

Minister of State
(Social Development)



Ministre d'État
(Développement social)

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0J9

MAR 11 2015

Mr. Clark Brownlee
Right to Housing
453 Montrose Street
Winnipeg MB R3M 3M2

Dear Mr. Brownlee and Co-signatories:

I am responding to your letter, which the Office of the Prime Minister, the Right Honourable Stephen Harper, forwarded to the former Minister of Employment and Social Development, Minister for Multiculturalism, the Honourable Jason Kenney. You wrote expressing your support for social housing.

I appreciate that you have taken the time to share Right to Housing's concerns as they relate to affordable housing in Canada. I can assure you that we are continuing to make significant investments in housing, including social housing.

As you may know, funding for social housing is provided through Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) and is based on long-term agreements of 25-50 years, with the first agreements signed in the 1940s. The end dates for these agreements have been known since the agreements were signed and when these agreements mature (the last one in 2038), federal funding will end as planned.

I would also like to add that our Government is providing significant funding under the Investment in Affordable Housing (IAH). Under the IAH, provinces and territories cost match the federal investment and are responsible for program design and delivery. Provinces and territories have the flexibility to invest in a range of affordable housing programs in order to meet their local needs and priorities. Funding may be used to create new or to renovate affordable housing; to improve affordability such as through rent supplements; and, to foster safe independent living through accessibility modifications. . From April 2011 to September 2014, close to 213,000 households have benefitted from this investment nationally, including more than 2,200 in Manitoba.

As part of Economic Action Plan 2013, the Government of Canada announced its continued commitment to working with provinces and territories to develop and implement solutions to housing by investing more than \$1.25 billion over five years to extend the IAH to 2019.

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Canada

For the Province of Manitoba, this represents a combined investment of some \$104 million over five years and was announced in July 2014. Under the IAH, Manitoba has the flexibility to design and deliver a range of affordable housing programs to address local housing needs and priorities.

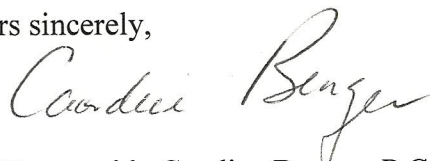
I would also like to draw Right to Housing's attention to CMHC's Affordable Housing Centre, which helps create new affordable housing, including rental housing, for projects that do not rely on federal subsidies, by offering assistance such as Seed Funding, and Proposal Development Funding.

The federal government also provides funding for homelessness through the Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS), administered by Employment and Social Development Canada. HPS is a community-based program aimed at preventing and reducing homelessness by providing direct support and funding to 61 designated communities across Canada. Economic Action Plan 2013 announced \$600 million in funding to extend the HPS for five years until 2019, with a focus on the Housing First approach.

Taken together, this broad range of housing activities supports vulnerable Canadians, homeowners, renters and the housing sector. I hope this information helps assure Right to Housing that our Government is committed to affordable housing solutions and to assisting those in housing need.

Thank you for writing.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Candice Bergen".

The Honourable Candice Bergen, P.C., M.P.
Minister of State (Social Development)