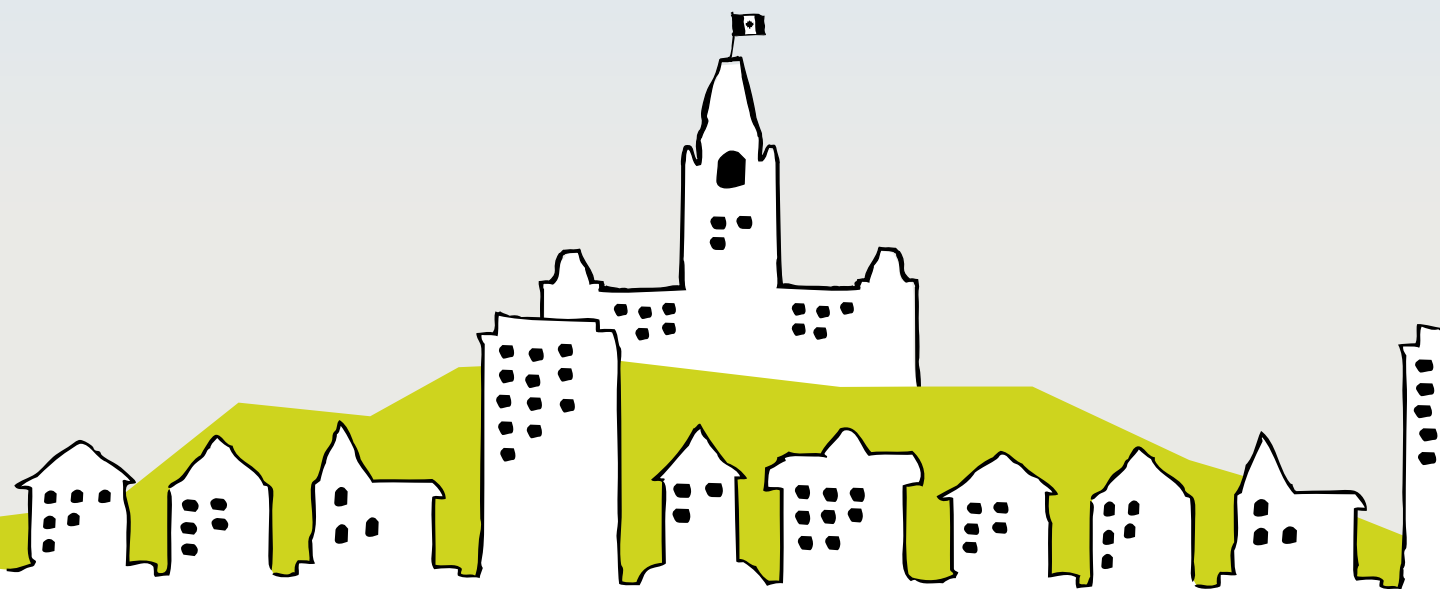


CANADIAN HOUSING AND
RENEWAL ASSOCIATION

HOUSING FOR ALL

ANNUAL REPORT 2015



OUR MEMBERS

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Aboriginal Housing Management Association • Aboriginal Housing Society of Prince George • Aboriginal Mothers Centre • Accessible Housing • Advocacy Centre for Tenants Ontario • Ahmadiyya Abode of Peace Inc. • AIDS Committee of NL/Tommy Sexton Centre • Alan Cavell • Alberta Network of Public Housing Agencies • Alberta Senior Citizens' Housing Association • Alison Smith • Alliance to End Homelessness Ottawa • Angela Day • Aqanttanam Housing Society • Association des groupes de ressources techniques du Québec • Atira Women's Resource Society • Attainable Homes Calgary Corporation • Avanti Housing Inc. • BC Housing • BC Housing Management Commission • Berkley Property Management Inc. • Beter Wonen Vechtdal • Blue Door Shelters • Brandon Neighbourhood Renewal Corporation • Boys and Girls Clubs of Calgary • Brentwood Family Housing Society • Brian O'Dwyer • British Columbia Non-Profit Housing Association • Broadway Youth Resource Centre (Pacific Community Resources Society) • Brockville Non Profit Housing Corporation • Bruce House • Bow Valley Regional Housing • Calgary Homeless Foundation • Calgary John Howard Society • Cambridge Non-Profit Housing Corporation • Cameron Gray • Camponi Housing Corporation • Canadian Mental Health Association - Edmonton Region • Canadian Mental Health Association - Shuswap/Revelstoke • Canadian Mental Health Association - Thompson • Canadian Mental Health Association - Ottawa • Canadian Mental Health Association - Red Deer • Canadian Mental Health Association - Sudbury • Canmore Community Housing Corporation • Capital Region Housing Corporation • Capital Regional District • Carleton Housing Inc • Catherine Boucher • Central City Foundation • Centretown Citizens Ottawa Corporation • Choices For Youth • Christie Ossington Neighbourhood Centre • City of Calgary • City of Edmonton • City of Grande Prairie • City of Halifax • City of Hamilton • City of Kamloops • City of Leduc • City of Lethbridge • City of London • City of Medicine Hat • City of Ottawa • City of Peterborough • City of Red Deer • City of Regina • City of Saskatoon • City of Spruce Grove • City of Toronto • City of Vancouver Housing Centre • City of Winnipeg • Claude Roy • Co-operative Housing Association of Eastern Ontario • Co-operative Housing Federation of BC • Co-operative Housing Federation of Canada • Cochrane Family and Community Support Services • Colin MacDonald • Communitas Group Ltd. • Community Action Group on Homelessness • Confédération québécoise des coopératives d'habitation • Corporation d'habitation Jeanne-Mance • Corporation Waskahegen • Covenant House Toronto • CRC Self Help Inc • DCarr Community Solutions • Derek Ballantyne • Dismas Society • Downtown Winnipeg BIZ • Durham Region Non-Profit Housing Corporation • Ecuhome Corporation • Edward Power • EHRLO Community Services Inc. • End Homelessness St. John's • Entre Nous Femmes Housing Society • Eva's Initiatives • Fédération des OSBL d'habitation de Montréal • Fédération régionale des OBNL d'habitation de Québec-Chaudière-Appalaches • Fife House Foundation • Focus Consulting Inc. • Fort McMurray Family Crisis Society • Fredericton Non-Profit Housing Corporation Inc. • Gale Hagblom • Gary Glauser • Genworth Canada • German-Canadian Housing of Newmarket Inc. • Gignul Non-Profit Housing Corporation • Gloucester Housing Corporation • Good Sheperd Non-Profit Homes • Government of Alberta • Government of Ontario • Government of Yukon • Greater Moncton Homelessness Steering Committee • Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness • Greg Bounds • Greg Steves • Greg Suttor • Groupe de ressources techniques - Bâtir son quartier • Groupe habitat conseil inc. • Habitat for Humanity Canada • Habitat for Humanity Southern Alberta • Harry Lash Library • Heart River Housing • Helen Handrigan • Helmut Epp • Helping Spirit Lodge Society • High Level Housing Authority • Home Ownership Alternatives • HomeEd • Homes First Society • Homeward Trust Edmonton • Horizon Housing Society • Houselink Community Homes • Housing Authority of the City of Milwaukee • Housing Nova Scotia • Housing Services Corporation • Iler Campbell LLP • Joyce Potter • INHOUSE Attainable Housing Society • Institute of Urban Studies - University of Winnipeg • Iris Kirby House Inc. • Jackson Brown Associates Inc. • Joe MacLean • John Howard Society of Southeastern NB Inc. • Judy Forrest • Kehilla Residential Programme • La Maison du Père • Lakehead Social Planning Council • Larry S. Bourne • Laura Murphy • Leduc County

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

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2015 was a banner year for CHRA. Not only was our Congress in Winnipeg sold out and a great success in terms of programming and engagement, but it was also the year that CHRA's hard advocacy work resulted in significant achievements.

With the election of a new federal government committed to a National Housing Strategy, and with dozens of new MPs from all stripes who have committed to championing the cause of affordable housing, CHRA is now in a position to focus its efforts into a collaborative phase of policy creation and implementation.

Make no mistake, there is still lots of work to be done, but our collective efforts in 2015 have put us in a position to be true influencers with the new government moving forward.

As a national organization with members representing the full spectrum of affordable housing solutions, CHRA is very well positioned to play a leadership role in bringing groups together, finding solutions, and to advance objectives on Parliament Hill.

We cannot thank you enough for your commitment, and look forward to continue working alongside you in 2016!

Sincerely,

Brigitte Witkowski

President,

Canadian Housing & Renewal Association

WHO WE ARE

The Canadian Housing and Renewal Association (CHRA) is the national voice for the full range of affordable housing and homelessness issues and solutions across Canada. We have over 285 members who collectively house and shelter hundreds of thousands of Canadians, and provide housing support to many more.

CHRA provides a home for the housing sector and for all who believe that every Canadian should have a decent, adequate and affordable place to call home.

No matter what part of the Canadian housing spectrum you are involved with, we believe that

the need for a national organization to advocate for improved federal funding, policies and programs, has never been more acute. CHRA is that national organization.

CHRA brings the sector together with face-to-face events, webinars, interest-based caucuses and a board of directors that is reflective of our diverse membership. Our annual, national Congress is a one-of-a-kind event where the housing sector gathers to share information, network and learn about best practices from experts and from each other.

OUR MISSION

CHRA promotes affordable housing for all through:

Sustained and strategic government relations in support of our members.

Sector transformation through innovative research, education, partnership development and collaboration.

Leading and convening Canada's affordable housing sector through Congress, caucuses and special events.

OUR PILLARS

Keeping homes affordable

Ending homelessness

Renewing our communities

Supporting a sustainable housing profession

We support these pillars by **advocating** for improved federal funding, housing policies and programs, **developing** policy and research on affordable housing and homelessness, **informing** our members of new opportunities, best practices and innovations and **connecting** the affordable housing sector through webinars, networks, our annual Congress and more.

OUR BOARD

.....



Back row, from left to right

Robert Byers

Director, Aboriginal Community

Chief Executive Officer, Namerind Housing Corporation

Stephen Pretty

Regional Director, Newfoundland & Labrador

**Senior Policy Advisor/Federal-Provincial Affairs Coordinator,
Newfoundland Labrador Housing**

Linda Ring

Regional Director, Manitoba

President, SAM Management

Pamela Hine

TREASURER

Regional Director, Northern Territories

President, Yukon Housing Corporation

Timothy Ross

SECRETARY

Regional Director, New Brunswick

Executive Director, New Brunswick Non-Profit Housing Association

Kaye Melliship

Regional Director, British Columbia

Director At-Large, British Columbia Non-Profit Housing Association

David Eddy

Director at Large

Chief Executive Officer, Vancouver Native Housing Society

Bryan Lutes

PRESIDENT ELECT

Regional Director, Alberta

President, Wood Buffalo Housing & Development Corporation

Front row, from left to right

Stéphan Corriveau

Regional Director, Québec

Directeur général, Réseau québécois des OSBL d'habitation

Brigitte Witkowski

PRESIDENT

Regional Director, Ontario

Executive Director, Mainstay Housing

Danielle Juteau

VICE-PRESIDENT

Director at Large

**Directrice, Services de la gestion des demandeurs, des
logements abordables et des programmes de suppléments au
loyer, Office Municipal d'habitation de Montréal**

Brian Gilligan

Director at Large

**Executive Director of Community Development,
Ottawa Community Housing Corporation**

Absent from the picture:

William K. Buckland

Regional Director, Nova Scotia & PEI

Administrator, Seton Foundation

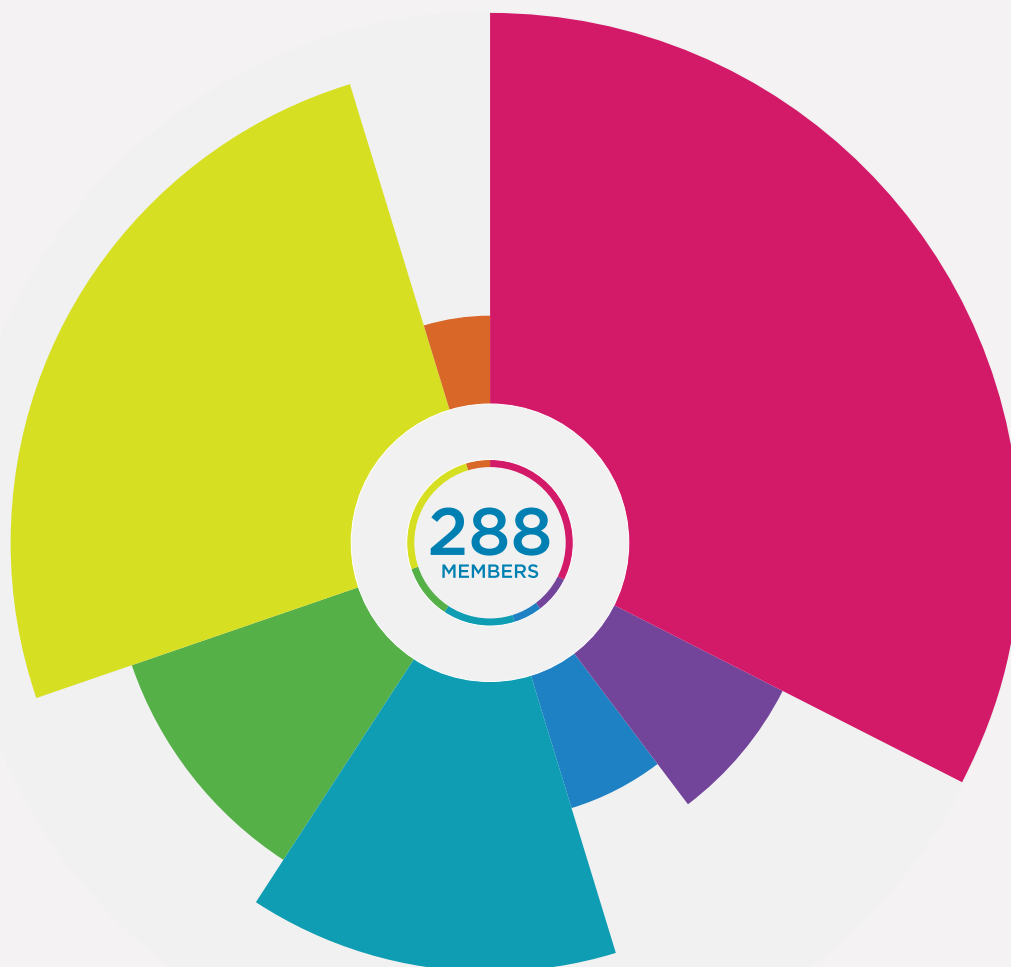
Daryl Sexsmith

Regional Director, Saskatchewan

Housing Analyst, City of Saskatoon

OUR MEMBERS

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288
MEMBERS
as of December 31st 2015

94	Affordable housing providers, owners & managers	40	Individuals
21	Associations	30	Municipalities
16	Business partners	74	Non-profit groups
		13	Provincial/territorial departments

ADVOCACY

Being a federal election year, CHRA was determined to make an impact in 2015. To do so, it developed strategic, member-driven campaigns, leveraged relationships, and seized opportunities to advance housing as a national political issue well in advance of the election call. Thankfully, a generous grant by the *Catherine Donnelly Foundation* also allowed CHRA to put some key advocacy activities into place throughout the country.

ELECTION-TIME ADVOCACY

The pre-election strategy involved two components: national and grassroots.

National public relations, advertising, social media and partnership initiatives, ongoing meetings with decision makers, regular advocacy communications and tools sent to members and stakeholders.

Grassroots activity in the form of member and stakeholder meetings with local candidates and execution of regional roundtable candidate forums.

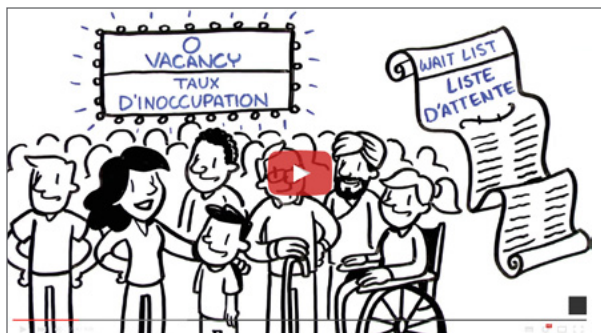


Housing for All Network

The *Housing for All* Network came together to make affordable and social housing a federal election issue in 2015. Made up of dozens of national, regional and local groups and associations located throughout Canada, the network used CHRA's revamped Housing4all.ca website as a place to share tools, stories and tips on how to vote *Housing for All*!

Housing for All Video

In an effort to present the complex challenges facing the housing sector, a two-minute "white board" explainer video was created in both official languages. Publicly released at Congress 2015 on April 30 before a crowd of 500 delegates, the *Housing for All* video had been viewed close to 5,000 times via YouTube by the end of year. It has been shown to key influencers and many large public gatherings across the country.



ADVOCACY

Cross Country Roundtables

During the pre-election period and during the campaign, CHRA met with 109 candidates from the NDP, Liberal and Green parties. Host cities included Winnipeg, Calgary, Edmonton, Victoria, Montréal, Saskatoon, Gatineau, Québec City, Ottawa, St. John's, Fredericton, Regina, Edmonton and Toronto.

Support levels among candidates were extremely positive with candidates from all parties pledging support for federal reinvestment in affordable housing, especially for social housing coming off federal agreements. 33 of the candidates were elected in their ridings, including 9 who are now ministers.

Candidates repeatedly said they appreciated the opportunity to learn more about the housing crisis in a relevant and non-threatening setting through the same-party roundtables and that CHRA was the only group who had done anything like this.

Outside of roundtable events, many members and stakeholders used *Housing for All* resources to organize their own events and meetings with local candidates.



Election Podcast Series

In support of the National Week of Action on Housing from September 23 to 30, 2015, CHRA released its *Housing for All* Election Podcast Series in the form of 10 to 15 minute individual interviews with candidates who are housing champions and spokespeople from different parties. This format offered CHRA members and voters a unique opportunity to learn more about each party's housing platform in a more engaging way. Adam Vaughan, Marjolaine Boutin-Sweet and Marc Garneau were amongst the candidates who took part.



ADVOCACY

POST-ELECTION ADVOCACY

In an effort to build on its successful *Housing for All* election period campaign, CHRA immediately went to work in furthering advocacy goals post-election.

As a first step, CHRA reached out to key housing stakeholders to propose a more collaborative approach to government relations, making it easier for the government to implement relevant housing policies.



National Housing Day Event, November 20

By way of National Housing Day, CHRA sought to leverage its relationship with the Honourable Catherine McKenna, the new Minister of Environment and Climate Change, and a member of many key cabinet committees, in an effort to bring media attention to our asks, engage members and stakeholders and most importantly, elevate our issues on the radar of those close to the Prime Minister's Office.

By demonstrating the link between the promotion of green infrastructure and investment in affordable housing, CHRA made itself relevant to a broader political context. This is especially helpful since the new government has committed to approaching all issues through an environmental lens:

"We will ensure adequate sustainable and predictable funding for social housing providers, target new capital investments in affordable rental housing and invest in innovative programs for supportive housing – ALL critical measures to tackling the affordable housing and homelessness crisis. We will renew federal leadership in housing, starting with a new, ten-year investment in social infrastructure."



– The Honourable Catherine McKenna,
Minister of Environment and Climate Change

ADVOCACY

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Housing for All Post-Election Blitz

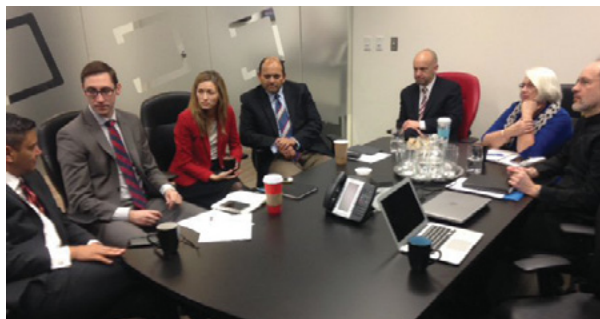
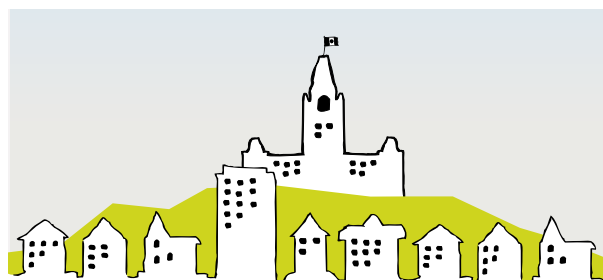
Recognizing the importance of continued grassroots engagement, CHRA called on its members and stakeholders to contact their respective Members of Parliament to champion housing. Specifically, CHRA asked them to request specific language to be included in the Speech from the Throne.

A one-pager was developed to clearly illustrate the issues faced by the sector and the solutions proposed by CHRA and its partners. You can see the one-pager on page 9 and also find it online at chra-achru.ca/advocacy.

Targeted Advertising Buys

CHRA sought to stretch its advertising reach by purchasing two prominent spaces in the *iPolitics* Morning Brief and Evening Brief, a communication piece that directly reaches over 4,000 of Canada's top decision makers and political insiders.

There was also significant social media activity about the *Housing for all* campaign.



Strategic Partnerships

Also noteworthy is the invitation by Infrastructure Minister Sohi and the Minister responsible for Housing, Jean-Yves Duclos, for CHRA to attend the December 4 Speech from the Throne as their guest. Interim ED Tim Ross represented CHRA at the event.

As part of its goal of furthering strategic partnerships, CHRA convened a 2-day meeting with members and partners of the housing sector, including the *Co-operative Housing Federation of Canada*, the *British Columbia Non Profit Housing Association (BCNPHA)*, the *Réseau Québécois des OSBL d'habitation (RQOH)*, the *Ontario Non Profit Housing Association (ONPHA)* and the *Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness (CAEH)*.

At this gathering, the group explored opportunities to enhance alignment and coordination as a sector in order to advance a strong housing agenda with the federal government.

While in Ottawa, CHRA secured a meeting for the group with Minister Sohi, Associate Deputy Minister Yazmine Laroche, and ministerial staff. The Minister was attentive and supportive, pledging to work closely with housing stakeholders to determine social infrastructure allocations.

ONE-PAGER

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.**



Estimated number of households currently on social housing wait lists*

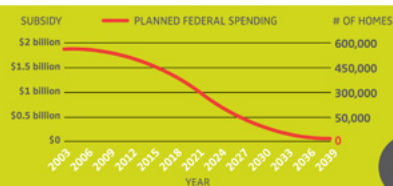
Fredericton:	500
Montréal:	24,000
Ottawa:	10,900
Toronto:	90,900
Vancouver:	9,500
Winnipeg:	2,855

*According to most recent figures available. Each city has a different way of managing its list and these numbers may not be representative. Source: Fredericton CHRA, 2013; Montréal, 2013; Ottawa, 2013; Toronto, 2013; Vancouver, 2013; Winnipeg, 2013. Households only include and represent housing for low-income households. Excludes non-profit, co-op, and urban native units. Photo: Vancouver, BC Housing, 2014; Winnipeg, Manitoba Housing, 2014. Density manager portfolio units only. Excludes non-profit, co-op, 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 TODAY THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT MUST RE-INVEST IN SOCIAL HOUSING.



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

@CHRA_ACHRU
housing4all.ca | chra-achru.ca



CONGRESS

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For the second year in a row CHRA Congress was 'Sold Out', with record breaking attendance. A robust program offering seventeen concurrent workshops, ten Mobile Tours, Keynotes, Emerging Professionals programming, Tradeshow, social events and an inspiring CHRA Awards of Recognition Lunch meant that there was something for everyone.



Pre-Congress Learning

'The Fundamentals of Housing Policy Course' taught by Steve Pomeroy, President, *Focus Consulting*, and Senior Fellow, University of Ottawa Centre on Governance, provided attendees with a comprehensive overview of Canadian housing policies, programs and institutional arrangements. The full-day session 'A Whole New Housing World: Challenges and Opportunities Post-Expiry' considered the impacts of expiring operating agreements. Shayne Ramsay (*BC Housing*), Graham Leah, (*Toronto Community Housing*) and Jenny Gerbasi (*FCM*) discussed opportunities post-expiry to chart a renewed course towards sustaining the affordable housing sector. Derek Burleton (*TD Bank Financial Group*), spoke to the economics of affordable housing, while Craig Sanderson (*Link Housing*) joined from Scotland to share experiences in scaling up and seeking new business lines amidst dwindling grants and political challenges.



We couldn't get enough of our outstanding Congress Keynotes!!!

Wab Kinew, Vice-President for Indigenous Relations at the University of Winnipeg, correspondent with *Aljazeera America*, and host of CBC's acclaimed documentary series '8th Fire' was the opening Keynote. Kinew spoke passionately about his experiences as a youth, and member of the Midewin, and to the need for community collaboration in advancing Indigenous issues. Christine McLaren, Director of Research and Partnerships for *Happy City*, who produced the bestselling book *Happy City: Transforming our Lives Through Urban Design* shared key concepts of integrating urban design, planning and policy with the concept of livable, walkable enjoyable cities as our closing Keynote.



CONGRESS

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Congress in the media

CHRA Congress received an abundance of comprehensive media coverage in English and French, including pieces from our media partners the *Tyee Solutions Society* and the *Winnipeg Free Press*, as well as from the *CBC* and *Radio-Canada*, among others. Due to strategic communications efforts, resulting coverage highlighted the impact of the end of operating agreements and the need for greater federal investment in affordable housing.



Outstanding VIPs

Congress 2015 welcomed remarks and attendance by Manitoba MLA Rob Altemeyer, Winnipeg Mayor Brian Bowman, Montréal City Councillor Russell Copeman, Winnipeg City Councillor Mike Pagtakhan and Manitoba Minister of Housing and Community Development Kerri Irvin-Ross and many more. Evan Siddall, President, *Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation* spoke to the value of social housing in Canada, and to the capacity of the sector to harness its leadership to move affordable housing outcomes into a new era of opportunity.

Key federal decision makers, such as NDP Opposition Critic for Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Marjolaine Boutin-Sweet (MP) and Liberal Housing and Urban Affairs Critic Adam Vaughan (MP) also participated.

Emerging Professionals attendance at Congress is growing

Our 2nd Annual Speed-Date-A-Mentor Networking event was abuzz with conversation and palpable energy, as mentors and mentees delved into the ins and outs of a career in affordable housing. CHRA's 3rd Annual Research Colloquium brought six research students and young professionals together on two thematic panels: *Addressing Barriers & Needs of Distinct Homeless Populations* and *Fostering Supportive & Affordable Housing Options for Diverse Communities*. A rousing Pub Night also gathered delegates new to the sector for a pint and a chat, as lasting connections were made.



ABORIGINAL CAUCUS

The CHRA Aboriginal Housing Advisory Caucus was established in 2013 in recognition of the large number of Aboriginal-led and Aboriginal-serving organizations who are CHRA members, and who wanted to work together for better housing for Aboriginal Peoples across the country. Year over year, Caucus momentum has continued to grow, and this year's Caucus brought together over 100 delegates – a 40 percent increase from 2014. At Caucus Day 2015, delegates attended from 10 of the 13 Canadian provinces and territories and from a variety of sectors including Aboriginal housing providers, friendship centres, municipal, provincial and territorial officials, businesses, individuals with lived experience of social housing or homelessness, as well as representatives of First Nations, and the Government of Canada. Delegates gathered to learn, network, and foster a national voice and participated across three distinct panels addressing respectively the *End of Operating Agreements*, *Business Transformation* and *Federal Election 2015*.

The Caucus theme *Towards Transformation – Creating Opportunities* recognized that with the expiry of operating agreements and the cessation of rent subsidies, transforming Aboriginal housing to a new sustainable footing is deeply challenging. In this context, it was important to delve into the challenges and impacts as well as showcasing transformative measures being led by Aboriginal housing providers, such as retooling management practices and organizational structures, developing social enterprises, and building new partnership opportunities. Caucus members dedicated the final part of the day to formulating key messages and action strategies to harness

the Federal Election as a vehicle to gain commitment of political candidates to major reinvestment in social and affordable housing.

The learnings will continue to be passed on through the *Highlights Report of the Canadian Housing and Renewal Association Aboriginal Caucus Day 2015*, which is available on the CHRA website.

CHRA would like to extend thanks to all those who contributed to the success of Aboriginal Caucus Day 2015: CHRA Aboriginal Caucus Chair, Robert Byers, working Group members Michael Laliberte, Susan McGee, Phil Brown, Marc William Maracle, Don McBain, Gary Gould, Richard George and Jody Ciufo. CHRA volunteer Louise Atkins, along with sponsors, partners, presenters, Elder Velma Orvis, and Facilitators Barbara and Lucille Bruce, and above all the delegates who brought their knowledge, passion and insights to the table on April 28th.



WEBINARS



CHRA webinars

Delving into a variety of topics, CHRA webinars showcase housing sector innovations taking place across Canada, and provide insights into trends in housing policy and programs. As an educational tool, our webinars connect participants, share best-practices and offer an accessible way to keep informed.

In 2015 CHRA offered seven interactive webinars highlighting a variety of topics including Aboriginal-led housing initiatives, social innovation practices, youth homelessness, rooming houses, newcomer housing and partnered with *Habitat for Humanity* to discuss opportunities post-EOA.

Local Approaches to Supporting Safe, Quality Rooming Houses

Jovan Lottis, Rooming House Outreach Coordinator, *West Broadway Community Organization* (MB)

Lisa Finateri, Coordinator Rooming House Services, *City of Ottawa* (ON)

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Mobilizing to End Youth Homelessness in Kingston & Kamloops

Sheldon Pollette, Co-Chair, *National Mobilizing Local Capacity to End Youth Homelessness & Executive Director, Choices for Youth* (NL)

Carmin Mazzotta, Social and Community Development Supervisor, *City of Kamloops* (BC)

Naomi Leadbeater, Community Development Coordinator, *Brandon Neighborhood Renewal Corporation* (MB)

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A Path To Home: Supporting Housing Needs for Newcomers

Adela Colhon, General Manager, *A Path to Home*, National Coordination, *YMCA of Greater Toronto* (Nat'l)

Ljiljana Kalaba, Project Coordinator, *A Path to Home*, *Multicultural Association of Fredericton Inc.* (NB)

Martine Bazira, Housing Support Worker, *A Path to Home*, *YMCA of Northern Alberta* in Edmonton (AB)

Yasmine Dossal, Director, *A Path to Home*, *COSTI Immigrant Services in Toronto* (ON)

Affordable Homeownership Partnerships with Habitat for Humanity Canada

Terry Petkau, National Director, Safety and Building Programs, *Habitat for Humanity* (Nat'l)

Alfred Nikolai, President & CEO, *Habitat for Humanity Edmonton* (AB)

Meaghan Macdonald, Executive Director, *Habitat for Humanity Northumberland* (ON)

.....

What's Next for Social Housing: Aboriginal-led Impacts & Solutions to Life Without Operating Agreements

Mary Agnes Welch, Public Policy Reporter, *Winnipeg Free Press* (MB)

Leo Hebert, Executive Director, *Prince George Métis Housing Society* (BC)

Gary Gould, General Manager, *Skigin Elnoog Housing Corporation* (NB)

.....

Enabling Housing Stability Through Asset Building

Louise Simbandumwe, Director of Asset Building Programs, *SEED Winnipeg* (MB)

Sherry Riva, Founder and Executive Director, *Compass Working Capital*, Boston, MA (USA)

.....

Social Impact Models Breaking Down Barriers for Homeless Populations

Laura Barreca, Operations Manager, *CleanStart*, Vancouver (BC)

Nadia Duguay, Co-Founder & Executive Director, *Exeko*, Montréal (QC)

To find past webinar presentations and info on upcoming webinars:
chra-achru.ca/webinars

RESEARCH PAPERS



BC Housing

In collaboration with, and through the generous financial support of *BC Housing*, CHRA has produced the following papers based on six workshops presented at CHRA's Congress 2015 in Winnipeg, MB.

Innovative Affordable Homeownership Initiatives

Highlighting the work of three organizations respectively in Abbotsford, BC, Winnipeg, MB and Toronto, ON, this paper showcases affordable homeownership strategies, including programs for off-reserve First Nations, as well as partnerships addressing limited land use, and unique design principles.

.....

Preventing and Addressing Homelessness by Supporting Youth Aging Out of Care

This report examines the relationship between homelessness and youth aging out of the child welfare system, as well as street-level agency impacts and responsive program design. It also addresses the debate for systematic change to policy, awareness and youth-led input on youth homelessness.

.....

Building Community Capacity Through Neighbourhood Based Initiatives

Two initiatives, one situated in Fresno, California, U.S., the other in Saskatoon, SK, provide powerful proven demonstrations of how associations, institutions and residents are collaborating at the local level towards the development of affordable housing and social cohesion.

Social Impact Measurement: Making the Case for Housing

This paper situates the how and why of measuring the social impact of investment in affordable housing from three perspectives: a housing provider, a provincial government agency and a financial institution.

.....

Greening Up! Promising Practices in Housing Sustainability

This session featured two unique approaches, one by a social enterprise, the other by a non-profit housing provider, utilizing a variety of methods to improve energy efficient retrofits resulting in lower operating costs and increased affordability.

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The Rental Housing Index: Building the Evidence We Need to Meet the Housing Needs of Tomorrow

Using an interactive map to present rental housing data for communities across Canada, the Rental Housing Index, designed and developed by the *BC Non-Profit Housing Association* in partnership with *Vancity Credit Union*, is a one of a kind tool created to fill a gap in community rental market information.

You can find these papers and further case studies and research on our website:
chra-achru.ca/research-papers

AWARDS

.....

CHRA Community Builder Award

To recognize an individual, business or organization that has had a major impact at the community level in promoting affordable housing and/or preventing and ending homelessness.



Debbie Di Chiaro, Directrice du Service du logement abordable, l'Office municipal d'habitation de Montréal, Québec (retired)

With a Master's degree in Public Administration and a Bachelor of Education, Debbie Di Chiaro worked with the *Office municipal d'habitation de Montréal* (OMHM) for almost 28 years. Over that period, she held property management and customer service positions prior to assuming the leadership of the *EnHarmonie* network, a network of affordable housing residences for the aged.

The OMHM was the first housing authority in Québec to offer such a facility and to provide low and moderate-income people with a real alternative to private residences. A number of partnerships, particularly with the *Regroupement des services d'habitation du Québec* (RSHQ) and the *Fédération québécoise des loisirs en institution* (FQLI) were forged to give life to this innovative network. The jury for the "Living Together Today and Tomorrow" international competition, an initiative of agevillage.com and the French real estate company *ICADE*, featured OMHM's work in its 2011 edition.

Today, the *Enharmonie* network is composed of 10 certified residences with 1,259 units. A December 2014 Crop survey reported an amazing 95% tenant satisfaction rate. Over the course of her career, Debbie served as a member of the board of the *Regroupement des résidences pour aînés du Québec* (RQRA), and of the *Fédération des OBNL en habitation de Montréal* (FOHM). Debbie retired from the OMHM in 2014, but continues to devote her time to various organizations as a volunteer.

CHRA Leadership Award

To recognize an individual who has shown leadership in improving housing in Canada through program innovation, policy change, outreach and/or advocacy efforts.



Bruce Pearce, Community Development Worker, End Homelessness St. John's, Newfoundland & Labrador

Blending a passion for social justice and the environment, Bruce Pearce works to develop solutions for healthy, sustainable communities. Since 2002 he has been the community development worker for *End Homelessness St. John's*, and in 2009 his committee helped found the *Newfoundland & Labrador Housing & Homelessness Network*.

Bruce's work with CHRA, from his joining the board in 2006 until finishing his term as Past President in 2013, established his impact at the national level in a formal capacity. Most particularly, as President, Bruce steered CHRA through its most difficult period in its recent history, setting a new course for the association's growth and renewal.

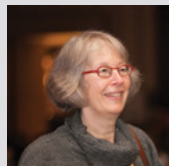
As CHRA's ambassador to members, stakeholders and partners, Bruce solidified CHRA's renewal as the home for the housing sector and worked to knit together what had traditionally been seen as the distinct and separate entities of affordable housing and homelessness. Fostering understanding of housing as a continuum whose elements are integrally bound, Bruce was the driving force behind the creation of the Community Advisory Boards network in 2012. Under Bruce's leadership, CHRA's *Green Housing*, *Green Jobs* policy was highlighted in international conferences and here at home with AANDC and ESDC.

These and many more examples of his impressive leadership and dedication are the reasons why he is so deserving of a CHRA award.

AWARDS

CHRA Lifetime Achievement Award

To recognize an individual with many years of service who has had a major impact on the affordable housing sector in Canada.



Jo Ferris-Davies, Director of Member Development and Education, Ontario Non-Profit Housing Association, Toronto, Ontario (retired)

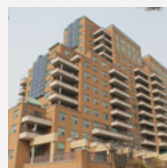
Jo Ferris-Davies' on-the-ground expertise in housing development, finance and management was gained through thirteen years with *Houselink Community Homes*, and twenty plus years with the *Ontario Non-Profit Housing Association* (ONPHA), representing more than 760 non-profit housing members with 170,000 units in Ontario.

Now retired, Jo was the Director of Member Development and Education for ONPHA where she was responsible for strategic planning for the Association, as well as Communications and Special Projects. ONPHA ran a comprehensive education and training program under Jo's leadership, serving more than 1,000 participants through courses and workshops in all areas of non-profit management. In addition, Jo was responsible for the business management and development of ONPHA's group purchasing program, "Best Deals", including contract negotiations valued at more than \$30 million per annum.

Jo's prior experience with *Houselink Community Homes* includes project management of over fifteen properties. In her capacity as Executive Director, Jo was directly responsible for strategic planning and development, tenant engagement, support strategies and community development. As a volunteer, Jo has served as President of *Rooftops Canada*, a national organization committed to developing affordable housing in sub-Saharan Africa, Program Director (Board of Directors) for *CISV*, an international children's organization, Board member of *Palmerston School Day Care*, and Board Member of *Keith Whitney Homes* (Fred Victor Mission).

CHRA Sustainability Award

To recognize an organization, business or partnership that has undertaken a program, a new build or retrofit project that advances sustainable development, resource conservation or community renewal.



Ahmadiyya Abode of Peace
Toronto, Ontario

Ahmadiyya Abode of Peace is a 14-story, 166 unit non-profit housing project, sponsored by *Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at Canada*. *Ahmadiyya Abode of Peace* has remained committed to environmental excellence ever since its inception in 1990. Its Board and staff have systematically pursued opportunities to save energy and reduce environmental impact.

In the last four years, major retrofits and a comprehensive building automation system have been completed that have resulted in savings of approximately 40% in gas, 30% in electricity and 25% in water consumption. Efforts on recycling have reduced garbage output by 35%, and energy efficiency measures during construction were rewarded by an *Ontario Hydro* incentive grant.

Renewable Energy projects include, 10 KWH Solar PV, Solar Water Heating and Solar Air Heating, a reflective roof, hazardous waste and recycling programs. A very active Tenant Association promotes awareness, education and involvement resulting in behavioral changes affecting environment and energy consumption, and youth are also actively engaged in volunteer work and recycling initiatives.

Ahmadiyya Abode of Peace recently participated in an 'Energy Forum' organized by *Housing Services Corporation* in Toronto, and were recognized by the *Ontario Non-Profit Housing Association* (ONPHA) with the 'ONPHA 2013 Going Green Award.'

STATEMENTS

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Statement of Operations

REVENUE	2015	2014
Membership	\$ 344,156	\$ 347,720
Annual congress	433,633	506,864
Partnership funding	57,833	120,000
Special events	173,579	16,817
Investment	6,047	5,986
Miscellaneous	2,881	1,725
	\$ 1,018,129	\$ 999,112
EXPENSES		
Salaries, benefits & contracted services	524,202	550,293
Office & overhead	104,469	119,164
Democratic functioning	29,792	17,035
Annual congress	218,080	240,801
Communications	25,806	40,800
Special events	130,704	21,009
Amortization	1,993	3,017
	\$ 1,035,046	\$ 992,119
NET REVENUE	\$ (16,917)	\$ 6,993

Statement of Financial Position

ASSETS	2015	2014
Current		
Cash	93,174	\$ 48,342
Short-term investments	50,337	120,725
Accounts receivable	294,060	126,649
Prepaid expenses	42,234	28,477
	\$ 479,805	\$ 324,193
Tangible Capital Assets	1,759	2,837
	\$ 481,564	\$ 327,030
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Current Liabilities		
Bank Loan	19,498	
Accounts payable & accrued liabilities	101,715	40,271
Deferred membership fees & revenues	315,225	224,716
	\$ 436,438	\$ 264,987
Net Assets		-
Unrestricted	23,367	39,206
Invested in tangible capital assets	1,759	2,837
Internally restricted:		
Stabilization reserve	20,000	20,000
	\$ 45,126	\$ 62,043
	\$ 481,564	\$ 327,030

THE BOTTOM LINE

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Overall, CHRA's financial performance remained strong in 2015, despite a number of challenges. CHRA's overall revenues in 2015 amounted to \$1,018,000, up approximately 2% from 2014, and up over 69% since 2011 when CMHC funding was discontinued.

Although this was a strong financial performance, CHRA realized a small deficit of approximately \$17,000 in 2015. This deficit was due in large measure to the expenses associated with the recruitment of a new Executive Director and the accompanying transition, a Strategic Planning process, and extensive work on the *Housing for All* campaign both during and after the 2015 federal election, that resulted in a new federal government that has pledged to address deficiencies in the social housing sector.

CHRA's Annual Congress remains not only a key housing-related event for leaders in the housing realm, but also provides CHRA with needed revenue to continue its advocacy and research functions. In 2015, record setting attendance at the Winnipeg Congress resulted in net revenue of \$215,000 (not inclusive of extensive staff and volunteer time that goes into organizing Congress). The Pre-Congress, the Aboriginal Caucus, and the Emerging Professionals Program were areas of particular strength and focus that bolstered the value of the event. This strong performance bodes well for future Congresses.

Membership revenues declined slightly in 2015, mainly due to non-renewal of members, although non-renewing members were offset in large measure with recruitment of new members. By the end of 2015, CHRA closed the year with 288 members, up from 210 members in 2011. Special events and partnerships played a key role in CHRA's functioning in 2015. Grants

from *BC Housing*, *Human Resources and Social Development Canada*, and the *Catherine Donnelly Foundation* allowed CHRA to pursue a number of activities and research initiatives of value to CHRA members. The *Housing For All* campaign in particular allowed CHRA to play a leadership role in advancing the interests of social housing before and during the 2015 federal election. As witnessed by Prime Minister Trudeau's mandate letters to his Ministers, it is clear that the campaign had a huge impact in advocating for the needs of social housing in Canada; we are confident that 2016 will mark the start of much greater attention being paid to the needs of social and affordable housing. The Community Advisory Board (CAB) meeting organized in 2015 also allowed community representatives to discuss a number of issues including Point in Time counts and homelessness related issues.

With a new Strategic Plan being implemented, strong membership prospects, a new, more sympathetic government, and a strong Congress program, CHRA is optimistic that it can continue to post a strong financial performance for 2016 and beyond.



STAFF

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Jody Ciufu

Executive Director

(November 2009 – October 2015)



Tim Ross

Interim Executive Director

(November – December 2015)



Catherine Fortin LeFavre

Director, Public Affairs



Kristen Holinsky

Program Manager



Vicky Coulombe-Joyce

Coordinator, Communications
& Member Services



Sueann Hall

Coordinator, Programs & Events



Mélina Bouchard

Communications &
Administrative Assistant



Louise Atkins

Volunteer

288 MEMBERS

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• Leduc Foundation • Leila Ghaffari • Lloydminster Metis Housing Group Inc. • Louise Atkins • Lu'ma Native Housing Society • M'akola Group of Societies • Madison Community Services • Mainstay Housing • Mamele-awt Queesome Housing Society • Manitoba Housing • Manitoba Non-Profit Housing Association • Mary McKenzie-James • Medicine Hat Community Housing Society • Metis Urban Housing Association of Saskatchewan Inc. • Metis Urban Housing Corporation • Mission Bon Accueil • Moose Jaw Housing Authority • Moose Jaw Non-Profit Housing Corporation • Multifaith Housing Initiative • Myriam St-Denis • Namerind Housing Corporation • Nanaimo Affordable Housing Society • Native People of Thunder Bay Development Corporation • Neale Staniszskis Doll Adams Architects • Nepean Housing Corporation • New Brunswick Non-Profit Housing Association • New Journey Housing • New Vista Society • Newfoundland & Labrador Housing & Homelessness Network • Newfoundland and Labrador Housing Corporation • North End Community Renewal Corporation • North Shore Disability Resource Centre • Northern Spruce Housing Corporation • Northgate Information Solutions • Northwest Territories Housing Corporation • Nunavut Housing Corporation • Ontario Aboriginal Housing Support Services Corporation • Ontario HIV Treatment Network • Ontario Native Women's Association • Ontario Non-Profit Housing Association • Oonuhseh Niagara Native Homes Incorporated • Options Bytown Non-Profit Housing Corporation • Options For Homes • Ottawa Community Housing Corporation • Ottawa Salus Corporation • P.A. Community Housing Society Inc. • P.A.M. Gardens Non-Profit Inc. • Pacifica Housing • Pam Ralston • Parry Sound Housing Corporation • Paul Dowling & Associates • Paul Kane • Peel Living • Performance Construction Ltd. • Phil Brown • Phoenix • Phoenix Residential Society • Prentice,Yates & Clark • Prince Charles Place • Prince Edward Island Department of Community Service and Seniors • Province of New Brunswick Social Development • Raising the Roof • Rayside Architectes • Red Door Housing Society • Regina Downtown Business Improvement District • Region of Peel • Region of Waterloo • Regional Municipality of Durham • Regional Municipality of Halton, Social and Community Services Dept. • Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo • Regroupement des offices d'habitation du Québec • Rehabitat Inc. • Réseau québécois des OSBL d'habitation • Résidences enHarmonie • Resource Assistance for Youth • Rick Sim • Right to Housing • River Bank Development Corporation • Riverside Lions Seniors Residences • Robert Cohen • Rooftops Canada • S.A.M. (Management) Inc. • Samia Ebrahiem • Sara Alinaghi Pour • Saskatchewan Housing Corporation • Saskatoon Housing Initiatives Partnership • Seton Foundation • SHS Consulting • Sidedoor Youth Centre • Siloam Mission • Silver Sage Housing Corporation • Skigin-Elnoog Housing Corporation of N.B. Inc. • Social Housing Registry of Ottawa • Social Planning Research Council of BC • Société d'habitation du Québec • Société d'habitation Chambrelle • St. John's Status of Women Council • Stella Burry Community Services • Stephen Brown • Sto:lo Nation Health Services • Street Haven • Streetohome Foundation • Streets Alive Family Support Association • Surrey Urban Mission Society • Terra Housing Consultants • The Agency for Co-operative Housing • The District Municipality of Muskoka • The Elizabeth Fry Society of Greater Vancouver • The Lighthouse Supported Living Inc. • The Old Brewery Mission • The Salvation Army • The Salvation Army - Toronto Housing and Homeless Supports • Tim Welch Consulting • TL Housing Solutions • Toronto Community Housing Corporation • Toronto Entertainment District BIA • Town of Beaumont • Town of Calmar • VanCity Enterprises • Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre Society • Vancouver Native Housing Society • Vernon Native Housing Society • Victoria Cool Aid Society • Victoria Park Community Homes Mgt. Project • Ville de Montréal • Vincent Paul Family Homes • Wachaiy Friendship Centre Society • Wendy Zink • Westman Youth for Christ • Winnipeg Housing • Wood Buffalo Housing and Development Corporation • Woodgreen Community Housing Inc • Yellowknife Homelessness Coalition • YMCA of Northern Alberta • York Developments Inc. • York Region • York University • YWCA Canada



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