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**SUBJECT****COMMUNITY HOUSING**

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**ISSUE**

What is the Government doing to help preserve units for low-income households living in community housing when operating agreements expire?

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**RESPONSE**

- **Our government is taking concrete actions to ensure that Canada's federally administered community housing stock remains affordable and viable well into the future.**
- **As part of the National Housing Strategy, we announced a new \$4.3 billion Canada Community Housing Initiative that is helping to protect and build community-based housing for some 330,000 households across the country.**
- **We are also investing \$500 million over 10 years in the Federal Community Housing Initiative to protect tenants and stabilize the operations of some 55,000 units in federally administered community housing projects.**
- **Our Government recently announced temporary Rental Assistance funding, of up to \$15 million, to assist former federally administered social housing projects whose operating agreements expired prior to April 1, 2016.**
- **Thanks to this new funding, that will be offered between April 1, 2021, and March 31, 2022, we are able to lend a helping hand to families and individuals in need from coast to coast to coast. We remain committed to address housing need across Canada**

***If pressed on Phase 1:***

- **In April 2018, Phase 1 of the Federal Community Housing Initiative was launched, which provided \$38 million for an extension of subsidies to support over 25,000 homes until the end of March 2020, but was delayed to August because of COVID-19 pandemic.**
- **This investment helped maintain affordability for low-income households and protect tenants while housing providers transition to the new rental assistance program and prepare for modernization through Phase 2 of the Federal Community Housing Initiative that started in September, 2020.**

***If pressed on Phase 2:***

- **\$462 million will go to housing providers over the next 8 years to help them transition seamlessly to the new rental support program, which was implemented in September 2020.**
- **This initiative would not have been made possible without consultations with and feedback from key stakeholders across the country, such as the Co-operative Housing Federation of Canada, Canadian Housing and Renewal Association, Le Réseau québécois des OSBL d'habitation and Confédération québécoise des coopératives d'habitation (CQCH).**

- **The launch date of FCHI-2 was delayed until September 1, 2020. Current levels of financial assistance were maintained until the end of August 2020 for housing providers who are eligible to FCHI-2, who have opted-in, and have a confirmed need for FCHI-2 rental assistance. These extensions were meant to avoid any interruption of funding caused by the delayed launch of the FCHI-2 program.**
- **Amid the ongoing global COVID-19 outbreak, the delay allowed adequate time for eligible housing providers to complete the activities required for a successful enrolment to the FCHI-2 program. This included the submission of the enrolment package, and the review and signature of the new FCHI-2 agreement.**

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## BACKGROUND

### Key Facts

#### National Housing Strategy

- **\$4.3B** for the **Canadian Community Housing Initiative** delivered by provinces and territories to protect and repair a sustainable community-based housing sector. (**\$8.6B** with expected cost-matched by PTs)
  - Protect, regenerate and expand community housing administered by provinces and territories, and supported by former federal programs.
  - As of December 31, 2020 Provinces and territories have committed \$60 million to support close to 28,000 units.\*Due to the COVID-19 pandemic committed dollars and units are currently understated.
- \$500M for CMHC-delivered Federal Community Housing Initiative (FCHI).
  - As of December 31, 2020, \$42.2 million in subsidies were provided to over 26,700 housing units representing the extension of over 982 projects reaching their end of operating agreement dates.
  - Details on FCHI Phase 2 were announced on June 26, 2019. \$462 million in funding over eight years for Phase 2.
  - FCHI phase 2 was launched on September 1, 2020. As of December 31, 2020, phase II has provided close to \$2M in rent assistance to over 5,000 low income units.
- **\$74.2 million over 10 years Community Housing Transformation Centre (CHTC) and Sector Transformation Fund (STF) will provide:**
  - The initiative will provide technical assistance, tools and resources to increase capacity of social housing providers and support a more efficient, resilient and effective sector.
  - As of December 31, 2020, \$13.9 million was provided to the “Centre”. Sector transformation Fund and Community-Based Tenant Initiative (CBTI), including online application capacity, launched in December 2019.
  - As of December 31, 2020, 148 applications have been received, out of which 83 applications have been awarded.
- **Expert Community on Housing (ECOH)**
  - Web-based virtual community of practice for housing experts to address challenges and problems in housing.
  - Currently hosting over 450 members with ongoing intake of new members.

#### Budget 2016

- **\$573.9M** to support energy and water efficiency retrofits and renovations of the aging community housing stock
- **Up to \$30M** to renew subsidies for all eligible federally administered community housing projects
- **\$504M** in doubling of Investment in Affordable Housing funding, which can be used to support community housing.
- Existing Investments  
**\$1.7B** in 2016 in support of over **536,000 households** living in community housing.

### **Temporary Rental Assistance:**

- Temporary Rental Assistance is available to providers of non-profit and co-operative housing:
  - whose CMHC Operating Agreement ended before April 1, 2016,
  - who were administered by either CMHC or the Agency of Cooperative Housing at the time the agreement came to term, and
  - who had an agreement under one of the following programs:
    - Section 95 (Pre-86) non-profit, co-operative, urban native
    - Section 95 (Post-85) non-profit, co-operative, urban native
    - Section 95 (Post-85) Index-Linked-Mortgage (ILM) co-operatives
    - Section 27, 61 non-profit and co-operatives
    - Section 26 non-profit, and
  - who have an eligible low-income household in their project.
- The Community Housing Transformation Centre (CHTC) is administering this Temporary Rental Assistance on behalf of CMHC for the non-profit housing sector; and the Agency for Co-operative Housing is administering this assistance on behalf of CMHC for the co-operative housing.
- The application for Temporary Rental Assistance was open between February 1<sup>st</sup> and March 1, 2021.
- Requests are being reviewed to confirm eligibility. If demand exceeds the maximum funding available, funding allocations will be prioritized.
- This temporary rental assistance does not offer assurance of continued federal government support.