

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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STATEMENT BY FCM PRESIDENT: TODAY'S EXPIRY OF FEDERAL HOUSING PROGRAMS PUTS CITIES AND COMMUNITIES IN LIMBO

OTTAWA– The following statement was released today by the President of the [Federation of Canadian Municipalities \(FCM\)](#), Hans Cunningham, on today's expiry of the federal Affordable Housing Initiative (AHI) and the Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program (RRAP).

“Today's expiry of two flagship federal housing programs puts cities and communities across Canada in limbo, unable to access hundreds of millions of dollars earmarked to build social housing and help low-income Canadians pay their rent.

Today's expiry will force municipalities to postpone construction projects and turn away Canadians applying for housing allowances while the federal government works out new three-year funding agreements with every province and territory.

Canada must get off the broken merry-go-round of short-term funding agreements that make sustained progress on housing issues impossible. We won't fix the growing cracks in our housing system in a year or two, so why design our housing programs that way?

All parties in the House of Commons must pledge to finalize new agreements as soon as Parliament resumes, and put funding for housing on a long-term track before it runs out again in March 2014.

In the last three years, the Government of Canada has committed close to \$4 billion to fight homelessness and build affordable housing. However, these gains will be squandered without a long-term plan to expand the rental market and renew Canada's aging stock of 600,000 social housing units.

Only by setting clear targets backed with long-term funding will governments get the 175,000 families on social housing waiting lists into homes they can afford, and move the 40,000 Canadians sleeping in emergency shelters into stable and secure living arrangements.

This is an issue that affects every taxpayer. Homelessness fuels health and social problems that place an enormous burden on emergency rooms, police, and social services. Research suggests that, on average, moving a homeless person from an emergency shelter to stable housing saves taxpayers \$9,000 a year.”

The AHI and RRAP programs provide a combined \$250 million in annual federal housing investments.

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Posted on the [Winnipeg Rental Network](#)

