

**Open Letter To The Ontario Premier
and Relevant Cabinet Ministers**

Hon. Kathleen Wynne	Premier of Ontario and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs 416 325 9895
Hon. Helena Jaczek	Minister of Community and Social Services 416 325 3347
Hon. Jeff Leal	Minister of Small Business 4163263083
Hon. Bill Mauro	Minister of Municipal Affairs 416 5856470
Hon. Peter Milczyn	Minister of Housing and Poverty Reduction 416 585 4035
Hon. Charles Sousa	Minister of Finance 416 325 0374
Fred Eissenburg	Mayor City of Hamilton 905 546 2340
Terry Whitehead	Councillor 905 546 2535 Chair of Hamilton Dom. Hostel Working Group

Impact of Minimum Wage Increase (Jan.1 2018)

The Premier suggests product prices can be increased and/or expenses lowered by means of employee benefits reductions or job lay-offs to accommodate the minimum wage increase.

This is true in most small businesses. However in the supportive housing industry Revenue is capped by the COLA at 2% (2017) which in fact was not received in our subsidized sector and has not been increased for several years, which results in no revenue increase.

On the expense side the supportive housing facilities are licenced by the municipality and staffing is regulated and cannot be reduced as there are required staffing ratios.

The situation for which there is no solution is based up on revenue which cannot be increased and expenses which by law cannot be cut, together with the provincially imposed 25% wage hike, resulting in no possibility of resolution.

Homes in Hamilton will close and 800 residents will be immediately affected exacerbating the Homelessness problem and affecting 500-600 employees.

The Ontario Government must remedy the impossible situation it has created. Immediate emergency assistance is required as the first payroll of Jan. 15 2018 is imminent.

The suggestion that a tax rebate of 1% one year from now will be helpful in dealing with a 25% wage increase is completely unrealistic to say the least.

The Province must accept responsibility for this initiative and the resulting damage, if it does not act immediately to correct this devastating policy on this very unique housing sector.

Premier Wynne please prevent this crisis before it happens.

Save this valuable housing stock. Save the valuable supports it provides.

Save the hundreds of jobs which will be affected.

Save the tax-paying small businesses which we all know are so important.

Please act now! Please do not be reactive and wait for the crisis to occur later this month.

Be proactive and avoid this needless crisis before it occurs.

Rose Hrcie

Victoria Manor Hamilton, Ontario

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