE LHIN should meet periodically with County officials to coordinate priorities for mental health and addictions, including after-hours crisis services and ongoing support services.
17. The County and community representatives should seek cost-efficient ways to enhance social planning capacity and to monitor and measure evolving needs.
18. The County should seek collaboration with the CE LHIN to examine the housing and support needs of persons with dual diagnosis (mental health and addictions) and how these needs can be best met with current and future resources.
19. The County should continue to support the NTI, enhancing it if appropriate.
20. The County should build on the success of community hubs and explore further enhancements to service access for residents in outlying locations, such as the use of Skype, transportation to services, or other innovations.

Appendix: List of 10 Year Housing and Homelessness Plan Objectives

Outreach, Education and Evaluation

21. An outreach/public education campaign should be undertaken on the importance of the existing affordable housing, and need for additional affordable housing in Northumberland.
22. Northumberland County should request meetings at least annually with representatives of Alderville First Nation and organizations providing support to off-reserve Aboriginal residents, to share information about services, housing and other related issues.
23. Once new planning policies are in place in support of second units, area municipalities should develop education and outreach materials to encourage the creation of second units.
24. The County and local service providers should continue to build relationships with local landlords, to inform them about supports available to ensure stable tenancies and avoid costly evictions, and to promote rent supplements, accessibility and affordability where possible.
25. The County should develop a strategy for ongoing communication and information-sharing with other funders, advocates, and service providers, in regard to evolving service provision and periodic reporting on progress in implementing this Plan.
26. Northumberland County Community and Social Services should prepare an annual monitoring report to County Council and the community on evolving needs and progress in implementing the 10-Year Housing and Homelessness plan.
27. This plan should be reviewed and updated within five years of its adoption by County Council.

For more information, contact:

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