

SOLVABLE:

**OUR PLAN TO
END HOMELESSNESS
AND ADDRESS
HOUSING NEED
IN CANADA**

**Vote Housing's 2021
Federal Election Platform**



OUR MISSION

To engage Canadians to pledge to Vote Housing this federal election and ensure all political parties support making bold investments in affordable housing and ending homelessness.

WHO WE ARE

Vote Housing is a national, non-partisan, grassroots advocacy campaign led by the Canadian Lived Experience Leadership Network (CLELN), the Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness, the Canadian Housing & Renewal Association, and the Co-operative Housing Federation of Canada. The partner organizations represent the three leading national housing and homelessness sector organizations. CLELN is Canada's leading national network for people who have or are experiencing homelessness.

Our campaign is supported by our coalition partners but fuelled
by everyday Canadians, like you.

WHY WE'RE DOING THIS

- 1 in 3 renters are worried about making their rent next month
- 15% of Canadians are worried about paying their housing costs next month
- 27% of renters in Canada live in housing that is unaffordable, in need of major repairs and/or is overcrowded
- 235,000 people across the country experience homelessness each year
- Over 36% of Canadians have been homeless themselves or know someone who has.

Going into Election 44: About 8 in 10 Canadians say they would vote for a political party proposing action to end homelessness and build affordable housing.

JOIN US TODAY!

VoteHousing.ca



THE VOTE HOUSING PLATFORM

Every day in Canada, 1.7 million households live in a home that is either unaffordable, overcrowded and/or needs major repairs, while 35,000 Canadians experience homelessness on any given night.

Further, 36% of Canadians have been homeless themselves or know someone who has been homeless. Homelessness and housing need are public policy choices. Vote Housing has developed 6 actionable policies that political parties should include in their platforms if they're committed to ending homelessness and housing need in Canada.

Learn more about each policy and why they're critical to our country's future:

PG. 3 Implement an urban, rural, and northern Indigenous housing strategy containing both dedicated investments and an Indigenous-led governance structure

PG. 4 Commit to the prevention and elimination of homelessness

PG. 5 Invest in the construction and operation and operation of a minimum of 50,000 units of supportive housing over a decade

PG. 6 Build and acquire a minimum of 300,000 units of deeply affordable non-market, co-op and non-profit housing over a decade

PG. 7 Commit to the progressive realization of the right to housing

PG. 8 Expand rental assistance for low-income households to reduce core housing need and prevent a wave of new homelessness resulting from the pandemic



IMPLEMENT AN URBAN, RURAL AND NORTHERN INDIGENOUS HOUSING STRATEGY CONTAINING BOTH DEDICATED INVESTMENTS AND AN INDIGENOUS-LED GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

- There is no dedicated federal For Indigenous By Indigenous strategy to address the housing needs of Indigenous peoples in urban, rural and northern communities.
- Indigenous peoples disproportionately experience homelessness. This is directly linked to the ongoing colonization, and systemic dislocation and dispossession of Indigenous peoples from their land, language and culture.
- 1 in 15 Indigenous peoples in urban centres will experience homelessness in Canada, compared to one in 128 for the general population.
- Indigenous peoples disproportionately live in housing that is unaffordable, overcrowded, is not culturally appropriate and/or needs major repairs, and are unable to access a home that meets their needs.

INDIGENOUS HOMELESSNESS IS THE RESULT OF COLONIZATION; THEREFORE, HOUSING IS ONE STEP TOWARDS RECONCILIATION.

- Indigenous housing conditions must be addressed for Canada to conform with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
- Solutions and programs should be governed and led by Indigenous peoples themselves, to provide oversight and direction.
- The pandemic has greatly impacted Indigenous peoples. [Statistics Canada COVID-19 report](#) shows 36% of Indigenous peoples surveyed reported job loss or reduced working hours, compared to 25% of non-Indigenous peoples.

LEARN MORE

- CHRA Indigenous Caucus: forindigenouslybyindigenous.ca
- Truth and Reconciliation Commission: trc.ca
- [Definition of Indigenous Homelessness](#)



COMMIT TO THE PREVENTION AND ELIMINATION OF HOMELESSNESS

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

- More than 235,000 people in Canada experience homelessness a year, and over 35,000 people experience homelessness on any given night.
- An estimated 1.6 million Canadians have experienced homelessness at some point in their lives. Over 20% of Canadians know someone who has experienced homelessness and 11% have a family member who has experienced it.
- The mass homelessness that we see today has not always existed. It began in the 1980s and accelerated in the 1990s largely as a result of federal government policy changes.
- Rural and remote communities are also struggling with homelessness and housing need, but are not receiving adequate or equitable funding under the National Housing Strategy.
- A growing number of communities across North America are having success in reducing and ending homelessness.
- Homelessness costs the Canadian economy about [\\$7 billion a year to manage](#). This includes provision of emergency shelters and community supports, but also accounts for the increased costs of emergency services (including fire, police and EMS), health care, the criminal justice system etc.

**Eliminating homelessness in Canada is not an impossible task.
We need sound policy decisions, funding and commitment from our
federal leaders to prevent homelessness.**

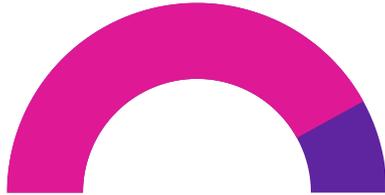
LEARN MORE

- Housing First: homelesshub.ca/solutions/housing-accommodation-and-supports/housing-first
- [Read the Recovery for All: Proposals to Strengthen the National Housing Strategy and End Homelessness.](#)
- Medicine Hat, AB ends chronic homelessness: caeh.ca/bright-spot-medicine-hat-proof-point/
- London, ON solves veteran homelessness: caeh.ca/london-solves-vet-homelessness/



INVEST IN THE CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF A MINIMUM OF 50,000 UNITS OF SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

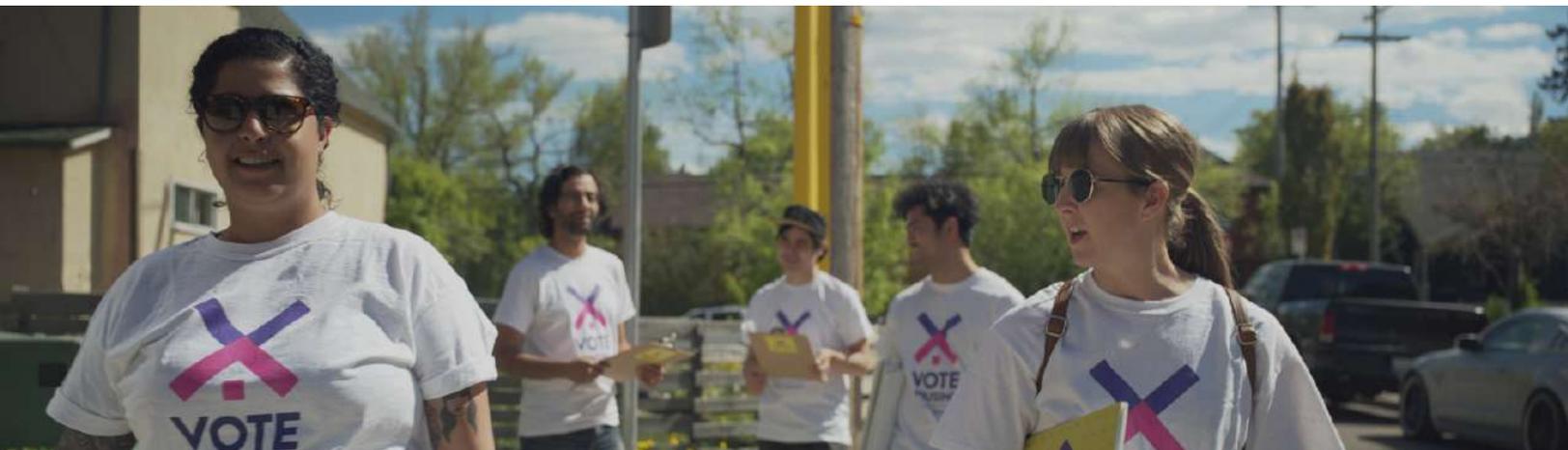
DID
YOU
KNOW?



84% of Canadians support or somewhat support investing in building new affordable housing to ensure all households have a safe and affordable home.

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

- Pressures into homelessness are relentless. We need to create supportive housing options to help reduce chronic homelessness across Canada.
- Permanent housing with wrap-around supports is a proven intervention for people with complex needs.
- While the vast majority of those using emergency shelter services experience homelessness only once and only temporarily, some have complex needs that require intensive supports to end their homelessness.
- There is a lack of affordable, accessible housing. Households that require accessibility adaptations are more likely to experience affordability challenges.
- Housing investments should prioritize people experiencing, or at greatest risk of homelessness.



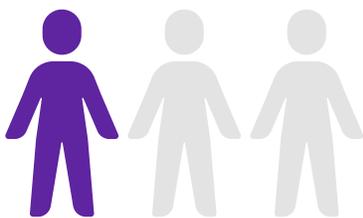
LEARN MORE

- [Read the Recovery for All: Proposals to Strengthen the National Housing Strategy and End Homelessness.](#)
- BC, City of Vancouver new program: [Rapid Response to Homelessness](#)
- Homeless Hub: Supportive Housing: www.homelesshub.ca/solutions/transitional-housing/permanent-supportivesupported-housing

BUILD AND ACQUIRE A MINIMUM OF 300,000 UNITS OF DEEPLY AFFORDABLE NON-MARKET, CO-OP AND NON-PROFIT HOUSING

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

- There are not enough affordable, accessible housing options for Canadians, contributing to growing economic and social inequities.
- The lack of affordable housing is one of the largest contributors to homelessness.
- In Canada there is a shortage of accessible affordable housing, which is why a portion of these new units must be specifically designed to be fully accessible.
- Waitlists for households to access any and all forms of community housing are unacceptably long.
- Non-market housing is permanently affordable, community-owned and provides security of tenure. Increasing the stock and share of non-market housing actively counters the financialization of housing.
- Over 1.7 million Canadian households cannot access a home that they can afford, that does not need major repairs and/or is not overcrowded. This is experienced disproportionately by women, children, seniors, Indigenous peoples and racialized communities.
- Non-market development will be affordable in perpetuity and will be a valuable resource for future generations.
- Acquisition programs should be designed to enable non-market providers to act in real time when market opportunities arise.



1 in 3 renters

are worried about making rent next month

LEARN MORE:

- Hundreds of thousands on waitlists for affordable housing in Canada: study: globalnews.ca/news/6206469/affordable-housing-canada-study/



COMMIT TO THE PROGRESSIVE REALIZATION OF THE RIGHT TO HOUSING

This includes measures to curtail the impact of the financialization of the rental housing markets, addressing the unique needs of equity-seeking communities in the National Housing Strategy, and ensuring people with lived expertise of housing need and homelessness are engaged in all levels of policy development and implementation.

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

- Homelessness is the result of systemic denials of access to justice and fundamental human rights.
- Housing is essential to the inherent dignity and well-being of the person, and to building sustainable and inclusive communities.
- The disparity between the right to free and equal existence and the current homelessness crisis has become more apparent than ever.
- The financialization of rental housing in Canada is taking affordable housing out of the market faster than it can be replaced, compounding Canada's housing crisis. Between 2011 and 2016 over 320,000 units of rental housing were lost to financialization. The current National Housing Strategy only aims to create 150,000 units over 10 years.
- Policies and actions must be sensitive to the historical and ongoing impacts of stigma, prejudice, and oppression on individuals and communities; deliberate action must also be undertaken to address the ways that intersecting systems and structures compound experiences of homelessness.

Ending homelessness is only possible with the diverse knowledge, expertise, and guidance of those who have experienced it firsthand. The next government needs to meaningfully engage with equity-seeking communities.

LEARN MORE:

- Canadian Lived Experience Leadership Network: cleln.ca
- radicalhousingjournal.org/2020/nothing-about-us-without-us/
- Former Special Rapporteur on the Right to Adequate Housing, Leilani Farha: [Report to the UN Human Rights Council, A/HRC/34/ on the Financialization of Housing.](#)
- Urban Reform Institute & Frontier Centre for Public Policy: [Demographia international housing affordability.](#)
- Article 25 in the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights: <https://www.un.org/en/about-us/universal-declaration-of-human-rights>

EXPAND RENTAL ASSISTANCE FOR LOW-INCOME HOUSEHOLDS TO REDUCE CORE HOUSING NEED AND PREVENT A WAVE OF NEW HOMELESSNESS RESULTING FROM THE PANDEMIC.

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

- 530,000 renter households in Canada pay over 50% of their income on rent.
- Lower rent housing is rapidly being eroded, and evictions and arrears have been growing. Over 250,000 households in Canada have accumulated over \$350 million in arrears since the onset of the pandemic.
- Economic pressures are growing, in part from the financialization of rental housing markets, rapid inflation of the cost of housing, and increasing income inequality.
- Rental assistance can be either direct financial support to households living in market or non-market housing, or direct financial support to non-market housing providers in order to offset the cost of rent for low-income households.
- 1 in 3 renters are worried about making rent next month.

LEARN MORE:

- Eviction and Rent arrears landscape across Canada: www.equalityrights.org/cera-blog/the-evictions-and-rent-arrears-landscape-across-canada
- CHF Canada Budget Submission 2021: chfcanada.coop/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Fed-Pre-budget-Submission-2021_Eng_final.pdf
- Nanos Research Poll: www.votehousing.ca/poll

Rental assistance is a tried and tested way to help low-income households offset the cost of rent. Particularly now as many people face unemployment and uncertainties because of the pandemic, governments should continue these programs. Supporting people where they are at, and creating mixed-income communities is the best way forward.

- Tina Stevens, President at CHF Canada





Pledge Today!

VoteHousing.ca

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