

Federation of Canadian Municipalities
24 Clarence Street
Ottawa, Ontario
K1N 5P3

October 23, 2020

RE: Support for Funding Application by the Town of Cobourg

The Board of Directors of The Help and Legal Centre of Northumberland has unanimously agreed to lend their support to the Town of Cobourg in its application for funding to complete a feasibility study for a neighbourhood retrofit project to reduce energy poverty. As we understand, the goal for this project is to reduce energy poverty and to improve the building stock of homes in Cobourg to meet the anticipated extreme weather events such as heat waves that affect vulnerable populations - low income, the elderly and young - disproportionately hard.

As an organization whose vision is to realize Northumberland County as a place where all individuals have adequate resources to meet their basic needs and are empowered to participate in self-determined, meaningful ways within an equitable, just, and compassionate community, we see this project as a positive step towards achieving this goal.

As noted by Judy Smith, the Environmental Officer for the County of Northumberland, approximately 2250 households pay double or more the median amount [3%] of their income for utilities [6%] and 880 out of those households pay 10% or more. She reports that this project dovetails with the Affordable Housing policies of the County and with the goals of the Town of Cobourg where it requires the existing housing stock to be energy efficient and sustainable. It also dovetails with the Town's Climate Emergency Declaration and future Climate Action Plan passed in Dec. 2019 that stated "we are facing an unprecedented crisis that requires that we take unprecedented climate mitigation measures."

We see the Town of Cobourg as a leader in this field, and we hope they are successful in this application.

Sincerely,



Beth Bellaire
Chair, Board of Directors