

# 2011 Federal Budget: Cuts to affordable housing programs

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The 2011 federal budget does nothing to reverse the two decades of erosion in federal affordable housing investments (as set out in the [Wellesley Institute's Precarious Housing in Canada 2010](#)). The latest federal budget, which may not be implemented as all three opposition parties have indicated that they do not support it, offers no new investments in housing or homelessness. The latest [federal spending estimates](#) set out a 39% cut in housing spending in the coming year, an 11% cut in federal homelessness spending and a 70% cut in federal homelessness research funding. The [latest corporate plan from Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation](#), the federal government's housing agency, show a 24% cut in housing program spending by the year 2015 and a 10.4% cut in the number of households receiving federal assistance.

Federal budget 2011 does include a list of national housing investments from previous years. These include an uptick in 2006 when the federal government allocated \$1.4 billion in affordable housing investments authorized by the 2005 Parliament, and another uptick in 2009 when the "stimulus" budget allocated about \$2 billion to affordable housing investments. In its [latest report to Canadians on the 2009 budget](#), the federal government notes that housing investments deliver a powerful economic and job impact – five times greater than corporate tax cuts.

The Canadian Housing and Renewal Association stated that it is surprised by the lack of information on federal affordable housing funding and programs in the 2011 Budget. The CHRA noted that information on CMHC's affordable housing and renovation programs (i.e. AHI and RRAP) was absent from the federal budget. Recognizing that negotiations are ongoing between the federal, provincial and territorial governments on the details and the funding of these programs, CHRA hopes the silence indicates continuing discussions, rather than the end of such funding, and will look for clarification on this issue.

For the full article by Michael Shapcott (Wellesley Institute), [click here](#).

For the CHRA press release, [click here](#).

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