

Majid Jowhari, MP Richmond Hill
Francesco Sorbara, MP Vaughan-Woodbridge
Tony Van Bynen, MP Newmarket-Aurora



Hon. Helena Jaczek, MP Markham-Stouffville
Leah Taylor Roy, MP Aurora-Oak Ridges-
Richmond Hill

February 20, 2024

The Honourable Marc Miller
Minister's Office
Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada
65 Laurier Avenue West
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 1L1

Dear Minister Miller,

As the York Region Liberal Caucus, we are writing in support of the Regional Municipality of York Region's request for \$4.3 million from the Interim Housing Assistance Program (IHAP).

Canada – like many countries – is experiencing a significant increase in asylum seekers. Many municipalities are addressing the needs of asylum seekers, but their efforts are straining existing resources. In York Region, the Emergency Housing System is consistently operating at, or near, full capacity – and it is unable to withstand additional demands.

We appreciate that since 2017, our government has provided almost \$700 million to provinces and municipalities through the Interim Housing Assistance Program (IHAP), to address extraordinary housing pressures related to the increase in asylum claimants. The additional \$212 million announced last year was helpful.

This program was designed to help municipalities like York Region. In September 2023, the York Regional Council approved \$4.3 million to operate interim accommodations and supports to meet the needs of asylum claimants until March 31, 2024. The Region is seeking IHAP funding to cover those costs. The request is attached. Our Caucus supports their request.

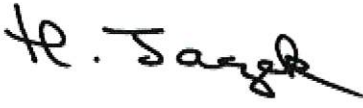
The Region is also calling on senior levels of government for greater coordination and streamlining of intake and housing supports to address the increase in asylum claimants. We support this request as well.

The Regional Municipal of York is a valuable partner. We are confident that working together, we can develop sustainable solutions to ensure that the most vulnerable newcomers have safe interim housing options.

Sincerely,



Tony Van Bynen, MP
Newmarket-Aurora



Hon. Helena Jaczek
Markham-Stouffville



Leah Taylor Roy, MP
Aurora-Oak Ridges- Richmond Hill



Francesco Sorbara, MP
Vaughan-Woodbridge



Majid Jowhari, MP
Richmond Hill

cc: York Region Council