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### 5. More Consistent Local Eligibility Rules

#### Problem

Currently, Service Managers can make local eligibility rules for rent-geared-to-income assistance in certain areas – including setting household income limits and asset limits. Some Service Managers have income and asset limit rules while others do not, leading to inconsistencies across communities in how eligibility for RGI assistance is determined. The Auditor General found that this can lead to people being on waiting lists who may be able to afford housing in the private market, creating longer waiting times for those in genuine need.

#### Solution

A new provision that would require Service Managers to make local eligibility rules in areas that would be detailed in regulation.

Requiring Service Managers to have local eligibility rules for rent-geared-to-income assistance would enable greater consistency across the province in how housing need is identified and prioritized and would help ensure RGI assistance goes to those who need it most. The province plans to work with Service Managers, housing providers and sector partners to propose local eligibility rules on income and asset limits in regulation.

#### Conclusion

The changes outlined in this document will depend on the approval of future regulations to be developed over the coming years. The ministry is committed to continuing to work with its municipal partners and sector stakeholders in all areas of regulation development as we enter this period of transformational change.

#### New Subsection 42 (2) of the Act

- Service Managers would be required to have local eligibility rules for rent-geared-to-income assistance in prescribed areas
  - This provides the authority to set out local eligibility rules that would be required in regulation.