



September 19, 2017

Hon. Jean-Yves Duclos, PC, MP  
Minister of Families, Children and Social Development  
140 Promenade du Portage  
Phase IV, 14th Floor  
Gatineau, Quebec  
K1A 0J2

Dear Minister,

In response to our discussions in Quebec City on July 20 2017, as well as follow-up discussions with Dylan Mirando, we are pleased to share with you our updated thoughts regarding the legislated right to adequate housing in Canada.

As stated in CHRA's June 2017 response to the federal budget and "Recommendations for the National Housing Strategy" document, CHRA supports designing the National Housing Strategy within a human rights framework, where the right to housing is enshrined in legislation to protect existing housing related programs from future governments who may wish to decrease or eliminate support, and to provide governments with the rationale to continually develop new approaches to housing Canadians.

Recognizing that access to adequate housing is a fundamental human right under the United Nations *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, the *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights*, and other international treaties which Canada has signed onto and ratified, CHRA believes that all Canadians need to be ensured secure, adequate, accessible, and affordable housing.

CHRA recommends that the right to adequate housing be enshrined in national legislation; either through amendments to the *National Housing Act* or the development of new legislation. This legislative proposal would, a) state the Government of Canada's objective that all Canadians have access to safe and affordable housing; b) require the Canadian Government to have a National Housing Strategy that prioritizes the needs of the most vulnerable; increases the availability of housing that is adequate, affordable and accessible; and sets concrete goals for the reduction of homelessness and improvement of housing conditions for Indigenous peoples; and, c) require to report annually on the Strategy's progress through the development of performance indicators and measures, indicators that would ideally be agreed to by the federal, provincial and territorial governments.

We feel that this approach would not only enshrine the federal government's commitment to the right to housing for Canadians, but would put in place the mechanisms by which the federal government could operationalize that commitment, without the need for judicial processes or structures.

We would be pleased to meet with you at your convenience to discuss this issue in more detail. Thank you for taking the time to review this letter, and we look forward to continuing to work with you in making Canada an international leader on the right to housing.

With many thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Jeff Morrison  
Executive Director

cc: Hon. Jody Wilson-Raybould