



October 1, 2021

Dear Minister Lohr,

Congratulations on your appointment as the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. You have been elected during a unique time in the history of this province, and as the Housing spokesperson for our caucus, I appreciate the challenges that you've inherited with this portfolio.

That said, I have been disappointed to see that your government is not tackling the housing crisis with the urgency it demands. To start, we are calling for the immediate reinstatement of permanent rent control. If this had been one of the first actions from your government, people would have been reassured that when the state of emergency is lifted, they will not be facing homelessness. In addition, the absence of much-needed emergency investments for housing, including wrap around supports, was apparent in September's financial update.

Housing is squarely a provincial responsibility. I urge you to ensure that your government works closely with municipalities, who are struggling in the vacuum of provincial leadership. The Mayor of HRM has once again signalled the desire for a change in the Charter to allow for inclusionary zoning, and for a provincial partner at the table to tackle the housing crisis. Our Caucus has brought forward legislation in the past in order to make this change. I hope that your government will welcome this legislation in the upcoming session.

Our caucus remains a willing partner in the pressing action that is needed so that no person in Nova Scotia spends a night outside this winter.

Sincerely,

Suzy Hansen  
MLA Halifax Needham  
NSNDP Spokesperson for Housing



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