

Yes in My Backyard Guelph-Wellington

Building support for a caring community where everyone has a safe, stable, and affordable place to call home because our whole community benefits.

What is the Yes in My Backyard (YIMBY) Campaign?

Yes in My Backyard (YIMBY) Guelph-Wellington is a community campaign led by the Guelph & Wellington Poverty Elimination Collaborative to build public understanding and support for the affordable, accessible homes our community needs. The campaign brings people together to share information, address misconceptions, and build understanding about housing affordability, housing insecurity, stigma, and belonging. By building support for affordable housing solutions, YIMBY Guelph-Wellington helps decision-makers advance practical, effective solutions, so our whole community benefits.

Why Housing Matters

Housing is one of the strongest predictors of health and wellbeing. When people have a safe, stable, affordable home that meets their needs, it leads to:

- better physical and mental health
- increased participation in education and employment
- stronger connections and community belonging
- lower public spending on healthcare and emergency services.

Our whole community benefits when everyone has a place to call home and yet...

Homelessness is rising due to system and policy failures.



264 people were experiencing chronic homelessness in Guelph-Wellington in July 2026.¹

The need for rent-geared-to-income housing is surging.



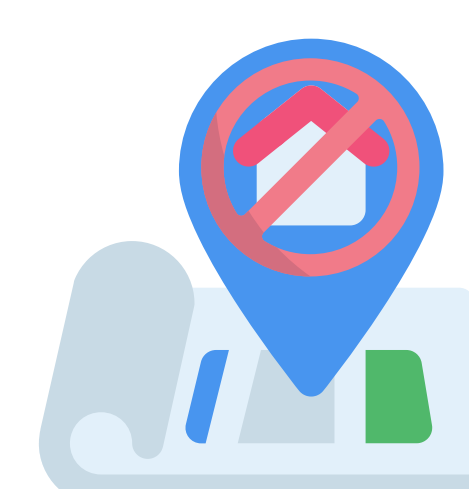
The centralized waitlist has **sharply increased** since 2019, with households **waiting 5 years** on average and **some 8+ years**.²

Affordable housing is being lost faster than it's being built.



For every **1 new home** added, Canada is **losing 11** lower-rent affordable homes.³

Rent is increasing faster than people's ability to afford it.



0 neighbourhoods in Guelph are **affordable** for a full-time minimum wage worker.⁴

How More Homes Help Build Stronger Communities

- **More housing creates stability and opportunity.** When communities add a mix of new homes, including deeply affordable and supportive housing, more people can find a place to live, reducing housing instability and helping people stay in their communities.
- **More housing strengthens communities.** Welcoming new neighbours supports local businesses, schools, services, community connections, and vibrant streets and gathering places.
- **Affordable and supportive housing benefits communities.** Research shows it is not associated with lower property values or higher crime. Instead, it contributes to safer, more stable, and healthier communities.
- **Housing for all builds a stronger, more caring community.** When everyone has a place to call home, people have the foundation they need to participate, belong, and thrive.

What You Can Do

- 1 **Sign the YIMBY pledge!** Visit: www.gwpoverity.ca/yimby
- 2 **Share accurate information to build understanding and address misconceptions.**
- 3 **Stay informed about local housing and homelessness issues.**
- 4 **Encourage others to say "Yes in My Backyard."**
- 5 **Contact local leaders and elected officials to support action on affordable housing and solutions to end homelessness.**

 Learn more about the YIMBY campaign and our work at www.gwpoverity.ca/yimby.



1. Wellington-Guelph By Name Data, County of Wellington, July 2026.

2. County of Wellington. *Housing Services Reports & Data*. Wellington County, <https://www.wellington.ca/programmes-services/housing-services-supports/housing-services-reports-data>. Accessed 11 Apr. 2025.

3. Pomeroy, Steve. *Filling the Hole in the Bucket: Loss of Existing Affordable Rentals Massively Undermining New Affordable Supply*. Canadian Housing Evidence Collaborative, Feb. 2024.

4. Macdonald, David, and Ricardo Tranjan. *Out-of-Control Rents: Rental Wages in Canada, 2023*. Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, Sept. 2024.