

# Queen's Park Report



**Noel Duignan MPP**  
Halton North

Part of my column this week is directed toward non-profit housing groups. Early last week, Housing Minister Evelyn Gigantes invited non-profit housing sponsors across Ontario to apply for units under jobsOntario Homes, the 20,000 unit non-profit housing program announced in our April budget.

One of the requirements for this first proposal call under the program is that non-profit sponsors must be ready to build in the first few months of the new year. jobsOntario Homes also marks a new direction in non-profit housing.

The new program will have an allocation process that's easier to understand. It will also require greater resident involvement in the management of non-profit homes and will have a new access system to make it easier for people to apply for the housing.

The proposal call is for approximately 2,000 units. The Ministry expects to be ready to allocate these units in February but may give some allocations earlier if sponsors are ready to build right away.

The sponsors need to be ready to build so quickly because the construction industry needs jobs now. There are many groups that have been working on project proposals for some time now and are ready to start building. The Ministry wants to make sure they can get going as quickly as possible.

Sponsors can apply by calling the Regional Housing Programs Office in Hamilton at 1-416-521-7500 or 1-800-263-8295.

They'll be given a program application package that lays out the requirements for this first proposal call. For groups that aren't ready to build so soon, there will be another proposal call in the spring. At that time, proposals at any stage of development will be considered.

Non-profit housing provides affordable homes for the people

who need them most and it's labour intensive. jobsOntario Homes represents an estimated \$2.1 billion investment in construction and other related industries.

It will generate more than 33,000 jobs across Ontario.

I also have some news for seniors this week about the Property & Sales Tax Grant System.

I've talked before about the plans to change to a Credit System and I'd like to provide you with some additional information. The system has been changed to a more progressive tax credit program which will redirect funding to low income seniors.

Seniors will begin claiming the new tax credits in 1993 when they complete their 1992 income tax return.

Do seniors have to report their property and sales tax grants as income when they file their income tax return?

No, the grants are not taxable.

What factors determine how much a senior will receive under the new tax credit program?

The amount depends on property taxes or rent paid, household income, and the number of family members. The maximum property and sales tax credit will be \$1,000.

How much may seniors expect to receive under the new tax credit program?

Senior households with incomes less than \$22,000 will receive greater benefits under the tax credit system than under the grant system. For example, a senior couple with an income of \$22,000 who pay property tax of \$1,300 will receive a 1992 credit of \$830 — an increase of \$130 over the maximum they could have received under the old grant program.

What if a senior doesn't pay tax?

The credit is refundable. The senior will receive a cheque if her or she pays no income tax or has income tax owing which is less than the amount of the credit.

Further information will be provided to seniors with their 1992 Sales Tax Grant cheques.

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