

The CHRA on the 2011 Federal Election

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On March 25, 2011, a no-confidence vote in the House of Commons triggered a spring election. With the fall of the Conservative government, Bill C-304, an Act to ensure secure, adequate, accessible and affordable housing for all Canadians, dies on the Order Paper and must be reintroduced in the next parliament if it is to be considered. The May 2 election, however, is an opportunity to bring affordable housing and homelessness issues to the forefront.

The Situation

More than **1.5 million households – or almost 13 per cent of all households in Canada – live in ‘core housing need,’** meaning they can’t find a home that costs less than 30 per cent of their household income, that has enough room for its occupants and doesn’t need major repairs.

There are **620,000 households living in social housing across Canada.** As the population grows and the effects of the recession take their toll, **more is needed just to keep up** with the needs of Canadians who cannot find homes they can afford.

But the long-term operating agreements between the federal government and the providers of this social housing are expiring. Without the subsidies these agreements provide, many housing providers will have to sell off some units to save others and/or raise the rents for some of Canada’s most vulnerable citizens just to keep the doors open.

Between 150,000 and 300,000 Canadians do not have a home. Homelessness is both a serious individual risk and a considerable public expense.

Some federal programs have helped to alleviate pressure, but they have been short-term; making it difficult to plan for long-term success.

[Click here to see the CHRA’s six point plan](#) on affordable housing.

Click here to see [CHRA analysis of the Conservative Party’s](#) housing platform.

Click here to see [CHRA analysis of the Liberal Party’s](#) housing platform.

Click here to see [CHRA analysis of the New Democratic Party’s](#) housing platform.

Click here to see [CHRA analysis of the Green Party’s](#) housing platform.

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