

November 10, 2021

The Honourable Doug Ford,
premier@ontario.ca

**Support Resolution from the Council of Kitchener passed October 18th
re: Renovictions**

Please be advised the Council of the Municipality of Chatham-Kent at its regular meeting held on November 8, 2021 supported the following resolution:

“WHEREAS safe and adequate housing is recognized as a fundamental human right by the Federal Government, whose effect as a major social determinant of health and wellbeing goes well beyond a basic requirement for shelter; and,

WHEREAS Kitchener’s housing situation has dramatically shifted since 2016, a Housing Needs Assessment demonstrating the average price for a house increased by 104% between 2009 to 2019, with the greatest increase since 2016, and rents increased by an average of 41%; and,

WHEREAS the City is experiencing a gap in the provision of housing, in particular the need for 450 units of supportive housing, over 5,000 units of community housing and 9,300 units of affordable rental housing to address the gaps in the existing supply; and,

WHEREAS the City of Kitchener has adopted “Housing for All – The City of Kitchener’s Housing Strategy” demonstrating a commitment to realizing the right to housing locally and addressing the housing crisis within the municipality; and,

WHEREAS landlords and investors are adding to the strain on the housing supply through the unscrupulous act of “Renovictions” by claiming they are completing major renovations and evicting and displacing existing tenants, and subsequently raising rents which affects those generally identified as lower income earners and their ability to find safe, adequate and affordable housing; and,

WHEREAS citizens and communities are hurt by these practices which can and does directly impact the housing and homelessness crisis, as well as inflict damage and trauma (both financially and mentally) particularly on our most vulnerable citizens;

THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED that the City of Kitchener lobby the Province of Ontario to take additional and meaningful steps to address the ever-increasing problem of “Renovictions”;

THEREFORE IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that the City of Kitchener urge all levels of government to collaborate in data sharing and collection related to renovations, specifically the impacts of renovations on tenancy;

THAT IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED that a copy of this motion be sent to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Premier of Ontario, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and housing, the Region of Waterloo and other Municipalities in Ontario for their consideration and possible endorsement.”

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Judy Smith at judys@chatham-kent.ca

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Judy Smith', is written over a light yellow rectangular background.

Judy Smith, CMO
Director Municipal Governance
Clerk /Freedom of Information Coordinator

C
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
AMO
Local MP & MPP
Ontario Municipalities