
SUBJECT**RAPID HOUSING INITIATIVE**

ISSUE

How is the Rapid Housing Initiative helping housing in Canada?

RESPONSE

- **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.**
- **I am happy to say that the Rapid Housing Initiative will support the construction of 4,777 homes (vs. 3,000 initially targeted), of which 1,806 are for Indigenous peoples.**
- **These projects will help Canadians in severe housing need, and people and populations who are vulnerable, specifically those at risk of or experiencing homelessness, or living in temporary shelters because of the COVID-19 pandemic.**
- **I am also happy to say that due to the success of the RHI, the Government of Canada is considering additional investments. Further information will be shared in the event that more funding becomes available.**

If pressed on applications under the Projects Stream:

- **Under the \$500 million Projects Stream, provinces, territories, municipalities, Indigenous governing bodies and organizations, and non-profit organizations could apply for funding by December 31, 2020.**
- **The RHI received a significant amount of interest, resulting in a high number of quality applications that far exceeded the available funding.**
- **All successful applicants have now been notified and all funds are anticipated to be committed by March 31st.**
- **All other applicants will be receiving more information on the status of their application by mid-March.**

If pressed on next steps for unsuccessful applicants:

- **At this time, CMHC is keeping applications on file pending a decision on additional funding for the initiative.**
- **If the Initiative receives additional funding, more projects would then be eligible for funding.**
- **Until a decision is taken about the potential increased investments, CMHC will continue to work with applicants to discuss the potential fit with other initiatives currently accepting applications.**