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**SUBJECT****SHELTERS**

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**ISSUE**

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

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**RESPONSE**

- **Providing a safe and secure space for persons fleeing domestic violence is a priority for the Government of Canada. In the past two years, we saw an increase in gender-based violence and risk of homelessness for many women.**
- **Mr. Speaker, no relationship is more important than the one with Indigenous Peoples. Furthermore, the government is committed to securing the safety of Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people who are escaping gender-based violence. We recognize there is still much work to do towards Reconciliation on multiple fronts, including housing needs. This is why in Budget 2022, we made a historic investment of \$4 billion dollars in Indigenous housing.**
- **This will build on the work done under the National Housing Strategy and other initiatives, which have supported the creation or repair of over 8,000 shelter spaces since 2016.**
- **Last year, \$724.1 million was announced to expand culturally relevant supports for Indigenous Peoples facing gender-based violence and support 88 new emergency shelters and transitional housing across the country, including in the North and in urban centers.**
- **This Summer, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation will provide an update on the number of projects selected in the first phase.**
- **Mr. Speaker, on top of the 5 shelters on-reserve that are now built from Budget 2016, our government, will provide a total of \$44.8 million over five years to build 12 new shelters. With the help of Indigenous partners, we selected recipients for the construction of 12 new shelters across Canada for Indigenous women, children, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people escaping family violence.**

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## BACKGROUND

### 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.
  - As of January 31, 2022, this initiative has created and repaired over 2,300 new shelter units/spaces.
  - Along with Budget 2016, the NHS will create and repair at least 7,000 shelter units/spaces.
- **\$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.
  - As of December 31, 2021 – 320 repaired shelters
- The National Housing Strategy will aim for a **target of 25 per cent** of investments towards the needs of women and children.
  - As of December 31, 2020 the NHS created over 1,400 new units and over 20,800 repaired units for a total funding of \$537 million- representing 19% total investments towards women and children.
- **\$724.1 million** As part of the 2020 Fall Economic Statement, the Government of Canada announced an investment to develop a comprehensive Violence Prevention Strategy, to expand culturally relevant supports for Indigenous women, children and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people facing gender-based violence.
  - **\$130 million** will be invested by ISC to expand funding for culturally-relevant violence prevention projects
  - **\$167.4 million** over 5 years will be allocated by ISC to support the operations of new facilities over 5 years and \$58.4 million annually thereafter
  - **\$420 million** will be in the form of funding over 5 years through CMHC to support the construction of new shelters and transitional housing

#### Investment in Affordable Housing (IAH) (2011-2019):

- **Over \$106 million** in combined Federal-Provincial-Territories investment that represent 5,200 units/spaces supported in terms of both construction and renovation as of March 31, 2020.
  - **2.3\$ million** under the Shelter Enhancement Program (SEP) that renovated and built 22 shelters.

#### 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 family violence.
  - 5,868 shelters units/spaces as of March 31, 2018.

## Funding On Reserve:

- Government of Canada through CMHC will provide **\$44.8 million** over five years to build **12 new shelters** (10 in First Nations communities on reserve across the country, two in the territories) to help protect and support Indigenous women and girls experiencing and fleeing violence.
- The government through Indigenous Services Canada will also provide \$40.8 million to support operational costs for these new shelters over the first five years, and \$10.2 million annually ongoing.
- **\$2.3 million** in federal funding has been invested under the Shelter Enhancement Program (Jan 2011 – July 2020)
  - 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).

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, newcomers, non-permanent resident women's presence is 6 times higher than in the general population.

The National Housing Strategy (NHS) 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. For example, the \$13.2-billion National Housing Co-Investment Fund (NHCF), launched in 2018, provides capital contributions and low-cost loans for both new construction and repair and renewal of existing shelters across the country. Through the NHCF, the Government plans to help build and maintain at least 4,000 shelter spaces for survivors of family violence by 2028.

The NHS 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.

In addition, through the Budget 2016 Social Infrastructure Fund, more than 5,850 shelter spaces were created and/or renovated, exceeding the target of 3,000 units/spaces, as of March 31, 2018.

The Seed funding program is also available on an ongoing basis and can provide interest-free loans and/or non-repayable contributions for early development costs associated with the construction of shelters.

## Indigenous:

Announced in May, 2020, the Government of Canada through CMHC will provide a total of \$44.8 million over five years to build 12 new shelters, which will help protect and support Indigenous women and girls experiencing and fleeing violence. This funding will help build 10 shelters in First Nations communities on reserve across the country, and two in the territories, to support Indigenous women and children. The government through Indigenous Services Canada will also provide \$40.8 million to support operational costs for these new shelters over the first five years, and \$10.2 million annually ongoing.

As part of the 2020 Fall Economic Statement, the Government of Canada announced an investment of \$724.1 million is available for a comprehensive Violence Prevention Strategy to expand culturally relevant supports for Indigenous:

- Women and their children
- 2SLGBTQQIA+ people facing gender-based violence

The strategy supports new shelters and transitional (second-stage) housing across Canada for: First Nations, Inuit and Métis.

CMHC will allocate \$420 million over 5 years to support the construction of new shelters and transitional housing.

Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) will invest \$304.1 million over five years, and \$96.6 million annually to:

- support the operational costs of new shelters and transition homes
- expand funding for culturally-relevant violence prevention activities. For information on funding for these activities, please visit the website for [Family Violence Prevention Program \(sac-isc.gc.ca\)](https://www.sac-isc.gc.ca)

This is a step towards the Government of Canada's [Federal Pathway to Address Violence Against Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ People](#).

Budget 2016 provided \$10.4 million five shelters in First Nation communities, which are situated 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. These shelters were fully operational in 2019. These are in addition to the existing 51 shelters currently serving women and children in First Nation communities.

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