

Support for Affordable Housing Absent from Federal Budget

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The **2012 federal budget** outlines no plans to invest in affordable housing or in measures to end homelessness. “While the housing investments made through the economic stimulus program that wrapped up in 2011 have made a real difference, we are disappointed that this budget was effectively silent on affordable housing because so many needs remain,” said CHRA President Bruce Pearce. “With 1.5 million households unable to afford a decent home and 300,000 Canadians going without a roof over their head on any given night, support from the federal government is needed,” said Pearce.

“While we recognize the challenging fiscal circumstances in which this government finds themselves, a commitment to at least extend existing programs, such as the Homelessness Partnering Strategy, which is slated to end in less than two years, would have been appropriate, even if new investments are not possible at this time,” said Pearce.

While the budget does not detail plans to support affordable housing, it does note the federal government’s intention to strengthen Canada’s housing finance system, in order to contribute to the stability of the housing market for the benefit of all Canadians. “We will work to ensure that this commitment is truly as inclusive as sounds” said CHRA Executive Director Jody Ciufo. “There are specific investments that this government could make that would help those among us who are most vulnerable and simply can’t access a decent place to live.”

These include:

- funding for social housing that ensures no unit is lost or becomes less affordable once the subsidies supporting them expire;
- bolstering and extending the Affordable Housing Framework and Homelessness Partnering Strategy;
- reinstating an energy retrofit program for housing accessible to Canadians with low-incomes; and
- developing incentives to stimulate rental housing construction.

For more on this press release, [click here](#).

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