

WHY DO WE NEED SOCIAL HOUSING?

Social housing gives safety and stability to people with low incomes who are too often lone-parent families, seniors, urban Aboriginal Peoples, recent immigrants and people with disabilities.

In all types of communities across Canada, social housing is the cheapest form of decent housing available. **Without social housing, many of these people would not be housed.**



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Estimated number of households currently on social housing wait lists*

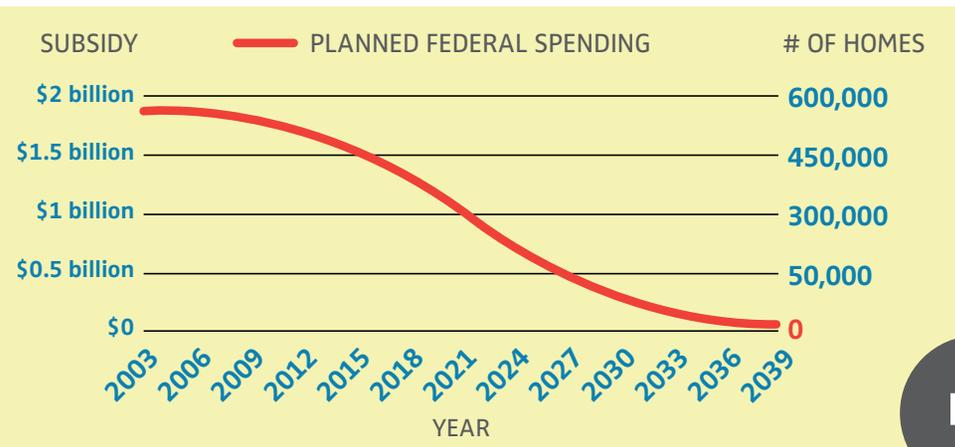
- Fredericton: 500
- Montréal: 24,000
- Ottawa: 10,900
- Toronto: 90,900
- Vancouver: 9,500
- Winnipeg: 2,855

*According to most recent figures available. Each city has a different way of managing its list and these numbers may not be comprehensive. Sources: Fredericton: CAGH, 2013. Based on 1,236 individuals on housing waitlist. Montréal: OMHM, 2015. Households only on co-op and nonprofit housing lists not factored. Ottawa & Toronto: ONPHA, 2015. Metro Vancouver: BC Housing, 2014. Winnipeg: Manitoba Housing, 2014. Directly managed portfolio units only. Excludes nonprofits, co-ops, and urban native units.

CANADA IS ON THE CUSP OF AN AFFORDABLE HOUSING CRISIS

Federal investments in social housing are set to expire.

Federal investments in affordable housing, through what are called “operating agreements” are dropping from \$1.6 billion in 2015 to \$0 by 2040.



Cities and towns, large and small, are becoming less affordable.

While rents have risen considerably, wages have not. 12.5% of Canadian families are in core housing need, making it difficult to afford other life necessities such as healthy food, clothing, transportation and medication.

Long wait lists.

Canada has invested very little in building and renewing social housing infrastructure in the last 25 years. As a result, there are tens of thousands of households on city waiting lists—and tens of thousands of units needing urgent repairs to be livable.

IF WE ARE TRYING TO END HOMELESSNESS, WHY WOULD WE CUT FUNDING FOR THOUSANDS OF LOW-INCOME HOUSEHOLDS?

When federal funding for social housing ends, many social housing providers will be forced to raise rents, sell homes, or both. According to CHRA’s report “Housing For All: Sustaining and Renewing Social Housing for Low-Income Households,” over 300,000 households will be at risk of economic eviction or even homelessness.

For now, communities are keeping vulnerable tenants in their homes by creating innovative ways of operating and finding new money.

But local solutions can’t make up the massive hole in Canada’s housing funding that puts almost a million tenants at risk of homelessness.



CORE HOUSING NEED

A household is in **CORE HOUSING NEED** if its housing is not acceptable and it would have to spend 30% or more of its before-tax income to access acceptable local housing.



IGNORING THE CURRENT AFFORDABLE HOUSING CRISIS DOESN'T MAKE ECONOMIC SENSE.

“Canadians will demand to know why a wealthy nation can’t make better provision for its most vulnerable populations.”

–Brigitte Witkowski, President, CHRA

“ Too many people in Canada are forced to choose between paying their rent or feeding their families.”

–Katharine Schmidt, ED, Food Banks Canada

RENTALS HOUSEHOLDS **MOST IN NEED** :

Female-led lone-parent families – **45.4%**

Seniors living alone – **36.1%**

Aboriginal households – **34.7%**

Recent newcomers to Canada – **37.6%**



YOU MAY HAVE HEARD THAT FUNDING IS NO LONGER REQUIRED BECAUSE MORTGAGES ARE PAID OFF...

Untrue. Housing providers still need federal funding to fix ageing buildings and to cover the difference between market rent and the amount charged to many tenants through Rent Geared to Income programs (RGI).



“ Affordable housing is an investment in health promotion and illness prevention. When a person has adequate housing they experience fewer health problems and are able to devote more of their income to adequately feed and clothe themselves and their family.”

–Canadian Medical Association

WHAT IS URGENTLY NEEDED?

FEDERAL RE-INVESTMENT IN AFFORDABLE HOUSING TO ENABLE:



Building new social housing



Renewal by repairing and maintaining existing social housing



Supporting people with rent subsidies and the support they need to stay housed



Furthermore, it's important that this federal funding be flexible regarding implementation, so that provinces and municipalities are able to use it in a way that best responds to the needs of their communities.



WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Tell your MP and federal election candidates that the federal government must **re-invest in affordable housing**.
- Join us in making affordable housing an **election issue** this fall!

WE BELIEVE IN HOUSING FOR ALL.
Do you? #HOUSING4ALL



@CHRA_ACHRU housing4all.ca

Working together to make **affordable housing** a top election issue in 2015!



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