
SUBJECT

RAPID HOUSING INITIATIVE

ISSUE

What is the aim of the Rapid Housing Initiative?

KEY FACTS

- **\$1 billion** for the **Rapid Housing Initiative (RHI)** for the construction of modular housing, the acquisition of land, and the conversion of existing buildings to affordable housing.
 - It is expected to create up to **3,000 new affordable housing units** across the country and will help stimulate the economy.
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RESPONSE

- **Mr. Speaker, more than ever in the context of the COVID 19 pandemic, home has become a sanctuary - a place of safety and refuge. That is why the Government of Canada is working to ensure that every Canadian has a safe and affordable place to call home.**
- **This week our government announced a new Rapid Housing Initiative (RHI) that will provide a total of \$1 billion to create up to 3,000 new units of affordable housing across Canada. We will do so by funding the construction of modular housing, acquisition of land, and the conversion of existing buildings.**
- **This initiative, delivered in tandem with the National Housing Strategy (NHS), will help address urgent housing needs for vulnerable Canadians by rapidly creating new affordable housing. The initiative will also help support Canada's economic recovery by creating employment in the housing and construction sectors.**
- **While the funding for the Strategy spans a 10-year timeframe, the Rapid Housing Initiative is a rapid response to emerging pressures from COVID-19 pandemic. It is expected that all funds will be committed by March 31, 2021.**
- **The initiative is taking a human rights-based approach to housing by helping the most vulnerable populations. We will make them a priority, given the evident discriminatory impacts of COVID-19 pandemic on these populations.**
- **Canada's National Housing Strategy has become a 10-year, \$55+ billion plan that will give more Canadians a place to call home.**
- **The Strategy will deliver concrete results, helping to create over 125,000 new housing units and repair another 300,000. It will remove as many as 530,000 households from housing need, and reduce chronic and episodic homelessness by 50 per cent.**

BACKGROUND

Rapid Housing Initiative (RHI)

Delivered by CMHC, this \$1 billion initiative will cover the construction of modular housing, as well as the acquisition of land, and the conversion of existing buildings to affordable housing. The RHI is the newest initiative of the National Housing Strategy (NHS). It is expected to enable the rapid creation of up to 3,000 new affordable housing units across the country and will help stimulate the economy.

National Housing Strategy (NHS)

Canada's National Housing Strategy sets ambitious targets to ensure that unprecedented investments and new programming deliver results. This will include up to a 50% reduction in chronic and episodic homelessness, and as many as 530,000 households being taken out of housing need. The National Housing Strategy will result in up to 125,000 new housing units and 300,000 repaired or renewed housing units.

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