



NEWS RELEASE

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Release of 2016 Data on Housing Demonstrates the Need to Focus on Affordable Housing Supply, particularly Indigenous Housing, in Forthcoming National Housing Strategy

OTTAWA: Statistics Canada earlier today unveiled data from the 2016 national census that demonstrates that core housing need in Canada has increased by 9% since 2011, particularly among renters. The 2016 census also revealed that 19.4% of Indigenous people lived in a dwelling that was in need of major repairs, compared to only 6% for the non-Indigenous population.

The census data revealed that in 2016, 1.7 million Canadian households were in core housing need, defined as households that fall below a standard of adequacy, affordability (paying more than 30% of before-tax household income on shelter) or suitability standards. The number of renters in core housing need increased by 13% compared to 2011.

The census also revealed that over 324,000 Indigenous peoples were living in dwellings that required “major repairs”, and 18.3% of Canada’s Indigenous population lived in housing that was considered not suitable for the number of people who lived there.

“The census numbers on housing in Canada are a clear indication that in the forthcoming National Housing Strategy expected to be released shortly, the focus of the federal government’s policies and investments must be on increasing the supply of safe and affordable housing, particularly for Canada’s Indigenous peoples”, said Jeff Morrison, Executive Director of the Canadian Housing and Renewal Association. “Social and non-profit housing providers simply do not have the resources to properly address core housing need, particularly urban and rural Indigenous housing providers. The National Housing Strategy must provide the tools and investments necessary to sustain and grow the affordable housing sector to reduce core housing need”, he added.

The 2016 census data on housing in Canada can be obtained from the website of Statistics Canada.

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For more information, please contact:

Jeff Morrison, Executive Director, Canadian Housing and Renewal Association
(613) 594-3007, x11 (PHONE); jmorrison@chra-achru.ca (EMAIL)