

# HOUSING IS A MUNICIPAL ISSUE

Essential to the development of a thriving community is understanding the pressing issues that need to be addressed, and committing to change.

## WHO IS FACING CHALLENGES?

Seniors and single parent-led households make up 24% of the population, yet have few housing options. Children living in our communities are especially struggling. Child Poverty rates within Lunenburg County are estimated at 23.5%, and Queens County rates are estimated at 29.3%. This means 1 in 4 children within our communities are living well below the poverty line. With a vacancy rate of less than 1%, individuals and families receiving subsidies or government assistance are left in the cold, choosing between rent or food on a daily basis.



## ALIGNING POLICIES



Rural Municipalities must fully understand Federal & Provincial funding plans, enabling the alignment of innovative solutions with existing funding streams.

Municipal Government's role is to provide a "rural lens" to Federal and Provincial Programs, ensuring all rural needs are adequately assessed and met. .

## HOUSING, OR LACK THEREOF

Municipalities have the power to change the face of the housing market by prioritizing the development of affordable housing, and supporting local non profits in establishing diverse, accessible housing to meet various needs within each community. This can be accomplished through land development, rezoning, adjusting by laws, and offering support through financial grants and partnership letters



## INTERNET ACCESS FOR ALL

Access to affordable, high speed internet is no longer a luxury, but a necessity. Access to high speed internet is housing loss prevention. It is access to healthcare, continued education, and employment. Rural families are most at risk when the development of these services are not prioritized. .

## THE COST OF STATUS QUO

Currently, rural communitites across Canada employ over 4 million canadians and generage 27% of the National GDP. Without addressing the current housing crisis facing rural Nova Scotia, costs associated with policing and emergency response will climb astronomically, while population and economic growth will decline. Prioritizing affordable housing means investing in a future for all.



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## WHAT WILL YOU OFFER OUR COMMUNITY?



**Will you, in consultation with stakeholders, adopt a Municipal affordable housing plan that increases the supply of safe, affordable housing that meets peoples' needs?**



**Will you help champion the role of Municipal Government in addressing issues related to housing?**



**Will you ensure local policies reflect the vision of Federal and Provincial housing policies?**



**Will you engage with local agencies, NGO's and stakeholders in creating a community driven action plan?**



**Will you ensure local agencies are heard by funders and Government stakeholders?**



**Will you commit to ensuring local businesses are supported in the effort to make a living wage the baseline for all employee compensation?**

## LOCAL RESEARCH

South Shore Housing Action Coalition  
Housing Wage Report, Household Income Report, Short Term Accomodations Status Report  
<http://sshac.ca>

Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives NS Child Poverty Report:  
<https://bit.ly/policyalternatives>

Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives NS Living Wage Report:  
<https://bit.ly/2RACzOQ>

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Homeless Hub, Rural Homelessness resources, data and reports: <https://bit.ly/32ybjqF>



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