



Office of the  
Chief Coroner  
Bureau du  
coroner en chef

## Verdict of Inquest Jury Verdict de l'enquête

The Coroners Act – Province of Ontario  
*Loi sur les coroners – Province de l'Ontario*

Inquest into the death of:  
L'enquête sur le décès de:

**Attila CSANYI**

### JURY RECOMMENDATIONS RECOMMANDATIONS DU JURY

#### To the Province of Ontario and the City of Hamilton

1. Conduct a comprehensive review of the quality of housing and services provided by Residential Care Facilities (RCFs) in Hamilton. The review should be conducted jointly by:
  - a) The City of Hamilton,
  - b) The Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing,
  - c) The Ontario Ministry of Health, and
  - d) Any other Ministry with expertise in the relevant issues.
2. The review should include assessments of:
  - a) The needs of the individuals who currently live in RCFs in Hamilton,
  - b) Whether RCFs in Hamilton are responsive to those needs,
  - c) The types of housing models needed to meet those needs,
  - d) Services needed to meet those needs in-house and, in the community,
  - e) Supports needed for housing operators and workers including education programs relating to client needs, and measures to ensure the safety of residents, workers, and operators,
  - f) The need for provincial oversight.
3. The review should have input from an advisory committee that includes representation from community stakeholders and others with relevant expertise, such as:
  - a) Healthcare providers (including allied health workers) that care for individuals with chronic mental health conditions, such as schizophrenia and substance use disorders,
  - b) Organizations working with and serving the needs of unhoused or precariously housed individuals,
  - c) Housing providers,
  - d) RCF residents and their supportive family members,
  - e) Other jurisdictions which have a track record of providing housing and services to vulnerable members of society, and
  - f) Academics with relevant expertise in housing issues.
4. Based on the results of the above-noted review, design and implement models of housing in Hamilton that are responsive to the needs of the above-noted population. These new housing models should include:
  - a) Non-custodial housing models,
  - b) Supported housing models,
  - c) Supportive housing models.
5. This review should be an ongoing process to ensure that any resulting policies or procedures are kept up to date. Initial suggestion for 5-year intervals.
6. Adopt a Housing First approach to the commitment to end homelessness through the continuum of housing options.
7. Implement trauma-informed care principles within the continuum of supportive housing options.
8. Develop mechanisms for governmental oversight of RCFs to ensure that the care needs of RCF residents are being met. This could include the creation of new provincial legislation, new provincial licencing, proactive inspections, compliance and enforcement powers, and complaint lines akin to those afforded to residents in long-term care homes in Ontario.

## **To the Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing**

9. Integrate needs-based data points into Homelessness Prevention Plan (HPP) funding so that funding can be responsive to local population needs (such as increased housing, staffing and/or training needs).

## **To the City of Hamilton**

10. Explore opportunities to designate certain RCFs to provide harm reduction housing that is low barrier for tenants with substance use disorders.
11. Collect data that tracks displacement from RCFs, including:
  - a) Evictions under section 69 of the Residential Tenancies Act (RTA), transfers under section 148 of the RTA, voluntary transfers, and voluntary termination of tenancy, and
  - b) The result of that displacement (i.e., where the tenant goes).
12. Amend Schedule 20 to:
  - a) Include additional provisions that recognize each RCF resident's right to security of tenure under the RTA, and
  - b) Include mandatory education for all RCF operators on preserving and terminating tenancies in accordance with the RTA.
13. Explore amendments to Schedule 20 that would facilitate engagement between RCFs and residents' supportive family, subject to the residents' consent and the Personal Health Information Protection Act.
14. Develop and implement a program to provide training on the relevant provisions of the RTA, including residents' rights to security of tenure, to:
  - a) All City of Hamilton Staff involved in licensing and inspecting RCFs,
  - b) All RCF operators and workers.
15. Develop and implement a program to inform RCF tenants about their rights under the RTA.
16. Develop and implement a program to train RCF operators and workers on the effects of housing instability on health and well-being.
17. Develop a process to assist RCF operators and tenants to resolve tenancy-related disputes.
18. Develop documentation required to be posted in each facility that explains the rights and responsibilities of both RCFs and Tenants under any applicable acts or legislation. This should include support contact information pertaining to the various rights. This should also detail where complaints can be submitted.
19. Establish a centralized system which would enable individuals and organizations seeking placements within an RCF to get information such as the availability of single rooms and shared rooms by facility.

## **To the City of Hamilton, Ontario Ministry Municipal Affairs and Housing and Ontario Ministry of Health:**

20. Seek and allocate funding to implement these recommendations.

## **To Sampaguita Lodge and Rest Home:**

21. Within 30 days, the operator, and all staff:
  - a) Complete training on the RTA, and
  - b) Ensure that all residents are advised about their rights under the RTA.

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