



**FEDERAL MANDATE LETTER STATUS REPORT
CANADIAN HOUSING AND RENEWAL ASSOCIATION**

Updated: January 2017

In November 2015, Prime Minister Trudeau made public the Mandate Letters that he sent to each of his individual Cabinet Ministers. Within those Mandate Letters were several directives to Ministers directly related to housing; some of these directives were explicitly related to housing, others are more implicit.

CHRA has produced the following status report on the federal government’s progress in implementing the Mandate Letter deliverables. This report will be updated on a regular basis as developments warrant and new information is gathered. Note that duplicate Mandate Letter directives have not been included in this reporting tool.

Minister of Families, Children, and Social Development

MANDATE LETTER DIRECTIVE	STATUS	SOURCE
Prioritize infrastructure investments in affordable housing and seniors’ housing, including finding ways to support the municipal construction of new housing units and refurbishment of existing ones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget 2016 announced \$2.3 billion over a number of programs to be invested in social and affordable housing. • Within that amount, \$200.7 million over two years to support the construction, repair and adaption of affordable housing for seniors. 	Budget 2016
Provide support to municipalities to maintain rent-geared-to-income subsidies in co-ops	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reallocate \$30 million over two years to help federally administered social housing providers maintain rent geared to income units, while consultations will occur to allow providers to achieve “self-reliance”. • This announcement does not provide support to municipalities. 	Budget 2016
Provide communities the money they need for Housing First initiatives that help homeless Canadians find stable housing	\$111.8 million over two years added to the Homelessness Partnering Strategy.	Budget 2016

Work with the Minister of Finance to encourage the construction of new affordable rental housing by removing all GST on new capital investments in affordable rental housing	No announcement yet. (CHRA recommended such a measure in its National Housing Strategy response).	N/A
Work with the Minister of Finance to modernize the existing Home Buyers' Plan to allow Canadians impacted by sudden and significant life changes to buy a house without tax penalty	No announcement yet.	N/A
Work with the Minister of Finance to ensure that the new Canada Infrastructure Bank provides financing to support the construction of new, affordable rental housing	CMHC to consult on the design of an Affordable Rental Housing Financing Initiative to provide low-cost loans to municipalities and housing developers for the construction of new affordable rental housing projects. Finance Minister Morneau announced Infrastructure Bank in October 2016, expected to be capitalized with \$35 billion.	Budget 2016 2016 Fall Economic Update
Work with the Minister of Public Services and Procurement to conduct an inventory of all available federal lands and buildings that could be repurposed, and making some of these lands available at low cost, or no cost, for affordable housing	No announcement yet. (CHRA recommended such a measure in its National Housing Strategy response).	N/A
Undertake a review of escalating home prices in high-priced housing markets and considering all policy tools that could keep home ownership within reach for more Canadians	Announcement made December 2016 to increase minimum down payments for homes over \$500,000; CMHC reporting on housing valuation	Minister of Finance announcement Dec. 11, 2016; CMHC reports
Bring forward a proposal to prevent mortgage fraud	No announcement yet.	N/A
Use the restored mandatory long-form census to ensure that decisions on housing are made using the best and most up-to-date data available	Mandatory long-form census has been restored; next census to begin May 2016.	November 5, 2015 government announcement
Lead the development of a Canadian Poverty Reduction Strategy that would set targets to reduce poverty and measure and publicly report on our progress, in collaboration with the Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Labour. The strategy will align with and support existing	Some elements have been announced, such as middle class tax cut, revised Canada Child Benefit, PSE changes, etc. House of Commons Standing Committee on Human Resources, Skills, and Social Development and the Status of Persons with Disabilities currently	Budget 2016 Parliamentary Committee website and Committee Clerk

provincial and municipal poverty reduction strategies.	holding hearings into an Anti-Poverty Strategy. One quarter of hearings will focus on housing, which are expected in January or February 2017.	
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Minister of Infrastructure and Communities

MANDATE LETTER DIRECTIVE	STATUS	SOURCE
Develop a 10-year plan to deliver significant new funding to provinces, territories and municipalities. This plan should ensure both immediate increased investments in infrastructure and long-term, predictable funding should support provincial, territorial and municipal priorities, improve access to, and governance of, existing infrastructure programs, increase data collection capacity and promote better asset management of infrastructure in Canada. The plan should focus on: public transit; social infrastructure, including affordable housing, seniors' facilities, early learning and child care, and cultural and recreational infrastructure	Government committed to developing a two-phase approach; Phase 1 was a two-year series of infrastructure investments announced in Budget 2016, Phase two will deliver on the remaining eight years. Fall Economic Update indicated \$21.9 billion will be spent on social infrastructure over an 11 year period.	Budget 2016 Fall Economic Update
Work with the Minister of Families, Children and Social Development to create a housing strategy to re-establish the federal government's role in supporting affordable housing.	National Housing Strategy consultation launched in June 2016; concluded with "What We Heard" report in November 2016. An announcement on the NHS is expected in or shortly after the tabling of the 2017 Budget.	Various CMHC announcements.

Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs

MANDATE LETTER DIRECTIVE	STATUS	SOURCE
Work, in collaboration with the Minister of Infrastructure and Communities, and in consultation with First Nations, Inuit, and other stakeholders, to improve essential physical infrastructure for Indigenous communities including improving housing outcomes for Indigenous Peoples.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$554.3 million over two years to address immediate housing needs on reserve, and to support the renovation and retrofit of existing housing on reserve. \$177.7 million over two years to address urgent housing needs in the North and Inuit communities. 	Budget 2016

	The “What We Heard” report released in November 2016 identified a separate Indigenous housing strategy as a theme heard throughout the consultation period.	
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Minister of Finance

MANDATE LETTER DIRECTIVE	STATUS	SOURCE
Remove the GST on new capital investments in rental housing and modernize the existing Home Buyers’ Plan to support Canadians impacted by sudden and significant life changes.	No announcements.	N/A

Minister of Status of Women

MANDATE LETTER DIRECTIVE	STATUS	SOURCE
Support the Minister of Infrastructure and Communities and the Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs in ensuring that no one fleeing domestic violence is left without a place to turn by growing and maintaining Canada’s network of shelters and transition houses.	\$89.9 million over two years for the construction and renovation of shelters and transition houses for victims of family violence.	Budget 2016

Minister of Environment and Climate Change

MANDATE LETTER DIRECTIVE	STATUS	SOURCE
Support the Minister of Infrastructure and Communities in protecting our communities from the challenges of climate change and supporting them in the transition toward more sustainable economic growth by making significant new investments in green infrastructure.	\$573.9 million over two years to support energy and water efficiency retrofits and renovations to existing social housing.	Budget 2016