



# South Shore Housing Action Coalition

*Healthy, affordable housing options for all, at every stage of life*

## Affordable Housing is a Federal Election Issue!

### MAKE AFFORDABLE HOUSING AN ELECTION ISSUE:

During this federal election campaign, you can raise awareness about the need for action on Affordable Housing by the federal government by:

- learning more about the housing needs in your community;
- asking questions of candidates at the door and debates;
- talking to your family, friends and neighbours about the need for action on Affordable Housing in your community – and across Canada;
- following the South Shore Housing Action Coalition on social media (Facebook and Twitter) and sharing information about affordable housing;
- finding out more about SSHAC and getting involved!

### DID YOU KNOW?

#### Affordable housing improves:

- health outcomes and lowers health care costs
- safety and lowers crime rates and justice system costs
- community sustainability through enhanced social inclusion and a more stable tax base.

**63% of Canadians believe new affordable housing will make life better in their communities.**

## Housing Quick Facts

### CANADA

- 850,000 lower rent units (\$800/mo and less) have been lost in the last decade.
- One third of Canadian households rent their homes.
- One in five renters pay more than 50% of their income on housing.
- Only 11% of housing starts since 2006 have been intended as rental units.
- One third of Canada's social housing stock is at risk with the termination of long-term federal subsidies.
- At least 200,000 Canadians experience homelessness each year.
- More than 5 million Canadian households are now spending more than 30% of their income on housing related costs.

### LUNENBURG & QUEENS

- Nearly half (45%) of renters pay more than 30% of their before-tax income on housing related costs.
- Average rents range from \$619.00 to \$726.00. More than 25% of households have a median before-tax income of less than \$23,000. Those with an income of \$23,000 can only afford \$575 a month on rent before they are spending more than 30% of their income on housing, placing them at increased risk for housing vulnerability or homelessness.
- A significant number of rental units in Lunenburg and Queen Counties require major repairs, placing the families who live in them in risky situations for health and safety.
- The scarcity of new rental housing construction in Lunenburg and Queens is worsening the affordability and availability of housing.



# AFFORDABLE HOUSING

## MAKE IT AN ELECTION ISSUE

### Questions to ask the Candidates

- In your opinion, what are the housing needs of people living in the communities in the riding of South Shore - St.Margaret's?
- If you are elected, what role will you play in addressing housing needs in this riding?
- What are your thoughts on the advantages and disadvantages of establishing a National Housing Plan?
- How will you and your party take action on affordable housing at the federal, provincial and local levels?
- What action will you and your party take to protect and expand affordable, accessible housing options for the most vulnerable members of our communities (for example, seniors, persons with disabilities and mental health concerns, women leaving abusive relationships, the working poor, people living with unemployment and fixed income, homeless youth, and others)?

### WHAT CAN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT DO?

- Develop and implement a federal housing strategy focused on reducing homelessness and securing adequate, accessible and affordable housing for Canadians.
- Protect Canada's existing and longstanding \$2.12 billion annual federal affordable housing programs and agreements.
- Preserve rent and operational subsidies for existing social housing as the need is identified and create a new Capital Repair and Regeneration Program with remaining funds.
- Preserve and increase affordable rental housing through innovative tax incentives.
- Build on proven practices like Housing First and other programs that provide housing support and reduce homelessness.

Adapted from:

Canadian Association of Community Health Centres (2015)  
[www.cachc.ca](http://www.cachc.ca)

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (2015):  
*Built to Last: Strengthening the Foundations of Housing in Canada and Strengthening Canada's Hometowns: A Roadmap for Strong Cities and Communities.*  
[www.fcmm.ca](http://www.fcmm.ca)

**THE SOUTH SHORE HOUSING ACTION COALITION** is a coalition among diverse and committed individuals and stakeholders working collaboratively to build awareness and take action on the need for quality, safe, affordable rental housing in Lunenburg and Queens Counties in particular, and Nova Scotia in general.

#### Contact us to learn more:



#### South Shore Housing Action Coalition

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