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## National Housing Council

Co-Creating the Right to Adequate Housing in Canada: Interim Report on What We Heard (thus far)

### Background

The first National Housing Council (the Council) was announced on November 22, 2020 and has initiated its work to provide advice to the Minister for Housing and Diversity and Inclusion on the vision for the progressive realization of the right to adequate housing within a Canadian context. This work covers expectations, duties, and responsibilities of the Canadian government to meet its international obligations as recognized in the *International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights*.

The Council, through its Progressive Realization Working Group, commissioned SHS Consulting and the SHIFT Collaborative to run a Solutions Lab process to break down the complex issue of establishing a vision for and finding tangible recommendations towards progressively realizing the right to adequate housing in Canada. This process involves engagements with a variety of stakeholders. The first phase of this engagement was conducted with people with lived experience of housing need and homelessness and organizations supporting them. The result of this initial engagement is a report entitled *Co-Creating the Right to Adequate Housing in Canada: Interim Report on What We Heard (thus far)*.

### About the Report

This report examines results from 11 focus groups and 100 surveys conducted nation-wide. Participants included persons who are non-affiliated to an organization, or identified and selected through Blue Door, Canadian Lived Experience Network, Making the Shift (A Way Home), Covenant House Toronto, Houselink and Mainstay Housing, Sooke Shelter Society, and Parkdale Neighborhood Land Trust.

Smaller focus groups were intentional to allow for deeper, more intimate conversations with lived experts to give them the space to more extensively share their stories and policy suggestions.

### Next Steps

A letter with high-level recommendations has been sent to the Minister of Housing and Diversity and Inclusion for his consideration, drawing from the key findings, themes and urgent priorities identified through this report and other work undertaken by the Council. A second, more detailed report with recommendations will follow in 2023. This work will include additional engagement sessions with people with lived experience in addition to human rights and housing experts, and government officials.

If you have any questions about this work, please contact the National Housing Council Secretariat at [nationalhousingcouncil@cmhc-schl.gc.ca](mailto:nationalhousingcouncil@cmhc-schl.gc.ca).

### Disclaimer

*Please note that the views expressed in this report are the personal views of the author and does not reflect the views or position of the National Housing Council, CMHC or the Government of Canada. The National Housing Council, CMHC, and the Government of Canada accept no responsibility for the views expressed in this report or any consequences that may arise in using or relying on this report.*

**About the Council**

*In July 2019, the National Housing Strategy Act (NHS Act) became law. The NHS Act, among other things, recognizes that a National Housing Strategy supports the progressive realization of the right to adequate housing. The Act includes the establishment of a National Housing Council. The Council's mandate is to provide advice to the Minister of Housing and Diversity and Inclusion and further the housing policy of the Government of Canada and the National Housing Strategy. Drawing on the diverse expertise and experience of its membership, the Council promotes participation and inclusion in the development of housing policy through the diversity of its members and engagement with communities.*



# Co-Creating the Right to Adequate Housing in Canada

Interim Report on What We Heard *(thus far)*

June 2022

Prepared for the National Housing Council by





## Note to the Reader

This Interim Report provides ***a preliminary look into the Co-Creating the Right to Adequate Housing in Canada initiative***. This document highlights what we heard to date from people in Canada with lived experience of housing need and homelessness.

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*There are many groups whose voices have not yet been captured in the research presented. This work is far from complete—we are in the early stages of a participatory process to bring forth fulsome recommendations to the Federal Government on the path to progressively realizing the right to adequate housing in Canada.*

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## LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The report's authors acknowledge the contributions of several Indigenous peoples who participated in this initiative to date.

While our work took place virtually, the **SHS Consulting** team acknowledges the land we are working on is the traditional territory of many nations, including the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee and the Wendat peoples and is now home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples. We also acknowledge that Toronto is covered by Treaty 13 with the Mississaugas of the Credit.

The **SHIFT Collaborative** team acknowledges and respects the *ləkʷəŋən* peoples on whose traditional territory the consultants are located and the Songhees, Esquimalt and *W̱SÁNEĆ* peoples. Their historical relationships with the land continue to this day.

We will continue to work towards infusing Indigenous voices and leadership in this initiative.

# Part 1 ● Introduction

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This section provides an introduction to the Co-Creating the Right to Adequate Housing initiative, key project definitions, our intended project outcomes and a guide to reading this report.

## *Terminology*

- This document uses the term **participants** to refer to those engaged through the organizational survey, or the lived expert focus groups.
- We use the terms **survey respondents** and **focus group participants** when referring to the voices of those specific participants.
- We use the acronym “**R2AH**” as a short form for the **right to adequate housing**.
- We refer to this **Co-Creating the Right to Adequate Housing in Canada** initiative as “this initiative” or “this project.”

# Introduction

**Co-Creating the Right to Adequate Housing in Canada** is a cross-Canada initiative of the National Housing Council (NHC), led by the NHC in collaboration with SHS Consulting and SHIFT Collaborative.

This initiative aims to support existing NHC efforts toward realizing the right to adequate housing in Canada over time. Specifically, this project aims to:

- Dive deeper into the perspectives of people across Canada about how this right can be realized
- Identify ways for the federal government to work towards this goal; and
- Expand the conversation to other stakeholders and levels of government.

To do this, we are engaging with a wide range of people and organizations, including those most affected by housing challenges and homelessness, human rights and housing experts, and various levels of government. This process began in February 2022 and will continue through March 2023.

## What is the progressive realization of the right to adequate housing?

According to the United Nations and international human rights law, the **right to adequate housing** means recognizing that all people have the “right to live somewhere in **security, peace and dignity**.” This requires meeting standards of adequacy, including legal security of tenure, affordability, habitability, availability of services and materials, accessibility, location, and cultural adequacy.

Progressive realization refers to the obligation in article 2(1) of The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), requiring States “*to take steps ... to the **maximum of its available resources**, with a view to achieving progressively the full realization of the rights recognized in the present Covenant by all appropriate means, including particularly the adoption of legislative measures.*”

## What are Canada’s commitments and responsibilities?

The National Housing Strategy (NHS) Act brings Canada in line with international standards, which require the right to adequate housing to be ensured through policies and programs and independent monitoring and access to hearings and effective remedies. The NHS Act does so through a unique model that does not rely on courts but on alternative, accessible and participatory mechanisms that give a meaningful voice and role to rights-holders and provide for investigation, hearings, and recommendations to ensure compliance with the commitment to the right to adequate housing (National Right to Housing Network, 2019).

The [Literature Review](#) commissioned by the National Housing Council (NHC), prepared by the National Right to Housing Network (NRHN), provides further details on the Government of Canada’s responsibilities for implementing the right to adequate housing.



## Project Goals

The project goals are as follows:

### **Create a foundational vision and roadmap for realizing the right to adequate housing in Canada.**

This initiative seeks to forge a path to progressively realizing the right to adequate housing in Canada, centred on the desires and expectations of lived experts and informed by other system stakeholders.

### **Provide recommendations to the Minister of Housing and Diversity and Inclusion.**

While this report contains preliminary insights from engagements conducted to date, this process will lead to more concrete recommendations of steps that the Government of Canada can take to lead the transformation towards stakeholders' collective vision. Following further engagements, a report with detailed recommendations from this process will be completed in 2023.

## What makes this project different from previous conversations about housing in Canada?

This project aims to:

- Take the conversation about the right to adequate housing from academic and technical spaces to the everyday lives of people in Canada.
- Take a participatory approach that focuses on amplifying the voices of rights holders, particularly those with lived experience of housing need and homelessness.
- Engage people in exploring housing as a human right in ways that lead to understanding and action, going beyond consultations about barriers.
- Take a systems approach by involving a diverse mix of stakeholders.
- Provide recommendations for a set of solutions that can create profound shifts within the housing system towards realizing the right to adequate housing.

## How does this project complement the other work of the NHC?

The National Housing Council has identified three priority areas. This initiative is part of the work the **progressive realization of the right to adequate housing** working group is undertaking, in addition to the Council's work on **improving the National Housing Strategy (NHS)** and **Urban, Rural, and Northern (URN) Indigenous Housing**.

### **Overarching Challenge**

*This initiative is focused on the following overarching challenge:*

**How might we develop a collective vision and pathways towards the progressive realization of the right to adequate housing in Canada by co-creating new policy interventions and partnership opportunities at the national level?**

# Reading this Report

## Report Format

The report begins with an overview of the methodology undertaken and conversations with people with lived experience and community organizations to date. The feedback received so far is presented in three chapters:

### Part 3 • Current Experiences

*An overview of current housing challenges and experiences of rights holders in Canada, highlighting the gaps in today's system*

### Part 4 • A Vision for the Future

*A vision for what a preferred future could look like for people in Canada, including what it would feel like for people and what shifts would bring us to somewhere different from today*

### Part 5 • Directions for Change

*A proposed set of approaches, success criteria, preliminary actions, and directions for change*

## A Focus on “What we Heard” so Far

This report should be read as a summary of **early insights we heard from participants**. With this document, we hope to paint a broad picture of what people in Canada with lived and learned experiences face, think, and feel about the right to adequate housing.

**This picture is preliminary and does not include everything we have heard or all perspectives**, but there is a strong sense that people are looking for bold actions and interventions. Part 5 of the report includes some potential directions for creating more fulsome recommendations and the first steps that the federal government could take **today** to create the conditions for the uptake of the upcoming recommendations.

More information on the limitations and gaps in our engagement to date can be found in the Methodology section.

## A NOTE

### Why is this report so long?

Every effort was made to create a clear and concise report on what we heard from participants so far. We do not intend to create “yet another lengthy report” without meaningful action.

The length of this report allows us to:

- Highlight the many views, facets, and elements of the diverse housing experiences faced by honouring the wide range of stories and feedback we collected from participants;
- Showcase the complexity of the challenges faced today—they are not mutually exclusive and are connected to many of the social determinants of health; and
- Pave an initial pathway forward, acknowledging the steps we must take will not be linear—we require a suite of actions and approaches to work together.

# Part 2 ● Methodology

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This section provides an overview of the project timeline, the organizational survey, and focus groups with lived experts.

The limitations, research gaps, and our approach to addressing the gaps in subsequent phases of work are included.

# Process

The visual below shows an overview of the process planned for this initiative, with a spotlight on the Discovery Phase, which focuses on understanding the current system and opportunities for moving the right to adequate housing forward in Canada.

As this work is in its early stages, this what we heard report captures preliminary findings from our first engagements: a survey disseminated to organizations working with people with lived experience and a series of initial conversations with lived experts across Canada.



# Organizational Survey

## About the Survey

This interim report highlights emerging themes from a national survey of organizations across Canada focused on housing, homelessness, and human rights, or a related field.

The survey was issued to **175** organizations across Canada. The survey was also disseminated via almost **ten** (10) other network newsletters (e.g., Canadian Housing and Renewal Association, Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness, etc.).

The survey was offered in English and French and contained **32 questions** under the following key topics:

- Your vision for realizing the right to adequate housing;
- Your desired role of government; and
- Informing an approach to engaging with lived experts.

## Responses

The response to the organizational survey was very strong, highlighting the level of interest and concern about this topic. Over the course of 2.5 weeks, we received approximately **100** surveys somewhat completed and about **60** respondents who made it to the end of the survey.

### Areas of Focus

Of the organizations that filled out the survey, they identified the following areas of focus:

- 50% identified as a **support service provider**;
- 47% identified as an **advocacy or community organization**;
- 31% identified as a **housing operator** (including affordable, supportive, transitional, and emergency);
- 17% identified as **research**;
- 7% identified as a **housing developer**; and
- 20% identified as **other**.

The greatest number of respondents came from organizations supporting **people experiencing homelessness** (39 organizations), followed by low- or modest-income individuals or families, people with disabilities, including those requiring supports, women and children fleeing domestic violence, people involved with the criminal justice system, mental health and addictions, followed by Indigenous peoples (14 organizations), youth, racialized groups, seniors, single parents, newcomers, 2SLGBTQIA, refugees and refugee claimants, veterans, and caregivers.

### Geographic Scope

We received responses from almost every province and territory in Canada, except New Brunswick, Nunavut, and Prince Edward Island.

Of the responses received, 15 respondents identified as serving people in rural and remote communities in Canada. Twelve organizations operate at a national level. The greatest number of responses came from Ontario, Alberta, and British Columbia.

The Research Gaps section in this report highlights the gaps we hope to fill in future phases of work.

# Focus Groups with Lived Experts

## About the Focus Groups

Eleven (11) focus groups were held virtually via Zoom in April 2022, with 57 participants.

Each focus group was approximately one to two hours in length. The size of the focus groups ranged from 1 to 13 people per session, with breakout rooms used in sessions with more than five (5) participants (allowing for a maximum ratio of five participants for every notetaker and facilitator pair).

The smaller-sized groups allowed us to have deeper, more intimate conversations with lived experts about:

- Their current and past housing experiences;
- Their visions for the right to adequate housing in Canada; and
- Their ideas for getting to that vision, including the role of decision-makers (governments).

The focus group guide can be found in the appendix of this report.

### Who participated in the focus groups?

Organization	Context	Lived Experts
Blue Door	homelessness	13
Canadian Lived Experience Network	homelessness	8
Making the Shift (A Way Home)	homelessness	7
Covenant House Toronto	youth homelessness	4
Houselink and Mainstay Housing	supportive housing for mental health and addictions	4
Sooke Shelter Society	homelessness	7
Parkdale Neighbourhood Land Trust	low- and modest-income households	6
Non-affiliated individuals	National, range of perspectives	8
<b>Total Participants</b>		<b>57 participants</b>

### Recruitment Process

#### March 2022

We reached out to organizations and networks across Canada (along with the survey).

Organizations replied that they are interested in coordinating a focus group with lived experts they are connected to or serve.

Organizations select a time slot and recruit up to 12 participants for the session.

#### April 2022

Seven (7) organizational focus groups are held, with staff in attendance to provide support where needed. In addition, four (4) smaller focus groups were held with individual lived experts (not connected to organizations)

# Limitations and Gaps

## Limitations

- There was a limited amount of time to coordinate and host the initial round of focus groups with lived experts. The focus groups and survey took place within 2.5 weeks, meaning there were likely participants and groups who would have liked to fill out the survey or participate in a focus group but could not do so under a short timeline.
- In addition to the seven (7) organizations that helped arrange a focus group and the eight (8) individual lived experts that stepped forward, **50+ additional organizations and individuals expressed an interest in participating in some capacity.**
- The focus group sessions took place on Zoom, which may have presented barriers to participation for some. Although the technology worked well in the sessions, conducting engagements in a virtual setting can limit relationship-building and fluid dialogue.
- Due to the nature of hosting focus groups, there may not have been sufficient space and time for all the lived experts to contribute equally in each session. In addition, some individuals may not have felt comfortable sharing specific experiences in a group setting.

## Participation to Date

Some critical perspectives have not yet been adequately captured in the lived expert focus groups. The following table provides an overview of the self-reported demographics across the focus groups and survey. Please note to protect people's personal information, the facilitators did not ask focus group participants to self-identify as part of these groups. Some participants chose to offer the information during the focus group. Of the focus group and survey participants, 90 of 117 respondents self-identified in some way.

Populations in Greatest Housing Need	%
People experiencing homelessness	59%
Low- or modest-income individuals or families	49%
Mental health and addictions	23%
People with disabilities	19%
Seniors	18%
Indigenous peoples	18%
Racialized groups	13%
2SLGBTQIA	12%
Youth	9%
People with developmental disabilities	8%
Caregivers	7%
Women and children fleeing domestic violence	6%
People involved with the criminal justice system	4%
Newcomers	4%
Single parents	3%
Veterans	2%
Refugees and refugee claimants	2%

*This table shows the percentage of focus group and survey respondents who chose to self-identify under each category as a proportion of the 90 participants who chose to disclose at least one of these categories.*

In addition to the populations shown in the table, the following geographies have the fewest number of representatives included to date:

- Quebec
- Northwest Territories
- Nunavut
- Nova Scotia
- New Brunswick
- Prince Edward Island
- Saskatchewan

There will be additional opportunities over the next phases of this initiative to fill these gaps in participation.

Read more about our approach to addressing these limitations and gaps in the Conclusions and Next Steps section of this report.

## Part 3 ● What We Heard

# Current Experiences

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This section summarizes the current experiences as described by people with lived experience of housing need and homelessness.

These experiences are categorized by those which emphasize the **urgency of today**, a need to **preserve and enhance what we have**, and the desired shift towards **resilience for tomorrow**.



# Current Experiences with the Right to Adequate Housing in Canada

## What makes this difficult?

The progressive realization of the right to adequate housing in Canada is one of the most critical and demanding challenges we face today as a country.

Focus group and survey participants from across Canada shared their experiences with a system that is currently failing many people in Canada.

Three themes stood out as significant challenges that make it difficult to change today's system to reach our desired future of the right to adequate housing for all in Canada.

### Urgency of Today

**There is an urgency to fix today's problems.** The severity and urgency of today's gaps underscore a needed focus on addressing them—people's lives are at stake today.

### Preserving What We Have

**While addressing today's problems, we must also halt continued backward movement.** There is a need to keep up with change to maintain deteriorating housing situations for people who have housing today.

### Resilience for Tomorrow

**Finally, we must shift to a resilient system for the future.** There is a **need to hold** the long-term view while addressing today's urgent needs.

## Hearing from People in Canada

In this section, we provide:

- An overview of each of these realities
- The gaps they present in progressively realizing the right to adequate housing in Canada
- The personal lived experiences resulting from these gaps

From these lived experiences, we are beginning to reveal a series of tensions, mismatches, and barriers we must overcome to address these realities.

**Tensions** are circumstances in which change in one direction is countered by change in an opposite direction resulting in a persistent challenge.

**Mismatches** are discrepancies between an aspiration we are working towards and the realities of lived experiences in Canada today.

**Barriers** are obstacles getting in the way of change.

These dynamics will be explored in the remaining tasks in the Discovery Phase.

## Urgency of Today

### GAP 1

## There is a limited supply of housing geared to those in greatest need.

### LIVED EXPERIENCES

People are experiencing a lack of **available, accessible, affordable housing**. This gap is reflected by the over-reliance on the emergency shelter system. Respondents noted an inability to transition out of shelters due to a lack of other housing options—long waitlists for non-market housing were frequently cited.

Lived experts shared examples of how the requirement of credentials (e.g., pay stubs, ID, and references) frequently limits housing access, especially for refugees and newcomers to Canada.

Respondents spoke of a lack of housing and unique challenges faced in rural and northern communities.

Several people noted how the overall lack of available, affordable housing puts pressure on shelters and transitional housing, leading to “pushing people out” of transitional housing too soon without the necessary supports or appropriate housing options.

“ *People experience much discrimination in my local municipality, from sexism, and sexual harassment to being told there’s no chance without a co-signer if you aren’t at least 25 years old.*

– Lived Expert

“ *Stigma is a huge barrier, just because we’re poor and homeless doesn’t mean we can’t move beyond – that message needs to be loud and clear.*

– Lived Expert

“ *Every time we apply to housing, immediately they say no. Our rights are always taken away - they shouldn’t be denying kids but they do it all the time, As human beings even if we had pets we should be allowed a home but landlords don’t want to meet my kids. They judge them there is nothing we can do.*

– Lived Expert

### GAP 2

## The lack of choice fuels stigma and discrimination.

### LIVED EXPERIENCES

The only available, affordable housing options for many are in locations that compromise access to transportation or essential services and supports, including critical social supports. Lack of neighbourhood choice often means displacement from one’s community, culture, or family.

This lack of available options further fuels heightened competition, stigma, and discrimination in housing. Examples of these experiences ranged from NIMBY-ism (not in my backyard) preventing affordable housing developments to more personal experiences with landlords not making housing available to youth, single women with children, or people with disabilities. In addition, participants highlighted experiences of discrimination toward people who speak up for their housing rights.

## GAP 3

## There is a significant income and support service gap.

### LIVED EXPERIENCES

Incomes from wages, supports, and supplements are not keeping up with rents and housing prices. This reality impacts people earning low incomes (e.g., minimum wage), people receiving income assistance, and people with disabilities.

Many lived experts highlighted the critical importance and lack of complementary supports which can assist people in accessing and maintaining secure housing. In particular, seniors, persons living with disabilities, women and children at risk of violence, people involved with the criminal justice system, and people living with trauma, addictions, or mental health challenges often face barriers to accessing housing due to a lack of culturally appropriate, trauma-informed supports.

For some populations, such as people with disabilities, the lack of available affordable and accessible housing paired with the lack of appropriate supports limit self-determination and perpetuate an over-reliance on institutionalized care.

“ *Even with housing supplements it is very difficult to find a reasonable living place for a person with developmental disability given the limited income on the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP).*

– Survey Respondent

“ *Some people may need supports for a long time, but we push to getting people off social services as fast as possible vs. making it about healing.*

– Lived Expert

## Preserving what we Have

### GAP 4

#### For those who have housing, situations may be inadequate.

##### LIVED EXPERIENCES

For those who have housing that is affordable to them today, they may continue to experience a denial of their housing rights due to a lack of choice, control, and dignity in their housing.

The lack of affordability and barriers to housing access often result in people living in inadequate or unsafe conditions and locations without recourse to remedy their situation. In particular, many people can only access housing that is not appropriate for their physical or mental health needs. Respondents shared diverse experiences highlighting how a lack of choice and control over their housing has resulted in living in inadequate and often stressful or unsafe conditions which compromise people's health and well-being. This can often further impede people's access to appropriate housing.

Through the survey, **41%** of organizations rated **habitability** as a barrier or significant barrier most often experienced. In many cases, people experience habitability issues in conjunction with the stress of barriers like affordability and accessibility. These gaps lead to additional stressors such as a lack of safety.

Participants spoke to the intersection of housing rights and Indigenous rights and the fact that Indigenous people communities face disproportionate housing and homelessness challenges in terms of housing access and habitability. This experience merits much deeper exploration and attention.

“ *The shelter in Whitehorse does not provide adequate safety or space from each other. We have received many complaints of violence, assaults, theft, etc. I have also received complaints of people being forced to live in unsafe housing such as those with multiple large holes in the home with snow coming inside.*

– Survey Respondent

### GAP 5

#### There are few effective mechanisms for claiming one's right to housing.

##### LIVED EXPERIENCES

There is a lack of legal protection and accessible recourse for people whose right to adequate housing has been violated. Many people named the lack of protective legislation and accessible legal supports as critical gaps across the country.

In addition, there is a lack of information about housing services. The complexity of housing programs and lack of guidance or navigation supports are common barriers to finding and maintaining adequate housing.

“ *There is no legal aid help for tenants. 3 lawyers left so we have no one who deals with poverty law and no other legal services to make a referral. The lack of lawyers who are willing to help low income tenants.*

– Survey Respondent

## GAP 6

## Inaction against backward movement is increasing the precarity of tenure for many.

### LIVED EXPERIENCES

Survey and focus group respondents spoke of a lack of regulations holding landlords accountable for security of tenure in Canada. This was identified as a critical factor preventing the right to adequate housing.

Linked to the gaps highlighted under **Urgency of Today**, the absence of action to reduce the incidence of eviction (due to arrears related to “above guideline increases” and other factors) and to tame the competitive nature of the housing market, especially for people in greatest need, continues to perpetuate housing situations that can deteriorate and significantly impact a family’s life.

“ I had a place, and it was between me and another couple, I had first and last month’s rent and we were excited but heard the other couple offered a full year of rent so I lost out.

– Lived Expert

“ In Alberta there is no limit to how much a landlord can increase the rent. In Lethbridge, a landlord has increased the rent from \$675 to \$800 on a bachelor unit that has only a hot plate and a dorm room-sized fridge in it.

– Lived Expert

“ Renovictions are on the rise, and increasingly the type that there are no legal grounds to challenge. (i.e. no formal notice issues, more reports of tenant intimidation).

– Lived Expert

“ Make it law that landlords cannot discriminate over disability or being different—no reason for anyone to be discriminated against. We’re all the same. Some of us are down on our luck at a certain point in time but doesn’t mean we can’t build ourselves back up to help somebody else.

– Lived Expert

“ The power of the private sector (e.g. landlords and housing developers) within the housing system, and the privatization of previously non-market housing properties is a big issue.

– Lived Expert

### SPOTLIGHT

**The “financialization of housing” was cited as a top barrier to realizing the right to adequate housing by survey respondents and lived experts.**

There is a growing understanding that a primary goal of our current system is to generate wealth by maximizing returns for both household and institutional investors in housing. For example, rising land and housing costs are commonly perceived as positive growth indicators in our current financial system.

This underlying function is seen as being fundamentally at odds with the goals of housing as a human right and was identified as contributing to, or linked to, several other barriers that respondents experience, including rising house prices, reduced security of tenure, and decreased supply of affordable and below-market rental units.

## Resilience for Tomorrow

### GAP 7

#### Rigid rules and mindsets get in the way of change.

##### LIVED EXPERIENCES

Bylaws, building codes, zoning limitations, and other legal restrictions limiting access to public or traditional lands were cited as common barriers preventing more diverse housing options (e.g. tiny homes, vans), which have the potential to increase access to housing in communities where there are limited affordable housing options.

In addition, the rules around housing and income subsidies make it difficult for people to access housing that meets their personal or cultural needs, for instance, when there are restrictions around living with roommates or engaging in cultural practices in one's home.

### GAP 8

#### There is a sense of helplessness as housing situations worsen.

##### LIVED EXPERIENCES

Participants described the significant gaps in the right to adequate housing, including affordability getting worse rather than better in their communities. Affordability was identified as the top barrier preventing housing rights in Canada. Of organizations surveyed, **88%** rated **affordability** as a barrier or significant barrier for their constituents.

Participants shared their sense of disempowerment as they are left out of wealth-generating opportunities in housing that could lift them out of poverty and help them achieve longer-term stability.

Participants cited a rising trend of gentrification and financialization of housing, contributing to the loss of already limited affordable housing options and the displacement of people who are forced to seek housing away from their community and social supports.

A survey respondent noted that clients were experiencing feelings of inadequacy and a belief that they will not qualify for or be able to maintain a proper place due to their life choices. Another observed that more “people are feeling hopeless” and “almost everyone I meet at one point or another says, ‘Why bother? They won’t rent to me.’ or it won’t change anything”.

These adverse experiences are paired with dwindling faith in governments to make meaningful change.

“ There’s a bylaw in Whitehorse that you have to build a minimum size house—I know someone who wanted to build an 800 square-foot home on his own lot, but he wasn’t allowed to because it wasn’t big enough for the building code for that lot.

—Lived Expert

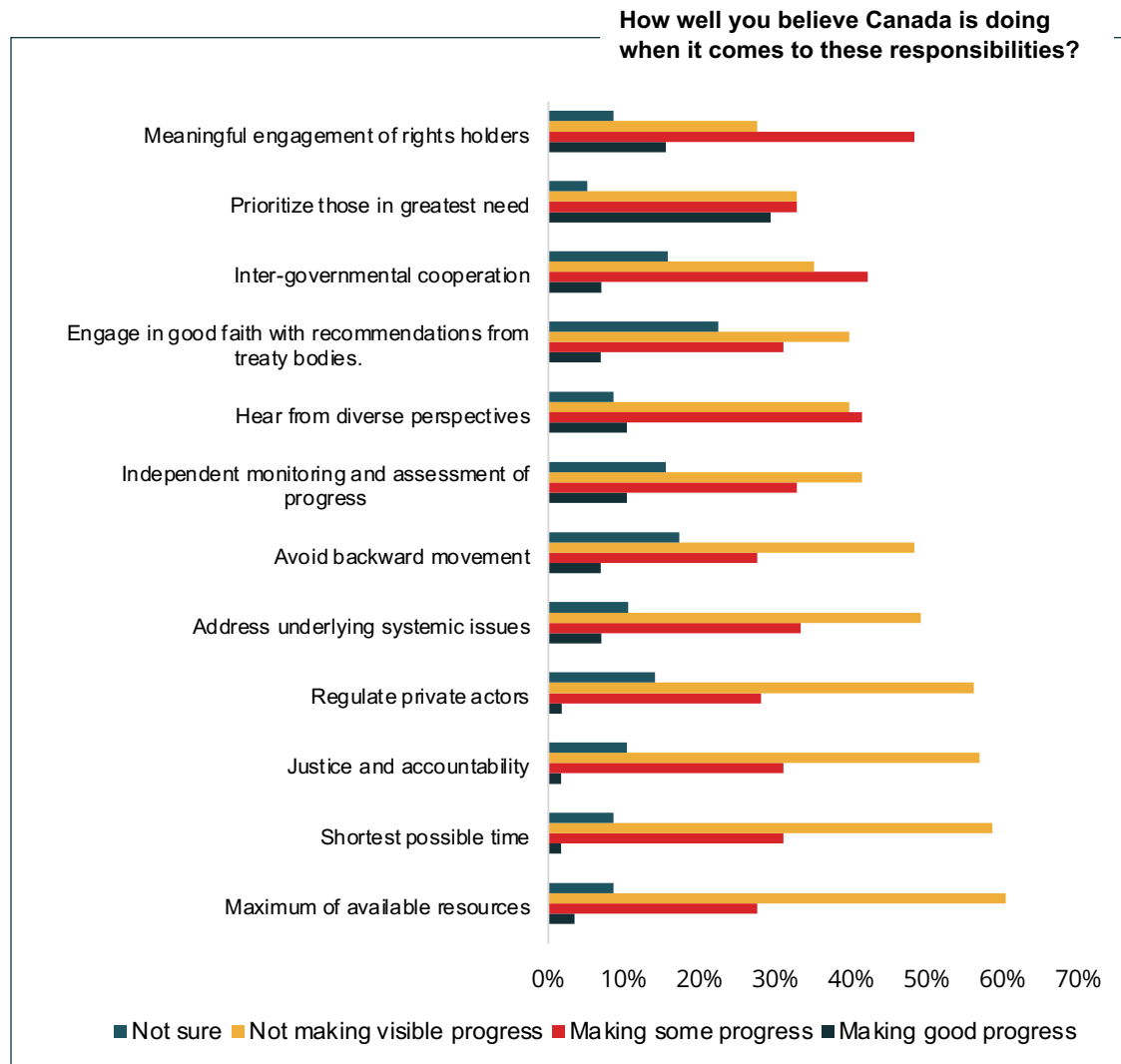
# Views on the Federal Government's Progress

In the survey of non-governmental organizations, respondents were invited to indicate how well they believe Canada is currently doing concerning the key government responsibilities outlined in the National Housing Council's 2022 literature review. This page provides an overview of these responses.

## Lack of Visible Progress

There were several areas where the majority of respondents indicated a lack of visible progress—these included investing the maximum of available resources (60%), progressively realizing the R2AH in the shortest possible time (59%), providing access to justice and accountability (57%), and regulating private actors (56%).

There was a clear link between the lack of progress on these elements and the experiences provided through the lived experts' focus groups, as described in the previous slides in this section.



## Part 4 ● What We Heard

# A Vision for the Future

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This section provides a vision for the future—what a **preferred future where we progressively realize the right to adequate housing** would feel like for people and what it would look like on the ground.

Also included are the shifts that would bring us to this future—a radically different system than we have today.



# A Vision for the Future

## Co-creating a vision of the desired future

In our engagements with lived experts and representatives of organizations and networks, we asked people to imagine a future state where Canada is fully meeting its obligations to progressively realizing the right to adequate housing. Participants described what this vision would entail.

Through discussion and written form, people provided diverse examples of what their desired future would *feel like*, *look like*, and *act like*. These ideas ranged from concrete, measurable housing outcomes to less tangible evidence indicating a world where the right to adequate housing is upheld and maintained.

With the information collected from participants, we've identified three categories of desires for the future:

- Qualitative experiences of people (feels like)
- Observations in communities (looks like)
- Necessary shifts that have taken place to ensure housing for all (acts like)

Based on these learnings, we hope to paint a picture of the collective vision for the future of the right to adequate housing in Canada from personal, community, and systems-level perspectives.

Imagine a future where the right to adequate housing has been realized...

*What does this future feel like for people?*

*What does this future look like on the ground?*

*How is this future different from today?*

# People's Experiences

## What does this future feel like for people?

### Sense of security, peace, and dignity

Lived experts described a sense of security as long-term stability for people and their families: not living in fear of losing housing and knowing that there's a place for everyone, regardless of their income or circumstances. It also involves feeling **physically safe** and protected at home.

Living in peace means having a **private space** to retreat to, shut the door, and let go. In day-to-day life, people would be able to relax and focus on other things instead of **worrying about housing** or spending energy trying to **uphold their rights**.

Many participants also mentioned the feeling of dignity in **having one's own home** would lead to a greater sense of wellbeing and improved quality of life.

### Sense of agency, choice, and control

In the desired future, people would be able to choose **where they live** and in what **kind of housing**. This sense of agency and choice also includes the **freedom of movement** instead of feeling tied to one particular place.

For **women and gender-diverse people experiencing violence**, they would feel like they have options to leave a dangerous situation or remove violence from their homes.

### Sense of possibility and hope for the future

In a world where people's housing and other basic needs are met, participants envisioned having the **foundation to work on their issues and priorities** in their lives.

From working on mental health and addictions challenges to seeking employment, people saw **opportunities for life improvement**.

With security, peace, and dignity in housing, people would have a sense of **self-worth and hopes and dreams for what their lives hold**.

### Sense of belonging and connection to community and place

Participants expressed a desire to feel **accepted and respected** by their family, peers, and community while **contributing** to the community in which they live.

# Observations in Communities

## What does this future look like on the ground?

### Adequate housing options for everyone

Communities would have a range of diverse housing types, with affordable options suitable for various needs and sustainable for the planet. People would have access to the goods, services, and supports they need in their community.

### Less reliance on shelters

Everyone would have access to adequate, affordable housing; there would be less need for emergency shelters in today's forms.

### People are involved in their community

With housing security, individuals and families would have a "safe base" from which to participate in their community through work, volunteering, and cultural events. People envisioned more cohesive and engaged communities shaped by the contributions of residents.

### Inclusion and equity

Communities would look diverse and inclusive, with everyone welcomed and housed, regardless of their background or identity.

### Healthier and happier society

Many participants saw far-reaching societal impacts of realizing the right to adequate housing, including increased mental and physical health, increased food security, better education and jobs, a decrease in crime, and healthier environments.

### Right to adequate housing in everyday conversations

Housing rights would be openly discussed and evident in dialogue throughout the community.




## Shifts to a Preferred Future

### How is this future different from today?

Unpacking and dissecting today's housing challenges revealed deeply embedded barriers to realizing the right to adequate housing and tensions in the systems that further impede the path to change.

When we asked participants to envision their desired future state and describe how it would be different from today, what we heard fell into **four key themes**, which represent major shifts from how things are in the current state.

These shifts mark a future where the right to adequate housing is realized and upheld, as envisioned by participants. These themes are deeply interconnected. A successful path forward involves these shifts happening concurrently and in connection to one another. In this co-created vision of the future, indicators of meaningful change involve not only the transformation of actions and behaviours of actors on the surface but the processes and mental models that drive the system underneath.



***We think and work differently.***

***The most serious violations of the right to adequate housing are addressed.***

***People have the means to access adequate housing of their choice.***

***The system prioritizes housing as a human right and basic need for all people.***

IN THIS FUTURE...

## We think and work differently.

From lack of understanding to...

### Shared understanding of housing as a human right

In this future, there would be collective understanding and support for housing as a human right, that everyone is entitled to housing, regardless of their background or circumstances. Here is how this shift would show up in this future:

#### De-stigmatization of people facing challenges

- There is a change in public perception of people experiencing various challenges.
- There is greater understanding, empathy, and respect for all people, no matter their housing situation.

#### Respect for diverse housing needs and desires

- We have widespread acceptance of different housing forms and models.
- We have respect for what people define as adequate housing for themselves, including culturally-diverse ways of living.

From lack of collaboration to...

### Collaboration and alignment across the system, with a sense of collective responsibility

In this future, there would be genuine collaboration across all levels of government, within the housing sector, and involving other sectors. There would be a sense of collective responsibility to work together and prioritize housing for all. Here is how this shift would show up in this future:

#### Leadership from government

- The government takes more leadership in ensuring the right to adequate housing for everyone living in Canada.
- Indigenous governments are recognized and respected as leaders in this space.

#### Involvement of communities, individuals, and private sector

- There is an expanded role for diverse communities and people (including lived experts and organizations) to contribute using resources, skills, and knowledge.

IN THIS FUTURE...

## The most serious violations of the right to adequate housing are addressed.

From growing homelessness to...

### Eradication and prevention of homelessness

In this future, there would be an emphasis on addressing the most severe violations of housing rights as quickly as possible, with measures in place to prevent them from occurring. Here is how this shift would show up in this future:

#### Zero chronic homelessness

- No person would experience chronic homelessness in Canada.

#### Everyone has a safe and secure place to stay

- People can maintain their housing or be housed in a safe and suitable place, with supports as needed.
- People are not evicted into homelessness.
- People are not discharged from institutions into homelessness.

From lack of focus to...

### Prioritization of those in greatest need

In this future, there would be a priority to serve and support people who are most vulnerable. Here is how this shift would show up in this future:

#### Understanding of who and where priority groups are

- We have access to accurate, and up-to-date information on where housing challenges are experienced and what supports are lacking to be able to respond appropriately.
- We address the needs of historically underserved groups.

#### Rights holders are treated with dignity and respect

- Service providers seek to build relationships with people experiencing housing need, serving them without judgement or stigma.
- People have support service and housing options to choose from.
- People are set up for housing success.

## IN THIS FUTURE...

**People have the means to access adequate housing of their choice.****From growing unaffordability to...****Guaranteed economic and housing security**

In this future, people would have economic security, ensuring that they can attain and maintain housing. Here is how this shift would show up in this future:

**Economic safety net**

- We have a system in which individuals or families can maintain or access adequate housing, regardless of income or changes in circumstances.

**Provision for basic needs +**

- People have access to an income that affords living with dignity, based on their location and context.
- People would be able to afford housing expenses, as well as other essentials for health, wellbeing, and quality of life.

**From limited housing options to...****Availability of diverse housing options that are affordable in every community**

In this future, people would have access to different kinds of housing in their location of choice. Here is how this shift would show up in this future:

**Housing options for every income level**

- We have an adequate supply of housing across income levels in all neighbourhoods.
- Communities are mixed-income.

**Housing supply is reflective of local context and need**

- The availability of housing is proportionate to the population.
- Housing forms and models are suitable for the makeup of the community, designed to meet the needs of people.

IN THIS FUTURE...

## People have the means to access adequate housing of their choice.

From lack of appropriate supports to...

### Availability of personalized supports for people in housing

In this future, there would be adequate supports to ensure that people can attain and maintain housing and a high quality of life. Here is how this shift would show up in this future:

#### Person-centred supports as the standard

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- We have tailored supports based on choice.
- We respect individual needs, boundaries, and goals.
- People have access to culturally- and trauma-informed supports with an understanding of intersectionality.

#### Layers of social support

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- We recognize the role of social connection and community in maintaining housing.
- We offer community-based supports, including peer support.



IN THIS FUTURE...

## The system prioritizes housing as a human right and basic need for all people.

From lack of legal recourse to...

### Right to adequate housing protected and upheld by law with enforcement

In this future, there would be legislation and enforcement to ensure that people's right to adequate housing are upheld. Here is how this shift would show up in this future:

#### People legally claiming their rights

- People would have knowledge of the right to adequate housing legislation.
- We have a fair and timely processes for people to claim their rights.

#### Government obligation to protect and enforce

- There are robust protections against violations of right to adequate housing, including discrimination for tenants.
- Responsibility is placed on the government to enact and enforce, so the onus is not placed on individual citizens.

From financialization of housing to...

### Protection of housing as a human right

In this future, people would treat housing as places to live, not vehicles for profit. Here is how this shift would show up in this future:

#### End to financialization that puts profit over rights

- People living in housing are prioritized over investors.
- Developers and landlords are held accountable for human rights violations.

#### Rethinking of investment in housing for profit

- People view housing as a place to live, not an investment strategy.
- People do not own more housing than they need.

IN THIS FUTURE...

## The system prioritizes housing as a human right and basic need for all people.

From dependence on market housing to...

### Housing autonomy and agency for people and communities

In this future, people would have agency and power to shape, create, and operate housing for themselves and their community. Here is how this shift would show up in this future:

#### Creation of alternative housing

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- We have unconventional housing options that are desirable and affordable, such as tiny homes, trailer communities, and co-housing.
- Land and resources are available for alternative housing projects.
- People, including those who are marginalized, are able to build, possess, and occupy housing.

#### Re-alignment of power and ownership

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- There is a de-emphasis of private or corporate ownership of housing
- We have more collective ownership models, such as co-operative housing and land trusts

# Part 5 ● What We Heard

## Directions for Change

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This section provides **preliminary directions for change** as envisioned by participants. This includes the need for a set of interventions to take place over different time horizons and scales of impact.

It also includes success criteria for future approaches and preliminary actions to create the conditions for larger systems change.

# A Multifaceted Approach

This page sets up a framework for the Directions for Change found in this section of the report. Continue reading to learn about potential next steps proposed under each category.

## Time Horizons

Participants identified actions, strategies, and policy interventions that can be implemented and adopted at different paces or across different time horizons. These approaches fall into three time horizons.

### Launch Point

#### Envision approaches that...

- **Address the urgency of today** in reverting the lack of action or backwards movement in the past to eliminate homelessness and gaps in adequate, affordable, and suitable housing.
- **Preserve what we have** to prevent the loss of housing stock or adequate housing situations.
- **Provide resilience for tomorrow**—to commit us to the right to adequate housing and create the conditions for constant improvement.

## Scale

Initial engagement with participants yielded proposed approaches that work at all scales or “levels” of the housing system in Canada.

These approaches reflected the following areas where people would like to see interventions implemented.

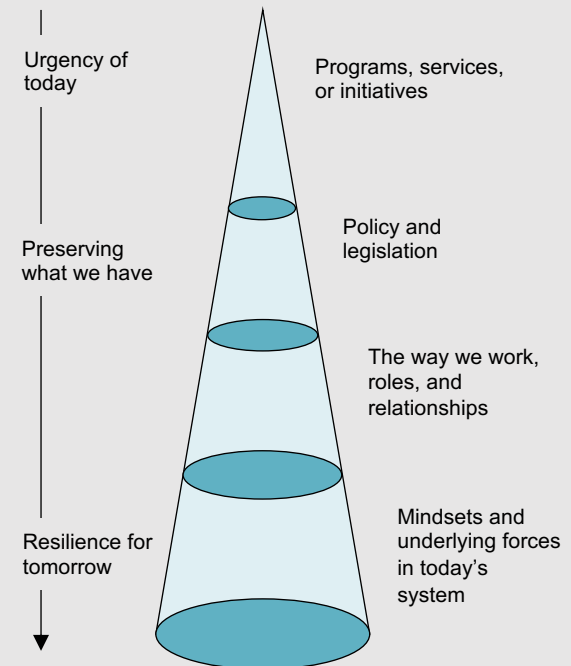
### Launch Point

#### Envision approaches that...

- **Challenge today’s underlying system and our mindsets** around housing and real estate in Canada.
- **Rethink the way we work, our roles in the system, and the relationships between actors and stakeholders.**
- **Introduce new policy and legislation** toward the right to adequate housing.
- **Offer new or improved programs, services, or initiatives** at the national level down to the local community level.

A set of right to adequate housing interventions across time horizons and scales

To move towards the realization of the right to adequate housing, a suite of short- and long-term approaches, from deep systems change up to program change are required.



**\*Note** that long-term approaches are not those that should be started in the long run but are those that **take longer** to be fully realized or to execute.

## Success Criteria

In addition to the time horizon and scale of interventions, participants identified a set of **success criteria** or principles from which future actions, approaches, and interventions should be designed.

These criteria align well with the **proposed role of government** based on Biss and Raza (2021): *Implementing the Right to Housing in Canada: Expanding the National Housing Strategy*.

### Launch Point

**We envision these success criteria** as a starting point for generating new actions, approaches, and interventions the federal government will take on. The success criteria can also be used to evaluate the design of any approaches.

### “Our approaches must...”

1. **Our approaches must consider impacts on all social determinants of health for those in greatest need, including income, social inclusion, food security, gender, race, disability, Indigenous status, employment and job security, and income and income distribution.**
2. **Our approaches must have strong legal implications—they must be enforceable.**
3. **Our approaches must boldly tackle the tension between profit and basic need.**
4. **Our approaches must apply non-discrimination, gender-based, trauma-informed, human-rights-based, and decolonizing lenses.**
5. **Our approaches must level the playing field for a diversity of housing options and housing providers to exist in our system.**
6. **Our approaches must allow us to act with urgency but proceed with intentionality by building meaningful relationships with rights claimants instead of transactional ones.**
7. **Our approaches must amplify the voices of rights claimants and people with lived experience, not just through consultation but in employment, shared governance, and decision-making.**
8. **Our approaches must give people the power to shape their own destiny and living arrangements to live in peace, dignity, and security.**

# Preliminary Actions to Create the Conditions for Larger Systems Change

## Immediate Actions

**Do not wait until this project is complete to begin taking action.** Use these eight preliminary actions as a starting point. Begin creating the conditions for larger systems change today to start a movement toward this preferred future of the R2AH for all in Canada.

The housing need in Canada can be overwhelming. Focus group and survey participants emphasized the significance and size of the issue today and the implications of a worsening situation. However, the issue's complexity should not paralyze us from taking action. These preliminary actions provide a meaningful starting point.

In keeping with international human rights obligations, participants call on the federal government to invest the **maximum available resources**. Everything possible must be done to address housing challenges for those in greatest need today and to **start a national movement** (involving all people in Canada) toward treating housing as a human right.

## Creating Conditions for Change

- 1. Raise awareness among rights claimants in Canada.** Provide free seminars on tenant rights. Start a national campaign to educate people about their rights.
- 2. Plan to continue the conversation with rights claimants.** This project will not have the scope to engage everyone in Canada. Start planning for continued relationship-building with people with lived experience to avoid “starting from scratch” every time.
- 3. Raise broader awareness about the R2AH to begin a collective dialogue about housing as a human right in Canada.** Start a national campaign to educate everyone in Canada about the right to adequate housing. Raise awareness of how all of our actions impact people in greatest need.
- 4. Educate decision-makers in all facets of government** about the right to adequate housing, what makes it different from what we have today, and their responsibility to work towards the progressive realization.

## Larger Systems Change

- 5. Align Canadian policy with international human rights obligations.**
- 6. Amend every Ministerial Mandate Letter pertaining to any social determinant of health and every government housing document to mention their role in progressively realizing the R2AH.**
- 7. Start the difficult conversations within government.** For instance, are decision-makers currently in a conflict of interest if they benefit from real estate investments? Is there enough political will to seriously move forward with the R2AH? Can we redirect funds from a focus on fuelling homeownership to a focus on fuelling all non-market housing options?
- 8. Add the R2AH as a standing agenda item in all meetings of the Federal Cabinet** (the meetings of the Members of Parliament appointed as Ministers).

# Directions for Change

This page provides a list of 11 proposed **directions for change**. Based on the focus group and survey participants' suggested actions, these are high-level strategic directions the federal government and other stakeholders can take to move the country towards the progressive realization of the right to adequate housing.

A detailed overview and example concrete steps are provided for each direction for change.

## Launch Point

**We see this set of initial directions for change** as potential umbrellas under which new actions, approaches, and interventions may be proposed for the federal government to take on. We recommend generating a robust suite of interventions that move these 11 directions forward.

## Urgency of Today

- 1 **Commit to ending homelessness through poverty alleviation.**
- 2 **Address the imbalance and discrimination that hinders marginalized populations from claiming their rights.**
- 3 **Focus efforts primarily on creating housing for those in greatest need.**
- 4 **Immediately invest the maximum available resources to progressively realize the right to adequate housing.**

## Preserving What We Have

- 5 **Maintain and enhance the housing adequacy and affordability we currently have.**
- 6 **Maintain and enhance the security of tenure, peace, and dignity we currently have.**

## Resilience for Tomorrow

- 7 **Work with rights claimants to oversee the implementation and continue the dialogue.**
- 8 **Create the conditions for a broader range of non-market housing options.**
- 9 **Infuse Indigenous knowledge and leadership.**
- 10 **Shift the conversation in Canada from housing as an investment to housing as a basic need.**
- 11 **Lead, collaborate, and hold others accountable for realizing the right to adequate housing.**

Continue to the next page to read complete descriptions of these 11 directions for change, including concrete examples provided by lived experts and community organizations.

# 1 Commit to ending homelessness through poverty alleviation.

Participants across Canada are calling for the federal government and other stakeholders to **commit to ending homelessness through a comprehensive approach to poverty alleviation.**

Through the focus groups and survey responses, participants overwhelmingly called out the need to direct efforts to the root causes of homelessness and poverty.

These suggested approaches predominantly focus on “demand-side” solutions that provide income supports to people currently living in poverty.

Of note, most respondents called for a **universal basic income**, going beyond the scope of the Canada Housing Benefit.

“ Sometimes these things (the social determinants of health) are not seen as related to housing and homelessness but they are interconnected.

– Survey Respondent

## Challenge today’s system.

### Mindsets

Reframe the housing challenge, so it more holistically encompasses poverty challenges. Be responsible for directly addressing poverty in Canada. The shift towards thinking holistically about the intersection of all social determinants of health is fundamental; these factors cannot be decoupled from efforts to improve access to the right to adequate housing.

### The way we work, our roles, and relationships

At the highest level, people are looking for government priorities to move towards an increased focus on long-term and supportive housing instead of emergency housing.

Commit to a robust public reinvestment in social services and supports to help stabilize people’s lives and communities.

## Take action.

Participants offered the following ideas for concrete actions the federal government can consider.

### Policy and legislation

- **Focus on income.** Provide a guaranteed basic income or similar income support program to lift people out of poverty and combat housing insecurity.
- Implement policies to protect the rights of people without adequate housing (e.g., people in temporary or tent communities).



## 2 Address the imbalance and discrimination that hinders marginalized populations from claiming their rights.

Participants across Canada are calling for the federal government and other stakeholders to **support marginalized populations** by addressing the imbalances and discrimination they face in claiming their right to adequate housing.

This would include a shift in attitudes about people experiencing homelessness or who are in precarious housing.

Efforts should move us from blaming those without housing to ensuring housing is a right for all people in Canada.

“ *Clean water is not available in a reliable way in many of the First Nations communities we service along James Bay coast.*  
— Lived Expert

### Challenge today's system.

#### Mindsets

Take steps to change the discourse around homelessness and poverty—move away from judgement, blame, profiling, and stigma.

Lead a shift in how we communicate our responsibility for the wellbeing of everyone in Canada, especially those who have historically been or are being marginalized.

#### The way we work, our roles, and relationships

Apply gender-based, anti-discrimination, trauma-informed, human-rights based, and decolonization lens to all resource allocation and decision-making.

Recognize the intersectional and systemic ways people with disabilities (developmental, physical, and others), Indigenous people, women, people involved with the criminal justice system, and others experience housing insecurity. Ensure that approaches taken address these experiences.

### Take action.

Participants offered the following ideas for concrete actions the federal government can consider.

#### Policy and legislation

- **Fund and develop an Urban, Rural, and Northern (URN) Indigenous housing strategy**, [as previously recommended](#) by the National Housing Council's URN Working Group (March 2022).
- Implement policies to fight discrimination among people seeking access to adequate housing.
- Increase funding for support services for people who access or seek to access supports to maintain their housing, including people with disabilities, people with mental health and addictions challenges, and others.

#### Programs, services, or initiatives

- Introduce and fund more housing programs to provide specialized housing for people exiting an unhealthy housing situation (e.g., due to forced evictions, fleeing domestic violence, etc.).

### 3 Focus efforts primarily on creating housing for those in greatest need.

Participants across Canada are calling for the federal government and other stakeholders across the country to **focus efforts primarily on creating housing for those in greatest need.**

This direction for change includes expanding the stock of deeply affordable housing, focusing on ensuring everyone in Canada lives in housing that they can afford (no more than 30% of their household income).

The suggested steps in this direction for change promote the creation of non-market housing options that are well-maintained, affordable in perpetuity, and owned by non-profit, charitable, or community-based groups and organizations.

“ *Recognize the intersectional and systemic ways priority populations experience housing insecurity.*

– Survey Respondent

## Challenge today’s system.

### Mindsets

Shift public perceptions of housing programs and developments. Ensure that proposed housing development projects are not delayed or shut down due to negative public opinion or perceptions.

### The way we work, our roles, and relationships

**Act with urgency when new affordable housing development projects are proposed**—allocate effort and resources to providing early-stage funding, development approvals and entitlements, capital, and operating funding.

Direct efforts to expand non-market housing delivered by non-market players (community housing providers) and ensure all funds for the realization of the right to adequate housing provide affordability in perpetuity.

## Take action.

Participants offered the following ideas for concrete actions the federal government can consider.

### Policy and legislation

- Provide Indigenous people with the resources they need to design and implement their own housing programs and services, as previously recommended by the National Housing Council’s URN Working Group (March 2022).
- Dedicate a portion of every multi-family dwelling as rent-geared-to-income—**implementing a national inclusionary zoning policy.**
- Eliminate GST costs for charitable affordable housing developments.

### Programs, services, or initiatives

- Dedicate resources to creating a more diverse range of built forms and tenures, including tiny homes, cooperative housing, and supportive housing.
- Make housing and income subsidies portable so people in Canada can “take their benefits with them” and live in their communities and housing options of preference.

## 4 Immediately invest the maximum available resources to progressively realize the right to adequate housing.

Participants across Canada are calling for the federal government and other stakeholders across the country to **immediately invest the maximum available resources** to realize the right to adequate housing. This investment must demonstrate an urgent and long-term commitment to reverting the lack of action and backwards movement of the past.

People in Canada are looking for bold action and strong commitment from the federal government in the form of funding dedicated to the progressive realization of the right to adequate housing.

This funding should support steps and actions that demonstrate a prioritization of housing first and foremost as a basic need and human right instead of an investment.

“ *Ensure that affordable and safe housing is being built. Don't have money sitting in the bank waiting for more discussions to happen.*

– Survey Respondent

### Challenge today's system.

#### Mindsets

**Build trust into the model**—allow for a collective approach to progressively realize the right to adequate housing with community-based organizations and other partners across the country.

#### The way we work, our roles, and relationships

**Act with urgency.** Show a commitment to this work by immediately investing the maximum available resources.

**Consider a wide range of redistribution methods and funding sources**, such as increasing taxes on top income earners to direct specific funds to those in greatest need in Canada.

### Take action.

Participants offered the following ideas for concrete actions the federal government can consider.

#### Policy and legislation

- **Adequately fund the work of the Federal Housing Advocate** to ensure the right to adequate housing is implemented and upheld.
- **Adjust the taxation rate on capital gains** for primary residences in Canada to reduce the wealth gap between homeowners and non-homeowners.

#### Programs, services, or initiatives

- **Prioritize directing funds to non-profit and charitable community-based organizations** working on providing adequate housing and services to everyone in Canada.
- Make it easier and more flexible to access funding to support those in greatest need with access to adequate housing—loosen parameters and streamline the process.

## 5 Maintain and enhance the housing adequacy and affordability we have.

Participants across Canada are calling for the federal government and other stakeholders across the country to take action to **maintain and enhance the adequate and affordable housing stock we have**. This includes preventing the escalation of housing costs, especially in rental housing.

This direction for change focuses on steps and actions to ensure there is no backward movement in the progressive realization of the right to adequate housing in Canada.

“ Many “affordable” rentals are run down and disgusting and not considered a legal unit so the renter has no protection to fall back on. Many renters are afraid to complain out of fear of reprisal.

– Lived Expert

### Challenge today’s system.

#### Mindsets

Think long-term—everything we do should take a long-term view of the housing stock’s sustainability (physical buildings) and affordability over time.

#### The way we work, our roles, and relationships

Reevaluate where taxpayer dollars are going to other industries or sectors, creating backward movement in realizing the right to adequate housing and redirecting funds to maintaining housing.

Take on a more vital role in addressing and limiting the impacts of market forces on housing affordability.

### Take action.

Participants offered the following ideas for concrete actions the federal government can consider.

#### Policy and legislation

- Implement strict policies and regulations to protect housing costs from escalating.
- Employ strict rent controls for rental units, especially for “secondary rental” (where individuals invest in properties they rent out).
- Increase taxes on vacant buildings or units.
- Hold landlords accountable to affordability levels.
- Ban above guideline rent increases (i.e., do not allow landlords to increase rents above the guideline limits set out by the government, even in the case of capital improvements).

## 6 Maintain and enhance the security of tenure, peace, and dignity we have.

Participants across Canada are calling for the federal government and other stakeholders across the country to take steps to **maintain security of tenure, peace, and dignity for everyone in Canada.**

The actions and steps associated with this direction for change ensure our housing system works to prevent the right to adequate housing from being jeopardized and provide rights claimants with mechanisms to claim their rights.

“ *Having a set standard of housing that landlord's can't take advantage of. Holding slumlords responsible for substandard rentals.*

– Survey Respondent

### Challenge today's system.

#### Mindsets

This mindset shift requires adopting eviction prevention as a primary focus—striving for a future where evictions are rare.

#### The way we work, our roles, and relationships

Take on a stronger role in addressing and limiting the impacts of market forces on threatening security of tenure, peace, and dignity.

When security of tenure is threatened, the federal government should take a leadership role in coordinating efforts to ensure evictions do not occur and actors are held accountable. For instance, every province and territory could have a “housing ombudsperson.”

### Take action.

Participants offered the following ideas for concrete actions the federal government can consider.

#### Policy and legislation

- **Regulate real estate investment trusts (REITs)** (increasing rent)
- Continue preventing overseas investors from purchasing property in Canada.
- Align Canadian policy with international human rights obligations.
- Give people the ability to claim their right to housing in court (e.g., through a federal housing rights tribunal).

#### Programs, services, or initiatives

- Stabilize tenancies by providing needed supports to maintain tenancies.
- Introduce more social programs to prevent homelessness—a safety net to protect tenancies.
- Provide free seminars on tenant rights.

## 7 Work with rights claimants to oversee implementation and continue the dialogue.

Participants across Canada are calling for the federal government and other stakeholders across the country to engage in an ongoing conversation and **work with rights claimants (especially those with lived experience) to oversee the implementation of the progressive realization of the right to adequate housing.**

“ We need to listen to people and act. Many people are tired of talking about the same issues for years now. There have been promises made, sometimes politically based, but people are not seeing these promises becoming real for them.

– R2AH Participant

### Challenge today’s system.

#### Mindsets

Shift to a way of working where those experiencing housing and homelessness issues are front and centre in the solutions—their experiences are seen as valuable contributions.

#### The way we work, our roles, and relationships

Establish mechanisms or governance structures to support and require the inclusion of persons with lived experience in decision-making (this could go beyond government decision-making into organizational governance).

Connect more frequently with community agencies to better understand what is happening on the frontlines.

Adopt inclusive planning and thinking—recognize and accept all people and their diverse needs.

### Take action.

Participants offered the following ideas for concrete actions the federal government can consider.

#### Policy and legislation

- Ensure all policies and legislation are created with an inclusive, decolonization, gender-based, trauma-informed, human-rights-based, and diversity lens.

#### Programs, services, or initiatives

- Ensure all programs, services, and initiatives are created with an inclusive, decolonization, gender-based, trauma-informed, human-rights based, and diversity lens.
- Support non-profit organizations to undertake participatory community research.

## 8 Create the conditions for a broader range of non-market housing options.

Participants across Canada are calling for the federal government and other stakeholders across the country to **create the conditions for a broader range of non-market housing options** to be generated in Canada.

This direction for change involves levelling the playing field for more housing providers to participate in community building and removing barriers for people in Canada to create their own housing options that suit their needs.

“ We need all levels of government to support non-profit acquisition of land and buildings to create a long-term asset base for perpetually affordable housing. Current programs are incentivizing the private sector on 10-year terms, which provides short-term minimal relief but will not solve the problem for the long-term.

– Survey Respondent

### Challenge today’s system.

#### Mindsets

Shift our focus away from homeownership assistance to creating deeply affordable rental housing and a more comprehensive range of non-market housing options and tenure types.

Remove restrictions that prevent people from living in the housing type and tenure that works for them.

#### The way we work, our roles, and relationships

Foster collaborative relationships between community housing and service providers and governments instead of adversarial and competitive relationships.

End funding, subsidies, or incentives for developers who only provide luxury housing.

Work towards a more broad acceptance of a more diverse range of suitable built forms and housing options such as tiny homes, co-housing, rooming houses, etc.

### Take action.

Participants offered the following ideas for concrete actions the federal government can consider.

#### Policy and legislation

- Eliminate the siloed funding approach—health and housing need to work together. For instance, hospitals function as stop-gap housing providers.
- Move away from short-term funding models that prevent organizations from establishing long-term planning and impact.
- Review occupancy standards that are not culturally inclusive.

#### Programs, services, or initiatives

- Direct resources to community housing providers seeking to build and operate housing.
- Increase funding for small-scale housing providers.
- Rewrite zoning bylaws to permit more freedom to build more affordable housing.
- Flow money directly from the federal government to service and housing providers—remove the bureaucracy.
- Introduce more mixed living models (rentals, co-ops, subsidized rooming houses)
- Create an acquisition fund that funds the non-profit sector’s acquisition of buildings.

## 9

## Infuse Indigenous knowledge and leadership.

Participants across Canada are calling for the federal government and other stakeholders across the country to **infuse Indigenous knowledge and leadership** into the progressive realization of the right to adequate housing.

“ We need a significant decolonization of thinking about who and what counts, what we can and cannot afford, why equity matters to all of us--with significant consequences for legislation, policy, and resource investment.

– R2AH Participant

### Challenge today's system.

#### Mindsets

Recognize that today's systems operate from a colonial framework.

#### The way we work, our roles, and relationships

Commit to infusing Indigenous leadership into all decision-making around the right to adequate housing.

Develop a separate fully-funded process for implementing the right to adequate housing for Indigenous peoples in Canada.

### Take action.

Participants offered the following ideas for concrete actions the federal government can consider.

#### Policy and legislation

- Support and fully fund Indigenous-led housing and program development.
- Develop an Indigenous housing strategy.

It is important to note that the National Housing Council's Urban, Rural and Northern Indigenous Housing Working Group provided recommendations to the Minister of Housing and Diversity and Inclusion, where gaps in the National Housing Strategy were identified. These recommendations should be taken up.

In addition, further engagement needs to occur in partnership with Indigenous communities for these next steps to represent a wider range of Indigenous voices.



## 10 Shift the collective conversation in Canada from housing as an investment to housing as a basic need.

Participants across Canada are calling for the federal government and other stakeholders across the country to **shift the collective conversation in Canada from housing as an investment to housing as a basic need.**

This direction for change includes sharing a belief and ambition that all people in Canada can have access to adequate housing and that homelessness can be eliminated.

“ We need to shift the way we think about housing from being a commodity to generate profit to being a human right that is accessible by all.

– R2AH Participant

“ Our idea of housing is socially constructed—there is currently a corrosive tension between housing as investment and housing as a social place that sustains residents. We need to collaborate to construct an alternative view.

– R2AH Participant

### Challenge today’s system.

#### Mindsets

Have the bravery to have conversations about "property ownership" as we know it today—open up our thinking to other forms of tenure such as property possession (e.g., having the continuous right to occupy a home and enjoy its benefits without the power to sell or destroy it).

Eliminate the mindset that homelessness will always exist, that right to adequate housing is just a theory or philosophy but not a tangible implementable framework.

#### The way we work, our roles, and relationships

Have more conversations about the stigma surrounding poverty and homelessness, discrimination, and the social divide in neighbourhoods and communities.

### Take action.

Participants offered the following ideas for concrete actions the federal government can consider.

#### Policy and legislation

- Provide the public with clarity on housing rights policy, especially regarding rental housing.

#### Programs, services, or initiatives

- Encourage more community land trusts to build a stock of non-market community-owned housing.
- Provide education, awareness, and measures to tackle NIMBY-ism.
- Launch an education and awareness campaign to spread knowledge and tools about the right to adequate housing in Canada. Make this information easy to understand.
- Introduce a mandatory course in all law schools across Canada to educate students on the right to adequate housing in Canada.

# 11

## Lead, collaborate, and hold others accountable for realizing the right to adequate housing.

Participants across Canada are calling for the federal government to **lead, collaborate, and hold others accountable for realizing the right to adequate housing.**

This solution direction includes approaches to demonstrating federal government leadership in progressively realizing the R2AH. This would involve collaborating with other organizations and partners and holding all stakeholders accountable for housing rights in Canada.

“ Collaborate with sectors that impact vulnerable populations more directly on housing issues, to create better partnerships.

– Survey Respondent

### Challenge today's system.

#### Mindsets

Shift our thinking from housing as a political decision to a human rights requirement.

#### The way we work, our roles, and relationships

Take the lead in moving our country to this new vision of housing in Canada.

Adapt to changing circumstances when needed to ensure rights are maintained in perpetuity.

Let go of working in silos. Align policies across all levels of government and the community for a cohesive, collaborative, and transparent approach.

Openly share knowledge.

### Take action.

Participants offered the following ideas for concrete actions the federal government can consider.

#### Policy and legislation

- Implement a constitutional guarantee to the right to housing at the federal level.
- Take action to hold other levels of government accountable.
- Ensure all levels of government develop meaningful housing strategies, milestones, and timelines.
- Implement an independent monitoring and assessment body.

#### Programs, services, or initiatives

- Undertake robust data collection, monitoring, and evaluation of housing and program successes and gaps.
- Ensure that there is a national inventory of housing available (especially for people with specific support needs such as those with disabilities) and those under construction.

# Part 6 ● Conclusions and Next Steps

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This section provides steps for moving forward and where we need to go next.

# Moving Forward

## This is just the beginning.

**This report summarizes the early stages of a multi-year initiative to make progress towards realizing the right to adequate housing in Canada.**

This initial work involved starting a conversation with people in Canada about what the R2AH means to them, what a preferred future where this right is realized could look like, and the steps we can take to get to that future.

The housing need in Canada can be overwhelming. Focus group and survey participants emphasized the significance and size of the issue today and the implications of a worsening situation.

In addition, people often feel that this conversation has already happened—that they have told this story many times. The continued advocacy with a persistent lack of improvement can be tiring and leave people feeling helpless.

What stood out as “different” from other conversations about housing in Canada was the emphasis on the following:

- A call to invest the **maximum of available resources**—everything possible must be done to address housing challenges for those in greatest need today
- A need for **easily accessible legal recourse** in the case of rights violations to solidify this right
- Finally, this shift requires a **national movement** (involving all people in Canada) toward viewing housing as a human right

We know we will need a suite of approaches, policies, and initiatives, spanning from short-term actions to longer-term ones. We also need to adopt a holistic approach, focusing not only on tangible changes through new policies and programs but creating conditions for deeper systems change by changing mindsets in Canada.

## There is more work to do.

The next steps for this initiative include:

- Filling gaps in the lived experience engagement process so far, including Indigenous and Québécois perspectives
- Launching the second phase of the Discovery process, involving conversations with multiple levels of government and subject matter experts
- Further unpacking the tensions and barriers in the system that are getting in the way of change
- Working with people in Canada to more concretely build out a series of pathways forward and testing those approaches with the community
- Socializing this work with a broader audience in Canada to begin a national conversation about the R2AH

### Addressing Gaps

We plan to address as many of these gaps as possible in the remainder of the **Discovery Phase**. Currently, we are exploring leads to connect with groups that represent some of these outstanding perspectives, including organizations and individuals that were not able to participate in the initial round of focus groups.

We recognize that some groups, such as Indigenous peoples, who are frequently being asked to consult in various capacities, may require a different process outside the scope of this initiative to ensure that they are engaged respectfully and equitably.

## We have a duty to act.

The road to the progressive realization of the right to adequate housing is not linear or straightforward. However, those in greatest need are counting on our federal government and everyone in Canada to rally behind this cause and for all of us to make a collective shift towards this future where everyone has a home where they can live in peace, dignity, and security.

# Appendix ● Additional Materials

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- Focus Group Guide
  - Survey for Organizations working with People with Lived Experience

# Engagement Materials

## Focus Group Guide

This page provides an overview of the questions posed during the focus groups. Note that the focus groups were “semi-structured” meaning the facilitators allowed participants to introduce questions that were not included and followed threads raised by participants.

### What the R2AH Means to You

1. Introduce yourself. What brings you to this conversation about housing?
2. What does it mean to you when you hear that Canada has recognized that adequate housing is a fundamental human right?
  - a. What does having the right to adequate housing mean to you?
  - b. Thinking about your current and past housing experiences, do you feel your right to adequate housing has been upheld and honoured in this country?
    - i. If not, could you share an example or two of when your right to adequate housing has been taken away or not protected?

- i. If yes, could you share a bit about what it looks like and feels like to have your right to adequate housing upheld and honoured? What are some examples of the things that have helped protect your right?
- a. In your experience, what are some of the barriers preventing people from having the guaranteed right to adequate housing?
- b. How could recognizing the right to adequate housing in law make things different for people experiencing housing challenges?

### Stepping into the Future

Let’s step into the future—to a time where Canada is fully meeting its obligations to progressively realizing the right to adequate housing so everyone in Canada’s right to adequate housing is being upheld (or maintained). Think of this as a big transformation.

3. In this future, where everyone in Canada has the right to adequate housing fully realized, what do you hope would be different for you in your life (or in the lives of others)? What would change?
4. In this future, how might people’s attitudes be different (e.g., towards housing, people experiencing housing challenges)?
5. In this future, what might decision-makers (e.g., governments) do differently?

### Getting to our Vision

Now, let’s think about how we could get to that future vision you described. What changes would have to happen to achieve that vision of the right to adequate housing?

6. What should decision-makers (e.g., governments) do today to move us towards this future (for example laws you would like to see created, new regulations, new funding, direct help to people whose rights have been violated, etc.)?
7. How might others in the community (e.g., organizations, employers, landlords, individuals) be involved in maintaining this right?
8. What part do you see yourself playing in working towards this future?
  - a. What would help you play your part?
9. What could the federal government do to help different “actors” in the system (e.g., local governments, provincial/territorial governments, non-government organizations, and others) work together towards achieving this shared vision of the right to adequate housing for all?

### Closing

10. Is there anything else you would like to share with us about the right to adequate housing in Canada?
11. Would you be open to participating in further conversations as part of this project?
12. Do you have any questions for us?

## Survey for Organizations working with People with Lived Experience

This page provides an overview of the questions posed through the survey to organizations working with people with lived experience.

### Part 1: Your Organization

1. Select your language (English or French)
2. Your name
3. Your email address
4. Your organization or affiliation
5. Your position or role within your organization
6. What best describes the main function(s) of your organization?
  - Housing operator (including affordable, supportive, transitional, emergency)
  - Housing developer
  - Support service provider
  - Advocacy or community organizing
  - Research
  - Other (please specify)
7. Which best describes your role?
  - Frontline staff (working directly with the people you serve)
  - Management or organizational leadership
  - Administrative staff
  - Communications staff
  - Researcher or peer worker
  - Educator or trainer
  - Other (please specify)
8. What is the geographic scope of your organization?
9. What population groups does your organization serve? Please indicate the primary population group(s) your organization serves, if applicable.
  - People experiencing homelessness
  - Indigenous peoples
  - Mental health and addictions
  - Newcomers
  - Refugees and refugee claimants
  - Racialized groups
  - People with disabilities, including those requiring supports to live at home
  - Seniors
  - Youth
  - Veterans
  - Women and children fleeing domestic violence
  - Single parents
  - Caregivers
  - 2SLGBTQIA
  - People involved with the criminal justice system
  - Low- or modest-income individuals or families
  - Other (please specify)
10. Which, if any, of these population groups do you personally identify as being part of?
11. How would you describe your organization's primary role(s) and activities related to housing?
  - Research
  - Advocacy or community organizing
  - Housing provider, operator, or property manager
  - Support or service provider
  - Consulting
  - Education
  - Other (please specify)



## Part 2: Envisioning and Realizing the Right to Adequate Housing

12. What are the main barriers to the right to adequate housing faced by the people you serve? Fill out the matrix below. We're providing the "7 criteria of the right to adequate housing" (UN Habitat) as a starting point. (Significant barrier, barrier, somewhat of a barrier, not a barrier, don't know)
  - Legal security of tenure (legal protection against forced eviction, harassment, or other threats)
  - Availability of services and materials (safe drinking water, sanitation, energy, heating, lighting, food storage, refuse disposal)
  - Affordability (when cost threatens the person's enjoyment of other human rights)
  - Habitability (physical safety, adequate space, protection against weather and health hazards)
  - Accessibility (considering specific needs of people with disabilities and marginalized groups)
  - Location (access to employment, health, education, childcare, social facilities)
  - Cultural adequacy (respect and considering expression of cultural identity)
  - Other (please specify)
13. For the features you indicated as a "significant barrier", tell us a bit more about how this barrier shows up for the people you serve (e.g., do you have any examples of common circumstances or experiences people have described to you?).
14. How would a world where this right is protected look different from what we have today in Canada? List the top five differences you envision. (Think about: how governments, community, people with lived experience, organizations, and others would behave differently, or how outcomes and experiences for people would be different from what they are now.) [5 open fields]
15. What are the "big leaps" that are needed to achieve this vision of the right to adequate housing for all in Canada? (Think about: What needs to shift? What might we need to let go of? What needs to be developed or nurtured? Consider things such as policy, legislation, mindsets, resources, or relationships.)
16. What is working well today that we would want to continue or do more of to support the right to adequate housing in Canada?

### Part 3: Role of Government

17. Previous research by the National Housing Council highlighted the following responsibilities of the federal government. Please indicate how well you believe Canada is doing when it comes to these responsibilities. [matrix of multiple choice: leading the way with excellent progress; making good progress; making some progress; not making visible progress]
- Ensure the meaningful engagement of rights holders across all levels of government, in an ongoing dialogue, to identify and respond to their circumstances (e.g., violations to their right to adequate housing).
  - Identify and prioritize those in the most need or extreme or vulnerable circumstances.
  - Address underlying systemic discrimination, colonization, and socio-economic inequity.
  - Adopt a comprehensive approach to addressing the right to adequate housing by hearing from diverse perspectives across Canada.
  - Ensure access to justice and accountability across all aspects of housing and levels of government.
  - Exercise national leadership to allocate responsibilities and ensure co-operation of all orders of government, including through funding and inter-governmental agreements.
- Ensure appropriate the government is allocating a maximum of available resources, including all appropriate taxation methods, to reaching the right to adequate housing for everyone.
  - Ensure independent monitoring and assessment of progress.
  - Ensure all appropriate means including regulatory and legislative measures to ensure that investment and actions of non-profit and private actors contribute to and do not undermine the right to adequate housing (e.g., regulate private actors).
  - Ensure a transformative dimension to policy and programs to achieve the right to housing within the shortest possible time.
  - Avoid any actions that directly or indirectly lead to a backward movement in the right to housing in Canada, except where absolutely necessary in times of crisis, with arrangements to ensure that vulnerable groups are not affected.
  - Engage in good faith with recommendations from treaty bodies.
18. The National Housing Strategy Act places a statutory obligation on the federal government to develop and maintain a national housing strategy that improves housing affordability and accessibility, especially for Canada's most vulnerable populations. In your opinion, how are the NHS programs meeting the standards of adequacy (legal security of tenure, affordability, habitability, availability of services and materials, accessibility, location, and cultural adequacy) for the most vulnerable?
- Programs under the NHS meet all of the standards
  - Programs under the NHS partially meet all of the standards
  - Programs under the NHS do not meet all of the standards
  - Not sure

19. Maintaining the right to adequate housing requires a broad range of actions and interventions. What are the top five roles or actions you would like to see the federal government take on to maintain the right to housing in Canada?

*Program development and funding*

- Bringing Canadian policy into alignment with internal human rights obligations
- Providing funding for building or maintaining housing
- Providing funding to support the right to housing beyond bricks and mortar
- Introducing regulations for developers and financial actors to ensure they do not create backward movement away from the right to housing (e.g., addressing the financialization of housing)
- Undertaking more robust data collection and monitoring around housing and program gaps
- Supporting independent monitoring and assessment processes

*Policy coordination and stakeholder management*

- Facilitating policy alignment across different levels of government to coordinate efforts
- Acting as a consensus builder or facilitator to bring more groups together to maintain the right to housing

*Leadership*

- Taking action to hold other levels of government accountable
- Taking action to hold developers and landlords accountable
- Disseminating knowledge of innovations and best practices
- Education and awareness-raising

*Working with PWLE*

- Providing individuals seeking remedies for violations of their right with a way to claim the right to housing (e.g., access to justice)
- Engaging with rightsholders to ensure policy supports their circumstances and dignity
- Other (please specify)

20. What are the top three IMMEDIATE actions the Federal government could take to ensure the right to adequate housing in Canada (e.g., implementing a specific policy or regulation, issuing an action plan, dedicating resources, etc.)? [3 open fields]

21. What are the top three LONGER-TERM actions the Federal government could take to ensure the right to adequate housing in Canada (e.g., shifting its focus, bringing on specific team members or resources, implementing policy, etc.)? [3 open fields]

22. One of the recommendations from previous NHC research is that the federal government should exercise national leadership to ensure greater alignment, collaboration, and co-operation across jurisdictions and all levels of government (including through funding and inter-governmental agreements). To what extent do you believe other levels of government are currently aligned with Canada's commitment to the right to adequate housing? [matrix of multiple choice] (very aligned; aligned; somewhat aligned; not aligned; not sure)
- Your local municipal or regional government
  - Your provincial or territorial government

23. Based on your response to the previous question, can you share any steps or actions local, regional, provincial, or territorial governments could take to align themselves with Canada's commitment to ensuring the right to adequate housing? [6 open fields]

*Section 1: Local or regional government steps*

- Action 1: open field
- Action 2: open field
- Action 3: open field

*Section 2: Provincial or territorial government steps*

- Action 1: open field
- Action 2: open field
- Action 3: open field

24. What could the federal government be doing to support increasing collaboration across governments, the housing and homelessness sectors, and others to promote a shared commitment and responsibility for the right to adequate housing in Canada?

#### Part 4: Engaging with Lived Experts

25. Human Rights lawyer, Sandra Liebenberg, the UN Special Rapporteur on Housing, and Canada's National Housing Strategy Act agree that "participation is central to human rights-based housing strategies because it challenges exclusion and silencing." Liebenberg notes "commitment to a rights-based dialogic and participatory approach as adopted by the NHSA should not be confused with mere consultation or other participatory processes," and that "meaningful engagement with rights-claiming communities" is of utmost importance. Based on your experience working with the people who have experienced housing challenges, what might "meaningful engagement" around policy and legislation between the federal government and people with lived experience look like? Consider the frequency and format of engagement, follow-ups, and progress updates, etc.
26. Based on your experience, what is needed to support lived experts' meaningful and ongoing engagement and participation in informing the right to adequate housing in Canada?

#### Part 5: Next Steps

27. After reflecting on the role of the federal government, what roles can organizations such as yours play in supporting the right to adequate housing in Canada?
28. We are hoping to speak with people with lived experience about the topic of the right to adequate housing. Would your organization be willing to refer us to people with lived experience (lived experts) to participate in a focus group on the topic of the right to adequate housing? [multiple choice]
- Yes, please follow up with me.
  - No, not at this time.
29. May we use your contact information to follow up with you if we have questions about your survey responses?
- Yes
  - No
30. Please check the boxes below if you would like to: (select as many as apply)
- Receive updates from this initiative, mainly any documents summarizing our findings
  - Be included in invitations to future engagement events (e.g., surveys, interviews, focus groups, or workshops) related to this initiative
  - Be listed in the "acknowledgements" section of our report, as a survey participant
  - Have your organization's name listed in the "acknowledgements" section of our report, as a survey participant

31. Do you have any readily available reports that illustrate the barriers that people are experiencing that prevent them from finding or keeping adequate housing? If yes, please share the link(s) to this document(s).
32. Do you have any questions for us or is there anything else you would like to share with us?



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*This is an Interim Report on What we Heard so Far from the **Co-Creating the Right to Adequate Housing in Canada** initiative. This report was prepared for the National Housing Council by SHS Consulting and SHIFT Collaborative.*

