

Community Focus Bulletin: ***Creating Community Conversations***



Prepared by Merriam & Associates

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Our Planning Philosophy:

The Seventh Generation Principle takes its name from the Great Law of the Haudenosaunee, the founding document of the Iroquois Confederacy, the oldest living participatory democracy on Earth. It is based on an ancient Iroquois philosophy that:

“In our every deliberation, we must consider the impact of our decisions on the next seven generations.”

2019 Housing Is Fundamental Report released

“Affordability is about the relationship between household incomes and shelter costs.” Jim Russell, United Way.

This month the United Way released the 14th addition of Housing is Fundamental. According to the report nowhere in Canada is the unaffordable housing crisis more concentrated than in Peterborough.

Did you know?

- there has been a dramatic rise in average market rents year over year, with two bedroom units up by 9 per cent and three bedroom units up by 11 per cent is the most significant change the report found.
- Incomes have not kept pace with rent inflation and there is reason to believe that Peterborough’s “core housing need” has risen once again.
- There are 14,545 households in the Peterborough CMA that have before tax incomes below \$40,000 and the report stresses that a household needs \$41,080 annually to pay rent for an average priced unit at \$1,027 monthly.
- A bachelor apartment costs \$734. For someone to afford that unit they would need to have an income of \$29,360 which means that anyone making less than \$15.06 could not afford this home.
- Eight of the ten metropolitan areas in Canada with highest percentage of tenants paying unaffordable rents are in Ontario and Peterborough has the highest percentage of renter households with unaffordable shelter costs.

Questions to consider:

1. Peterborough, like many other communities across Canada, is aging. What should our community be doing to prepare for a changing housing market for this demographic? How can we develop more supportive housing models providing services to keep people in their homes and are affordable?
2. With the increasing amount of precarious employment jobs how will future generations be able to afford rising rents? Will they be able to purchase their homes at any point in their lives?
3. How do we advocate for 'living wages' that will help address housing insecurity?

The full report is available at the United Way Peterborough office at 277 Stewart Street or on the United Way website at www.uwpeterborough.ca.

For more information, contact Jim Russell, CEO, at 705-742-8839 X26.

For more information about our Community Focus Bulletins or to view past editions go to

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