

Evaluation of the Impact of the Provincial Policy Statement on International Agricultural Workers' Housing in Ontario

BRIEF SUMMARY

This research examines the welfare and housing arrangements of International Agricultural Workers (IAWs) by analyzing the Provincial Policy Statement, conducting academic and literature reviews, and interviewing planners across Southwestern Ontario.

Key findings from the research:

- ❑ Revisions to the Provincial Policy Statement highlight improving social equity and rural diversification, which if supported locally could help address IAW needs.
- ❑ While some housing for IAWs fail to meet standards, local governments serve as key resources for farm operators navigating the regulatory frameworks concerning acceptable living conditions.
- ❑ Housing standards for IAWs varied greatly between municipalities due to an absence of provincial unification. Local planners requested more definitive leadership from the province concerning IAW housing.
- ❑ Infrastructure, accessibility, and transportation planning plays important role in the work-life balance and integration of IAWs.
- ❑ Financial constraint is the biggest hindrance to farm operators' ability to meet local housing standards.
- ❑ Housing arrangements for IAWs must be improved to better support workers and sustain Ontario's agri-food economy.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- ❑ Examine the yet-to-be finalized PPS to assess potential impacts on housing for IAWs.
- ❑ Establish provincial standards and guidelines around IAW housing requirements through policy amendments.
- ❑ Develop partnership models for collaborative housing strategies between farm operators, municipalities, and IAW coalitions.
- ❑ Engage IAW communities regularly and incorporate their needs and feedback into local planning processes.
- ❑ Provide targeted financing/incentives for affordable IAW housing development through provincial-municipal collaborations.
- ❑ Conduct regular needs assessments of IAW housing environments to identify gaps and advocate for dedicated resources accordingly.
- ❑ Conduct more research incorporating perspectives from IAWs, farm operators, organizations.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Damilola Oyewale (doyewale@uoguelph.ca) completed this research as part of his Master of Science (Planning) thesis. Access the full thesis at <https://hdl.handle.net/10214/28214>. Find more information on the International Agricultural Workers and Housing in Rural Ontario initiative at <http://ruraldev.ca/iawhousing/>.

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