
SUBJECT

SHELTERS

ISSUE

How will the National Housing Strategy support survivors of domestic violence?

KEY FACTS

- National Housing Strategy:
 - **\$13.2 billion** in a **National Housing Co-Investment Fund** which will create up to **60,000** new units of housing and repair up to **240,000** units of existing affordable and community housing.
 - Along with Budget 2016, the NHS will create and repair at least 7,000 shelter units.
 - **\$1.1 billion** in **PT Priority Funding** (\$2.2B cost-matched) that PTs have the flexibility to use for jurisdictional priorities, which may include activities that support women and children fleeing domestic violence.
 - The National Housing Strategy will aim for a **target of 33 per cent** of investments towards the needs of women and girls.
- Investment in Affordable Housing (IAH) (2011-2019):
 - **Over \$106 million** in combined Federal-Provincial-Territories investment as of March 31, 2019.
 - **Over 5,200 units/spaces** supported in terms of both construction and renovation.
- Budget 2016 (IAH):
 - **Additional \$89.9 million** over two years (2016/17- 2017/18) for the construction and renovation of shelter spaces and transition housing for survivors of domestic violence.
 - **5,868 households** assisted as of March 31, 2018.
- Funding On Reserve:
 - **\$2.3 million** in federal funding has been invested under the Shelter Enhancement Program (Jan 2011 – June 2019)
 - **22 shelters** were renovated and/or built on-reserve.
 - **Additional \$10.4 million** in Budget 2016 for the construction of **five new shelters** for persons fleeing domestic violence (all five shelters are completed).

RESPONSE

- **Providing a safe and secure space for persons fleeing domestic violence is a priority for the Government of Canada. This is why the National Housing Strategy prioritizes the most vulnerable Canadians, including women and children fleeing domestic violence.**
- **Under the NHS, the \$13.2 billion National Housing Co-Investment Fund includes targets to build and maintain shelter spaces for survivors of domestic violence, reducing wait-times for beds, and helping women who might otherwise return to abusive relationships or turn to the streets.**
- **Along with Budget 2016, the Strategy will create and repair at least 7,000 shelter units as well as investing to support projects that specifically target women and girls.**
- **Under the Investment in Affordable Housing, over \$106 million from the federal, provincial and territorial governments supported the creation, repair or renewal of over 5,200 spaces for survivors of domestic violence.**
- **Budget 2016 provided an additional funding that assisted more than 5,868 households and supported the construction of five shelters for persons fleeing domestic violence in First Nation communities.**

BACKGROUND

Gender-based violence is a key factor contributing to women's housing instability and homelessness in Canada. Many women experiencing domestic or elder abuse are unable to afford housing without their partner's financial support, and as a result, either continue living in an abusive household or become homeless. On any given night in Canada, over 3,500 women and their 3,100 children sleep in shelters because it is not safe to sleep at home; and an additional 669 women and children are turned away each night because shelters are full.

Indigenous women and children are overrepresented in shelters – respectively 5 and 3 times higher compared to their representation in the Canadian population. Moreover, newcomer, non-permanent resident women's presence is 6 times higher than in the general population.

The National Housing Strategy prioritizes meeting the needs of vulnerable populations, including women and children fleeing domestic violence, and many of the initiatives under the National Housing Strategy will help women and single mothers. The Strategy promotes a whole of government collaboration and alignment of efforts across federal priorities, including the Gender-Based Analysis Plus initiative, Women and Gender Equality's Gender-based Violence Strategy and Employment and Social Development Canada's Poverty Reduction Strategy.

First Nations

With the \$10.4 million provided in Budget 2016 for shelters in First Nation communities, Minister Duclos and Minister Bennett announced on February 20, 2017, the construction of five new shelters in Lake Babine (British Columbia), Black Lake (Saskatchewan), Nisichawayasihk (Manitoba), Wikwemikong (Ontario) and Kawawachikamach (Québec). Funding was delivered through CMHC, with operational funding flowing through Indigenous Services Canada. All projects have been completed.

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