



Housing and Homelessness

Federal investment in affordable and social housing has fallen considerably short of demand. As a result, housing insecurity is a mounting problem in many areas across the country. People are becoming more and more at risk of homelessness for reasons that include the high cost of housing, lack of affordable units, inadequate incomes, discrimination, family violence, and illness.

Homelessness and inadequate housing are strongly linked to a range of negative outcomes, including illness, stress, family breakdown, and increased mortality. Those most at risk for homelessness are those most at risk for poverty. Nearly one-fifth of all households experience extreme housing unaffordability and at least **235,000 people** in Canada experience homelessness every year.

Recent funding commitments by the federal government of \$11.2 billion over 11 years is a step forward, but it is **only about half** of what is needed due to decades of neglect. Additionally, the 2017 budget allocations for housing are significantly delayed – many of these budget lines are not assigned until 2018 or further into the future.

Suggested policy initiatives:

- ✓ **Develop, adopt, and implement national legislation** establishing the right to secure, adequate, and affordable housing. The forthcoming National Housing Strategy needs to be developed in accordance with international human rights standards – particularly in terms of accountability and public monitoring.
- ✓ **Collaborate with Inuit Land Claim Organizations, First Nations, and Métis governments to create an Indigenous Housing Strategy**, with attention towards the unique housing needs of these communities. This would include investments in on- and off-reserve housing.
- ✓ **Dedicate funding of at least \$2 billion per year in new money** (to be matched by the provinces and territories) to implement housing solutions that meet the national strategy targets.