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**SUBJECT**

**Women and Shelters**

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**ISSUE**

How will the National Housing Strategy support women?

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**RESPONSE**

- **With COVID-19, and the related increase in gender-based violence and risk of homelessness for many women, more than ever home has become a sanctuary — a place of safety and refuge.**
- **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, Budget 2022 tackled these important issues by proposing initiatives and funding that supports those experiencing or at risk of homelessness and build new affordable units for the those made vulnerable, including woman and children.**
- **This builds 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.**
- **We are also investing to support projects that specifically target Indigenous women and children. \$724 million in new investments is being provided for the Violence Prevention Strategy, which includes construction of emergency shelters for Indigenous women and children escaping violence.**
- **This funding will support new shelters and transition housing for First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples across the country, including on reserve, and in the North and in urban areas.**
- **Mr. Speaker, on top of the 5 shelters on-reserve that are now built from Budget 2016, our government, provided 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 2SLGBTQIA+ people escaping family violence.**

***If asked why the dollars allocated for shelters for indigenous women and girls have not been spent?***

- **In 2021, \$421 million was announced for the shelter initiative. 22 projects have been selected for approximately \$90 million. As with our other programs, funding flows with construction. We expect money to start flowing in the coming months.**

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**BACKGROUND**

**KEY FACTS**

- As of March 31, 2023, the NHS has committed an estimated \$9.15 billion toward meeting the housing needs of women and their children, which includes funding for the construction, repair and support of approximately 349,764 housing units. Of the \$9.15 billion, \$2.1 billion is targeting the needs of women and their children, and \$7.04 billion is supporting the needs of women and their children. This represents 30% of all NHS funding committed to date.
- As of March 31, 2023, the National Housing Co-Investment Fund has committed 1123 new and 302 repaired shelter and transitional housing spaces for survivors of gender-based violence
  - This includes 834 units through the \$250 million in funding for women and children fleeing violence, exceeding our target of 560 new or repaired shelter and transitional housing spaces under this funding envelope
- Over \$40 million has been committed toward 319 shelter and transitional housing spaces through the Indigenous Shelter and Transitional Housing initiative for Indigenous women and their children, and 2SLGBTQIA+ people escaping violence