

## **MAP HOUSING WORKING GROUP MEETING AGENDA**

**Thursday January 28, 2021 - 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm**

**Online meeting via Zoom**

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Co-Chair: Doug Peat

1:00 PM

Welcome and Introductions

- Approve Nov 26, 2020 HWG Meeting Minutes
- Outline of Agenda

1:10 PM

**Updates:**

- Report back on Infolink Article for BCNPHA – Richard Belcham (3 min)
- Update on the roundtable meeting with BCNPHA – Taskforce (3 min)
- Comments on initial feedback re: Housing Challenges via CHARMS Project research - Marzieh Nezakat (4 min)
- Roundtable Update on any items specifically related to housing (15 min)

1:35 PM

**Business:**

**4.8 million funding for refugee claimant housing** (see attached) - Discussion

- What opportunities do you see?
- Why only for renovations?
- Could we do some collective advocating with BC Housing and Ministry on increasing scope for things they would fund?

2:00 PM

**CCR housing resolutions and how best to engage at all levels of Government** (see below)

- Report from CCR's First Housing Network Meeting – Doug Peat
- Should we be creating materials for pushing solutions forward at Provincial/Municipal level? How can we help consistency in what we are sharing on the individual organization level? How do we best coordinate this?
- Who will create the materials? What will the process be for vetting materials?
- How do we best communicate needs and solutions from our local/provincial level to the federal level? How does this fit into the newly formed First Housing Network?

2:20 PM

**Continuing Discussion on How to Prepare for an Influx of Refugee Claimants** (see minutes from Nov 2020)

- What we can learn from the housing response for Tamil Boat People who arrived in 2010 - Barry
- Suggestions for responding to the Provincial Government

2:30 PM

**Adjourn.** Next meeting: Thursday February 18, 2021 on zoom

## CCR Resolutions on Housing

### Housing Eligibility

Res.: 1, Dec 2020

Whereas:

1. Housing is a human right.
2. Homelessness and lack of safe and adequate housing has a profound and detrimental impact on children and adults, and long-term consequences for their health, mental health and wellness.
3. When immigration status is used as eligibility criteria for shelter, housing, related supports, housing rights and entitlements, refugee claimants, migrant workers, international students and other with precarious immigration status or no immigration status are excluded.
4. The immigration status bar has a disproportionate impact on racialized people, especially racialized women, who are over-represented among those who are low-income and in need of shelter, housing and related supports.

Therefore, be it resolved:

the CCR calls on the Government of Canada, and Provincial and Territorial governments to eliminate any and all exclusions to shelter, housing and supports based on immigration status so that all those in need of shelter and housing are eligible to access this basic resource. Housing

Res.: 3, Jun 2019

Whereas:

1. Housing is a human right;
2. Canada's affordable housing crisis is impacting all medium to low-income Canadians, including immigrants and refugees. The impact of building further affordable housing through the National Housing Strategy will take time and does not address the crisis of today;
3. Social assistance levels allocations are not adequate given the high cost of rents. The need for affordable housing outstrips what is presently available;
4. The lack of shelter and dedicated services geared to arriving refugee claimants is creating a crisis within existing shelter systems and is increasing homelessness;
5. Refugee claimants face absolute homelessness upon their arrival. Presently, refugee claimants are not eligible for the same supports as government-sponsored or privately sponsored refugees;
6. Safe and affordable housing is critical to the successful settlement of refugee families and individuals;
7. The CCR passed Res.: 5, Nov 2005 on housing;

Therefore, be it resolved:

that the CCR:

1. Call on all levels of governments responsible for housing and settlement to allocate more resources for accessible and affordable housing and to review the provision of adequate income and social assistance levels to facilitate access to safe, secure and affordable housing for all refugee claimants.
2. Urge the inclusion of refugees and refugee claimants in the development and allocation of affordable housing projects.
3. Encourage all levels of government to fund the development of appropriate short-term housing solutions for arriving refugee claimants, which include settlement services.

The right to access to safe, secure and affordable housing

Res.: 5, Nov 2005

Whereas:

1. Safe, secure and affordable housing is a resource that plays a critical role in determining overall health and well-being and provides a base from which immigrants and refugees can seek employment, re-establish family relationships and make connections with the wider community;
2. Immigrants and refugees are facing absolute and hidden homelessness problems in Canada;
3. UNHCR Reception and Integration Handbook, ch. 2.8 (A Place to Call Home) outlines guidelines;

Therefore, be it resolved:

That the CCR:

1. Write to all levels of government responsible for housing and immigration settlement to allocate more resources for affordable housing and to review the provision of adequate income and social assistance levels to facilitate access to safe, secure and affordable housing.
2. Promote the best service guidelines in the area of housing developed by the UNHCR, ensuring that governments and service providers commit to the housing guidelines, and provide the support and resources needed to enable those guidelines to be maintained.

#### Newcomers and housing

Res.: 8, Dec 2001

Whereas:

The National Housing and Homelessness Network is working to raise awareness of discrimination and human rights violations confronting newcomers and all Canadians seeking quality and affordable housing;

Therefore, be it resolved:

That the CCR join the National Housing and Homelessness Network and the Urban Core Support Network to persuade federal, provincial and territorial governments to support the one percent solution which will create quality and affordable housing for all Canadians and that specific amounts of all new funding be identified for housing for newcomers.