RESOLUTION A23-04

TITLE: Ending Underhousing and Homelessness in Ontario

SPONSOR: alPHa Boards of Health Section

WHEREAS housing is recognized as a human right in Canada under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; and

WHEREAS the goal of Public Health is to reduce health inequities and improve the health of the whole population; and

WHEREAS housing is widely accepted as a key determinant of health, with the health of a population directly linked with the availability of adequate, affordable housing; and

WHEREAS the negative impacts of housing insecurity and homelessness include poor mental health, higher risk of infectious diseases, higher risk of chronic diseases, and higher risk of injuries among others; and

WHEREAS ending underhousing and homelessness requires a range of housing, social service, and health solutions from a range of stakeholders; and

WHEREAS leadership and urgent action is needed from the provincial government on an emergency basis to develop, resource, and implement a comprehensive plan to prevent, reduce and ultimately end underhousing and homelessness in Ontario; and

WHEREAS The Association of Municipalities of Ontario, a strategic partner of alPHa has asked that their partners support their Call to Action on Housing and Homelessness;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT alPHa support AMO’s Call to Action on Housing and Homelessness;

AND FURTHER THAT alPHa call on the Provincial Government to:

- acknowledge that housing is a social determinant of health and a human right.
- acknowledge that homelessness in Ontario is a social, economic, and health crisis.
- commit to the goal of ending underhousing and homelessness in Ontario.
- work with alPHa, AMO and a broad range of community, health, Indigenous and economic partners to develop, resource, and implement an action plan to achieve this goal.

AND FURTHER THAT the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and the Ministers of Health; Municipal Affairs and Housing; Ministry of Finance; the Premier’s office; relevant ministries of the Federal Government; and Children, Community and Social Services be so advised.

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