



The Canadian Housing and Renewal Association

Membership Guide







CHRA is the voice of Canada's community housing sector

About Us

We believe that community housing is the key to unlocking a Canada that is fair, inclusive, and affordable for all

The Canadian Housing and Renewal Association was established in 1968 as a national non-profit organization dedicated to supporting and strengthening the social and non-profit housing sector. Our mission is to lead and provoke system-wide action toward the right to housing for all by serving as the national voice of the community housing sector and by creating the conditions for community housing providers to achieve their goals. We advocate for improved housing policies and programs that keep housing affordable, expand housing capacity, and work to end homelessness. We support a sustainable housing profession and work to connect the broader sector, including CHRA members who collectively house and serve hundreds of thousands of people living in or seeking affordable housing.



Our members include:

- Housing providers
- Municipalities
- Provincial and territorial housing departments
- Service and support agencies
- Housing associations and networks
- Non-profits
- Business partners

What we do

Advocacy

CHRA is the voice of Canada's community housing sector. We engage our members to ensure their voices are heard by federal decision-makers. Through advocacy, research, and relationship-building we work towards our shared goal that all who live in Canada have access to safe, affordable, appropriate housing

Indigenous housing leadership

The Indigenous Caucus is the leading forum of its kind in Canada, bringing together urban, rural, and northern Indigenous housing providers to advocate for and address the unique housing-related challenges faced by Indigenous peoples. The Caucus is a leading national voice in the 'For Indigenous by Indigenous' housing movement

Professional Development

CHRA administers the Housing Professionals Mentorship Program, which connects today's leaders in community housing with the leaders of tomorrow to help strengthen and build sustainability into the sector, and the Chartered Institute of Housing Canada, which is leading the way in creating educational opportunities and professional designations for housing professionals across Canada

Knowledge sharing

Our newsletters, webinars, blog posts, and social media channels inform our members on the latest news and practical knowledge from the housing sector. Our Annual Congress on Housing and Homelessness brings together hundreds of housing sector experts, leaders, professionals, government officials, and more for three days of learning, networking, and celebrating the community housing sector

Why become a CHRA member?

Your membership plays a key role in strengthening the community housing and homelessness sector. We unite the sector with events, webinars, interest-based working groups and a board of directors that reflects our diverse membership. Become a CHRA member and:

- Add your voice to CHRA's federal advocacy efforts to strengthen community housing and eliminate homelessness by participating in events, advocacy campaigns and more
- Guide the development of progressive housing policies that influence federal government decision-makers
- Participate in committees that design and discuss best practices in housing
- Become a member of the Indigenous Caucus and participate in policy making to strengthen urban, rural, and northern Indigenous housing
- Receive updated communications on key developments, policy changes, federal legislation, and other timely information you need
- Learn about best practices and leading-edge research through regular webinars and other learning opportunities
- Participate in members-only events such as political meetings, consultations, and online updates, and receive briefings on key national policy developments from senior federal decision makers and officials
- Get a reduced rate at our National Congress on Housing and Homelessness
- Get access to members-only events like Housing on the Hill Day and our International Study Tours
- Promote your organization through advertising and sponsorship opportunities on our website, in our publications, and at our events
- Get your job postings listed for free on our job board (\$200 for non-members)
- Become a mentor or mentee in the Housing Professionals Mentorship Program (HPMP)
- Run for a Board of Directors position, present resolutions, and vote at the Annual General Meeting
- Nominate a deserving colleague or receive a CHRA Award of Recognition
- Take advantage of special members-only discounts and programs through our Affinity Program





CHRA's Impact on the Community Housing Sector

Over the past several years, we have worked with our members and sector allies to achieve real housing policy and program gains on the federal level. Many wins for the housing sector in recent years were achieved through our consistent advocacy efforts together.

- The National Housing Strategy Act and recognition of housing as a human right in 2019 was an outcome of years of advocacy work from CHRA and its allies.
- The Indigenous Caucus within CHRA facilitated the creation of the National Indigenous Housing Collaborative Inc. (NICH) in 2023, which is leading and facilitating change for Indigenous housing providers across the country.
- The Indigenous Caucus and CHRA advocated for an urban, rural, and northern (URN) Indigenous housing strategy for several years coining the term "For Indigenous, By Indigenous". Federal budgets 2022 and 2023 committed to \$4.3 billion to co-develop and implement an URN strategy. We continue to advocate for the amount needed to fully realize a sustainable URN strategy.
- We released our Blueprint for Housing in fall 2022 - an extensive policy document created with the input of members to help inform CHRA's advocacy efforts. Budget 2024 saw the federal government adopt the "Team Canada" language coined in the Blueprint and committing to a collaborative approach to solving the housing crisis, something for which CHRA has consistently advocated.
- We worked with sector partners CHF Canada, The BC Rental Protection Fund, and NICH to create the Canadian Housing Acquisition Fund, designed to leverage government support alongside impact investments to protect affordable rental housing and increase the scale of the community housing sector.
- With collaboration from sector partners, we released an economic study, authored by Deloitte, which quantifies the impact community housing has on the economy and finds that bringing Canada's share of community housing stock in line with the OECD average by 2030 would add \$67 billion to \$136 billion to Canada's economy, and improve per capita economic output.





In Budget 2024 alone, we saw many long-standing CHRA priorities reflected:

- \$1.5 billion allocated to the Canada Rental Protection Fund (an acquisition fund). CHRA and its Canadian Housing Acquisition Fund partners are advocating for the government to work with us to implement this important initiative. The establishment of such a fund was a key recommendation from our Blueprint for Housing.
- Through the Public Lands for Homes plan, the government will unlock underused public land for housing, accelerating availability, and creating a mapping tool to track potential sites. The unlocking of public lands for housing was also a Blueprint recommendation.
- \$20 million allocated to modernizing housing data collection – also a recommendation included in the Blueprint.
- \$1 billion allocated to CMHC to launch a new Rapid Housing stream under the Affordable Housing Fund to build more deeply affordable housing, supportive housing, and shelters. This new funding stream focuses on supportive housing and is in addition to the \$1 billion top-up announced in the 2023 Fall Economic Statement.
- The federal government removing GST from new rental apartment construction projects – something that CHRA has long advocated for.

As the government moves to implement these measures, CHRA and our members are ready to help – the community housing sector is best positioned to address the housing crisis.

CHRA brings your voice – the voice of practical, community-based experience – directly to federal decision-makers.

We need you to be part of our movement to increase the supply of community housing, and to make sure that everyone has a decent affordable home.



**Join CHRA and work with us
to unlock a Canada that is fair,
inclusive, and affordable for all**

**Visit us online to learn more about membership,
fees, and how to join: chra-achru.ca/our-members/**



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**Canadian Housing and
Renewal Association**

A Home for the Housing Sector