

# HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS



**On February 27, vote for the right to housing and shelter for all**

**Ontario is in a housing crisis, and homelessness rates are soaring.** More provincial funding is urgently needed to ensure everyone has a place to live. It's not enough to simply increase housing supply. Weakening rent controls have allowed rents to rise dramatically, putting tenants at **increased risk for displacement and homelessness.**

**The choices made now will decide if Ontario can offer everyone safe, affordable, and accessible homes.**

## WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

### Ontario needs more affordable, non-market, and supportive housing

Ontario has fallen behind on its goal of **building 1.5 million homes by 2031**. Demand is high for affordable and supportive housing in Ontario, especially in Toronto. It's estimated that **more than 268,000 households in Ontario** are on the waitlist for subsidized housing (over **100,000** in Toronto). Wait times for supportive housing are, on average, **5 to 7 years**.



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### Ontarians need stronger rent control

**48% of Toronto households and 31% of Ontario households** are renters. Across Ontario, 55% of renters live in unacceptable housing, meaning that they spend more than 30% of their income on housing, it does not suit the size of their family, and/or the condition of the dwelling is inadequate.

Current rent control measures fail to protect many tenants from huge rent increases. Landlords can increase rents without limits on any **units first rented after Nov. 15, 2018**. Ontario does not have **vacancy control**, which would prohibit landlords from drastically raising rents between tenants. Ontario also permits Above Guideline Increases that allow landlords to apply to raise the rent above the annual legal limit to cover capital expenses (like renovations), placing a heavy financial burden on tenants.

## Effectively addressing rising homelessness

In 2024, over 80,000 individuals experienced homelessness in the province, a 25% increase since 2022. More than half of these individuals were chronically homeless, meaning they had been without stable housing for extended or repeated periods.

Homelessness is not confined to urban centres. **Since 2016, rural areas have experienced a 150% surge in homelessness, while northern Ontario has seen an increase exceeding 200%.** Indigenous populations represent 45% of people experiencing homelessness in northern regions. With widespread housing unaffordability and poor rent controls, the rates of homelessness may continue to increase at an alarming rate.

**1**  
**3** of Indigenous adults in Toronto are precariously housed or experiencing homelessness

## The housing crisis doesn't affect all communities equally

Colonization and systemic discrimination mean that specific groups face greater barriers in Toronto's housing market. More than **1 in 3** Indigenous adults in Toronto are precariously housed or experiencing homelessness. 45% of newcomers and 40% of long-term immigrants **in tenant households** live in unaffordable housing. Indigenous, Black, racialized, newcomer and 2SLGBTQ+ people experience **disproportionate** rates of homelessness.

# 5 QUESTIONS FOR YOUR CANDIDATE

**How does your party intend** to ensure that Ontario catches up and meets the goal of building 1.5 million homes by 2031?

**What steps will you take** to significantly increase investment in non-market affordable and supportive housing so that the growing housing demand can be met?

**What are your plans** to strengthen rent control measures to protect tenants from huge rent increases, especially in newer buildings?

**How do you plan** to support low income renters who are at risk of not being able to afford their rent if they lose their income?

**How do you plan** to realize the human right to housing and what will you do to help the rising numbers of unhoused people across Ontario?

For more information and resources and to learn about important issues in the provincial election, please visit:



[socialplanningtoronto.org/2025\\_ontario\\_election](https://socialplanningtoronto.org/2025_ontario_election)

