

## MOTION

No. 15

### **Calling on government to take bold and decisive action to solve the PEI housing crisis**

Hannah Bell gives notice that she will move, seconded by Michele Beaton the following Motion:

**WHEREAS** housing availability and affordability is a critical part of provincial economic strength, growth and recovery;

**AND WHEREAS** the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation reported that a 3.8% increase to the average rent for an apartment on PEI, well above the rate of inflation and the maximum allowable annual increase by the Island Regulatory and Appeals Commission;

**AND WHEREAS** house purchase prices have doubled in the last 5 years, and increased 20% in the most recent year;

**AND WHEREAS** mobile rental vouchers are a band-aid solution to unaffordability and do not increase housing capacity;

**AND WHEREAS** unregulated short-term rentals have adversely affected the rental and housing market, especially for low- and middle-income tenants, first-time home buyers and young families;

**AND WHEREAS** the province has experienced exceptionally low vacancy rates for the past three years, and the Speech from the Throne acknowledges that much of any recent progress is due to the pandemic;

**AND WHEREAS** unavailability of housing makes it more difficult to recruit skilled workers to PEI, including newcomers and health care professionals;

**AND WHEREAS** rising housing costs reduce Islanders' disposable income, and consequently their ability to participate fully in the economy;

**AND WHEREAS** government's delay in updating the province's tenancy legislation has left Island tenants with fewer protections and placed them at a greater risk;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Legislative Assembly urge government to make significant immediate and long-term investment in public housing—including cooperatives, supportive housing, seniors and family housing—through all available opportunities and partnerships;

**THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Legislative Assembly urge government to take all possible steps to improve and enforce municipal and provincial short-term rental regulations and return housing stock to the long-term market;

**AND THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Legislative Assembly urge government to consider taxation policy measures to cool down the housing market;

**AND THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Legislative Assembly urge government to promote better collaboration and communication between the Department of Social Development and Housing and the Department of Economic Growth, Tourism and Culture to ensure that housing is addressed in a holistic way;

**AND THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Legislative Assembly urge government to implement and report on clearer performance indicators for the PEI Housing Action Plan and housing initiatives generally;

**AND THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Legislative Assembly urge government to assign the development of the proposed Residential Tenancy Act to the Department of Social Development and Housing, which has expertise in matters of housing, and to introduce the said legislation without delay.

Signed by: Hannah Bell

Signed by: Michele Beaton

Date: February 26, 2021