



**The Honourable Patty Hajdu**

Minister of Jobs and Families  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario,  
K1A 0A6

May 16, 2025

**Subject: Strategic Priorities for Gender Equity, Housing Justice, and a More Inclusive Canada**

Dear Minister Hajdu,

On behalf of the **National Indigenous Women's Housing Network** and the **Women's National Housing and Homelessness Network**, we extend our heartfelt congratulations on becoming the Minister of Jobs and Families. Your leadership represents an opportunity to renew Canada's commitment to reconciliation, equity, and social and economic justice for all.

We write to you as national networks composed of lived experts, advocates, Indigenous leaders, frontline service providers, researchers, and policy professionals working across Canada to end homelessness and housing insecurity for women, Two-Spirit, trans, and gender-diverse people. These communities are disproportionately impacted by poverty, violence, and systemic exclusion from housing and social support systems.

In this important role, we urge you to take bold and immediate action across five key priority areas to build a future where all people in Canada can live in dignity and safety:

**1. Champion economic security through housing justice:** Uphold the right to housing for women, Two-Spirit, trans, and gender-diverse people by supporting the adoption and implementation of the forthcoming recommendations from the Neha Review Panel on gender equity and housing. As Minister responsible for jobs and families, your leadership is essential in ensuring that housing investments translate into long-term economic stability and employment opportunities. We urge you to advocate for 40% of affordable and deeply affordable housing units developed under federal programs to be allocated to women and gender-diverse households—recognizing that secure housing is foundational to labour force participation, family well-being, and economic inclusion.

**2. Support Indigenous women's economic empowerment through housing investment:** Increase and sustain annual funding for the Urban, Rural, and Northern Indigenous Housing Strategy, with clear, dedicated funding streams for Indigenous women, Two-Spirit, and gender-diverse people. As a champion for family well-being and equity in employment outcomes, we ask you to ensure this strategy includes Indigenous-led evaluation frameworks with gender-disaggregated indicators. These measures align with the economic and social rights commitments under UNDRIP, the TRC's Calls to Action, and the MMIWG

Calls for Justice—each of which connects safety, housing, and economic empowerment for Indigenous women and families.

**3. Expand gender-responsive homelessness programs to improve economic participation:** Women and gender-diverse people are often excluded from mainstream homelessness strategies, making it harder for them to access the housing and support services that enable stable employment and income security. We urge you to support national targets, measurable outcomes, and dedicated funding streams that address gender-specific pathways into and out of homelessness. This includes supporting trauma-informed, culturally safe, and low-barrier housing models. Within your portfolio, you can advocate for an improved GBA+ framework in federal homelessness responses and for a revision of the definition of chronic homelessness to include hidden homelessness, which disproportionately affects women and gender-diverse people.

**4. Bridge systemic gaps between the violence against women (VAW) and homelessness sectors to better serve families:** Women and gender-diverse people who are homeless or fleeing violence often fall through the cracks due to siloed service systems. These gaps are especially harmful for Indigenous women and families. As Minister, you can help lead interdepartmental coordination to address these gaps and support integrated policy and program responses that ensure no woman or family is left behind due to bureaucratic barriers.

**5. Ensure the Canada Disability Benefit is livable and inclusive:** Advocate to raise the Canada Disability Benefit to a livable level that reflects the real cost of living with a disability and lifts all people with disabilities out of poverty. You play a vital role in ensuring this benefit supports economic inclusion and family stability. The benefit must be designed in consultation with disability rights advocates and organizations led by disabled people, and it must be accessible, intersectional, and supportive of those facing the deepest systemic barriers to employment and economic participation.

We look forward to working with your government to advance gender equity and housing justice in Canada. We are ready to collaborate, share lived expertise and support the implementation of effective and equitable policies that leave no one behind.

Sincerely,

Khulud Baig, Trinity Fletcher, Arlene Hache, Marie McGregor Pitawanakwat, Alina Perault, Stefania Seccia, and Aymen Sherwani

National Indigenous Women's Housing Network &  
Women's National Housing and Homelessness Network