

# Right to Housing charter challenge thrown out

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The Ontario government is helping to block a Charter challenge designed to force Canada to do more to help homeless people – despite Premier Kathleen Wynne’s call for a national affordable-housing strategy.

A Superior Court judge threw out the case last week after Queen’s Park teamed up with the federal government to successfully argue that the challenge should not even be heard.

The case was brought by the Toronto-based Centre for Equality Rights in Accommodation and four Ontario residents. They argued that homeless peoples’ rights to equality, life, liberty and security of the person – guaranteed by the Charter of Rights and Freedoms – had been violated by a lack of affordable housing and cuts to social programs. They wanted the court to order governments to fix the problem.

In a decision dated Friday, Mr. Justice Thomas Lederer sided with the governments in quashing the case. He reasoned that considering social policy is not the courts’ job.

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