

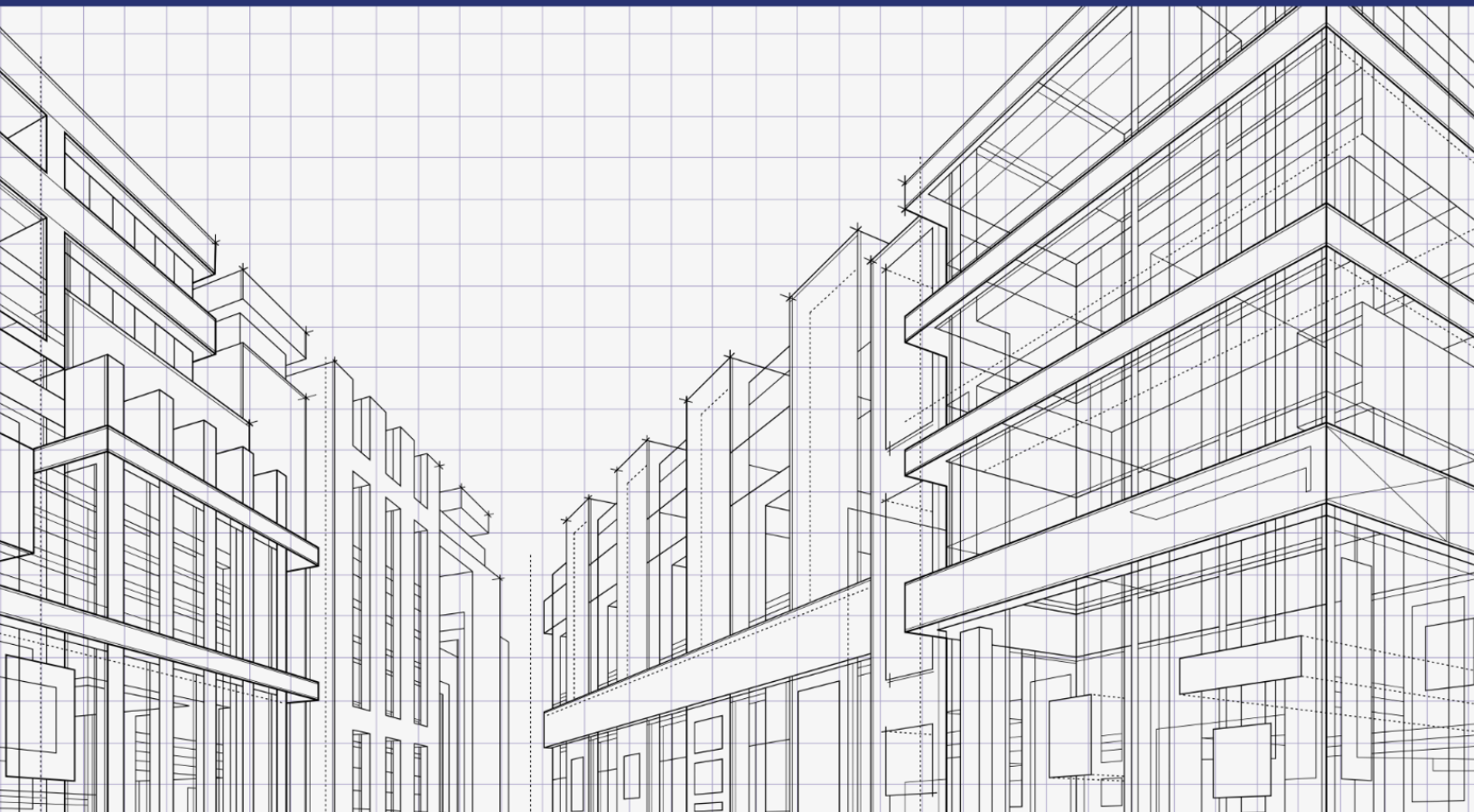
Closing Canada's Accessible Housing Gap

**Submission to the Review Panel on the lack of
accessible housing in Canada**

June 2026



**WOMEN'S NATIONAL
HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS
NETWORK**



Land Acknowledgement

The Women's National Housing & Homelessness Network (WNHHN) acknowledges that Canada is a settler colonial state on Turtle Island, which has been governed and inhabited by First Nations, Inuit, and Métis practicing traditional ways of doing, knowing, and being for generations. Indigenous communities across Canada have been on the frontlines for decades as revolutionaries for restorative justice and self-determination: developing decolonial and non-Eurocentric ways of doing in order to shift outdated paradigms and reimagine frameworks in service provision that have had positive outcomes for all.

Our organization is an interregional network across Turtle Island that is dedicated to improving the living situations of women and gender-diverse persons as well as ending incidents of becoming unsheltered. These lands have long been home to First Nations, Inuit, and Métis, whose histories, cultures, and ongoing contributions continue to shape and strengthen our communities. We recognize and deeply appreciate their stewardship of these lands and the impacts of colonial displacement, which continue to affect housing outcomes today.

Who We Are

The Women's National Housing and Homelessness Network is a collective of diverse women, including those with lived and living expertise, who are working to eliminate homelessness and housing insecurity for women, girls, and gender-diverse people across Canada.

Authors & Acknowledgements

This submission was co-authored by members of WNHHN's Gender Housing Justice Working Group and team including, Hilary Chapple; Faith Eiboff; Jennifer Gordon; Arlene Hache; Jen la Fauci Gordon; Tracey MacKinnon; Marie McGregor Pitawanakwat; Dr. Alex Nelson; Stefania Seccia; Aymen Sherwani; Jewelles Smith; Veronica Snooks; and Meghan South. Special thank you to our practicum student Joanna Noujaim.



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Overview

When the right to housing was legislated through the *National Housing Strategy Act* in 2019, it established a federal commitment to realizing housing as a human right in Canada. However, evidence gathered through “[Housing Justice Starts With Us](#)” – WNHHN’s written submission to the Neha Review Panel—alongside the Women’s National Housing and Homelessness Network (WNHHN) other key submissions and research, namely the [Intersectional Feminist Housing Agenda](#), the [Pan-Canadian Women’s Housing & Homelessness Survey](#), the [State of Women’s Housing Need & Homelessness in Canada](#), and the recently released [Unaddressed Project: The State and Scale of Housing Insecurity & Homelessness Experienced by Women & Gender-Diverse People in Calgary](#) demonstrate that this right has yet to become a reality. Our data finds that women, Two-Spirit, trans, and gender-diverse people still continue to experience disproportionate housing insecurity, hidden homelessness, violence, displacement, and systemic exclusion from housing systems.

This body of work consistently demonstrates that the current housing system does not adequately respond to the realities of gendered homelessness, disability, chronic illness, caregiving responsibilities, poverty, colonialism, and intersecting forms of discrimination. Women and gender-diverse people often experience hidden homelessness through couch surfing, overcrowded housing, remaining in unsafe or abusive relationships, or living in inadequate and inaccessible housing due to a lack of safe, affordable, and appropriate alternatives. These realities are particularly acute for Indigenous women, older women, single mothers and caregivers, women leaving correctional facilities, youth transitioning from child welfare systems, refugees and newcomers, and women living with disabilities, chronic illnesses, mental health challenges, or substance use concerns.

In 2022, 30% of women in Canada reported having one or more disabilities¹ and were more likely than men to report severe disabilities (43% versus 30%, respectively).² For many women and gender-diverse people, disabilities and chronic illnesses have a bi-directional relationship with experiences of homelessness. While disabilities and chronic illnesses can contribute to housing instability and homelessness through a lack of accessible housing and a lack of adequate income supports, experiences of homelessness can also create, worsen, or prolong

¹ Statistics Canada. (2022). *Canadian Survey on Disability, 2017 to 2022*. Government of Canada. <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/231201/dq231201b-eng.htm>

² Johnson, S. (2017). *The Impact of Housing and Homelessness on Persons with Developmental Disabilities: Connecting the Literature*. Toronto Developmental Services Alliance. <https://tdsa.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/Lit-Review-Developmental-Disabilities-and-Housing.pdf>

Women and Gender Equality Canada. (2025). *Federal support to help women with disabilities overcome barriers to economic security*. Government of Canada. <https://www.canada.ca/en/women-gender-equality/news/2025/08/federal-support-to-help-women-with-disabilities-overcome-barriers-to-economic-security.html>

physical and mental health conditions, such as through exposure to violence and trauma.³ This suggests that when women and gender-diverse people with disabilities experience homelessness, their health conditions are likely to deteriorate, exacerbating existing disabilities and increasing the likelihood of additional physical and mental health conditions.

The Intersectional Feminist Housing Agenda emphasizes that housing policy must move beyond narrow supply-based approaches and instead recognize housing as interconnected with safety, dignity, accessibility, and climate justice. In this context, climate justice recognizes the role of climate change in contributing to housing loss, alongside broader considerations of health, disability justice, and Indigenous self-determination.

The Agenda also calls for deeply affordable, non-market, and gender-responsive housing investments that prioritize those most impacted by housing inequities, including Indigenous women, disabled people, newcomers, racialized communities, seniors, and low-income households.

The Unaddressed Project identified significant structural gaps in the supply of safe, accessible, affordable, and appropriate housing, particularly for people living with disabilities and chronic illnesses. Participants identified inaccessible housing design, inadequate disability supports, siloed systems, and affordability pressures as key contributors to housing instability and homelessness for people with disabilities – many of whom were older adults.

People over the age of 65 comprise one-fifth of Canada’s total population, with older women making up the majority of this demographic.⁴ The most up to date (2011) on gender, and age-related disabilities in Canada found that older women are more likely to have a mobility-related disability than senior men (37.2% compared to 28.1%). At the time, they were found to be more likely to live alone, experience inadequate social and material supports, and face worsening health conditions as they age.⁵

The continued lack of updated, disaggregated research on gendered and age-related disability contributes to policy blind spots that can directly harm older women and gender-diverse people by rendering their needs invisible in program design, resource allocation, and service delivery. This research gap has led to inadequately tailored health and housing supports, delayed and

³ Women’s National Housing and Homelessness Network. (2025). *UN Submission: Gender, the right to housing, and disability rights in Canada*. <https://womenshomelessness.ca/crpds/submit>

⁴ Women’s Age Lab (2024). *Women at the forefront of aging in Canada: Challenging the status quo*. Toronto, ON: Women’s Age Lab, Women’s College Hospital. <https://www.womensacademics.ca/womens-age-lab/newspublications/wal2024report/>

⁵ Government of Canada. (2011). *Disability Facts about Seniors*. https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2011/rhdcc-hrsdc/HS64-11-1-2010-eng.pdf

inappropriate interventions, and the perpetuation of structural inequities that compound over time as populations have aged without systems designed to respond to their lived realities.

Older women and gender-diverse people are also more prone to housing insecurity due to a combination of lower lifetime earnings, career interruptions for unpaid caregiving, and longer life expectancies.⁶ These factors result in lower retirement savings and leave older women living alone particularly vulnerable to rising rents, eviction, and a shortage of housing options that are both affordable and accessible. When combined with chronic illness and disability, housing precarity can both worsen existing health conditions while creating additional barriers to housing stability.

As climate change increasingly affects communities across Canada through extreme heat, wildfire smoke, flooding, rising utility costs, and environmental instability, climate resilience must be recognized as both a housing justice and health equity issue. For instance, a 2023 Harvard study found that persons with disabilities are two to four times more likely to die or be injured during climate emergencies, including heatwaves, hurricanes, and floods.⁷ Similarly, during the 2021 British Columbia heatwave, 91% of deaths were among people living with some form of disability or chronic illness.⁸

Climate change disproportionately impacts low-income households, people living with disabilities and chronic illnesses, seniors, and people experiencing homelessness or housing precarity. Their vulnerability to climate-related hazards is often heightened by a lack of affordable, adequate and accessible housing that is designed to withstand extreme weather events.⁹

Climate change also severely disrupts access to clean water in the event of floods, which may contaminate drinking water through agricultural runoff and overwhelm water treatment infrastructure.¹⁰ At present, access to clean water remains a significant barrier to housing adequacy and contributes to chronic illness among individuals living on First Nations reserves in

⁶ Hassan, S. (2023). "'We are being ignored:' Older women struggle with rising cost of housing". *CBC News*. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/elderly-women-housing-costs-1.6831840>

⁷ Stein, A., M. (2023). *Disability in a Time of Climate Disaster*. Harvard University. <https://www.environment.harvard.edu/news/disability-time-climate-disaster>

⁸ Egilson, M. (2022). *Extreme Heat and Human Mortality: A Review of Heat-Related Deaths in B.C. in Summer 2021*. Government of British Columbia. https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/birth-adoption-death-marriage-and-divorce/deaths/coroners-service/death-review-panel/extreme_heat_death_review_panel_report.pdf

⁹ Sera K., Yejin K., Jinah P., Ranyeong K., Whanhee L., Bell, M., Jong-Tae L. (2026). *Leave no one behind: a call to include people with disabilities in climate change and health research*. *The Lancet Planetary Health*, Volume 10, Issue 3, 2026. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2542519626000136>

¹⁰ National Geographic. (2025). "How Climate Change Impacts Water Access" *National Geographic*. <https://education.nationalgeographic.org/resource/how-climate-change-impacts-water-access/>

Canada. While Canada has made efforts to improve access to clean water, as of June 2026, 38 long-term drinking water advisories remain in 36 communities, primarily on First Nations reserves. These communities experience rates of water-borne illness that are 26 times higher than the national average and residents are 90 times more likely to lack running water.¹¹

Future National Housing Strategy investments must therefore prioritize deeply affordable, accessible, energy-efficient, and climate-resilient housing that protects health, safety, dignity, and long-term housing stability. This includes ensuring access to safe drinking water and sanitation as core components of housing adequacy and the prevention of chronic illness.

WNHHN recommends the following actions drawing on the evidence, themes, and priorities identified throughout the Review Panel submissions and associated research.

Gender-Focused and Gender-Responsive Investments in Non-Market Affordable and Deeply Affordable Housing

Taken together, the evidence identifies a significant gap between current housing investments and the realities faced by low-income women, gender-diverse people, Indigenous peoples, disabled people, and those experiencing hidden homelessness. Existing affordability definitions and funding structures often fail to reflect the actual cost of housing relative to household income.

Recommendation 1: Expand investments in non-market, supportive, and deeply affordable housing that prioritizes women-led households, Indigenous peoples, disabled people, older women and gender-diverse people, as well as the communities disproportionately impacted by core housing need and homelessness.

Recommendation 2: Apply consistent definitions of affordable and deeply affordable housing that reflect the actual incomes of very low-income and low-income households rather than regional market averages. Housing affordability should reflect household income, with housing costs that do not exceed 30% of net household income.

¹¹ Indigenous Services Canada. (2018, September 28). *Ending long-term drinking water advisories*. Government of Canada. <https://www.sac-isc.gc.ca/eng/1506514143353/1533317130660>
Black, K., Swampy, M. (2021, May 7). "Tip of the iceberg: The true state of drinking water advisories in First Nations." *University of Calgary*. <https://ucalgary.ca/news/tip-iceberg-true-state-drinking-water-advisories-first-nations>

Recommendation 3: Ensure all National Housing Strategy funding streams include measurable gender-responsive and equity-based targets tied to housing outcomes for women, Two-Spirit, trans, and gender-diverse people.

Recommendation 4: Implement stronger protections for disabled tenants, including policies with strengthened provincial and territorial collaboration to curb the financialization of housing, such as rent control, vacancy control, and protections against reno-victions and “demo-victions.”

Recommendation 5: Increase supports and coordination for disabled women and gender-diverse people across the housing continuum – including those living in encampments, shelters, supportive and transitional housing – ensuring access to housing, shelter, programming, services, and community resources regardless of housing status. Tailored supports should also be provided for transgender and gender-diverse individuals living with disabilities who may face intersecting barriers related to neurodiversity, racialization, Indigenous identity, discrimination, heightened surveillance, and criminalization within housing and shelter systems.

Accessibility, Disability Justice, and Chronic Illness Inclusion

Evidence identifies inaccessible housing design, inadequate disability income supports, and a limited supply of accessible housing as significant contributors to housing instability. The evidence also demonstrates that chronic illness, disability, poverty, and housing insecurity are deeply interconnected.

Recommendation 6: Mandate universal accessibility and inclusive design standards across all federally funded housing developments regardless of housing type or delivery model, including those delivered in partnership with provincial and territorial governments.

- Housing should be designed to support people across the lifespan, enabling individuals to age in place rather than face displacement or housing instability as needs change.
- Universal design standards should address changing physical, cognitive, and health-related needs, rather than assuming the availability of informal caregivers or support networks in the event of illness, disability, or aging.

Recommendation 7: Recognize chronic illnesses, psychiatric and mental health disabilities, intellectual and developmental disabilities, and substance use-related disabilities within housing accessibility and disability frameworks to ensure equitable access to housing supports, accommodations, and disability-responsive housing.

Recommendation 8: Strengthen coordination between housing systems, healthcare systems, and disability supports to prevent homelessness, institutionalization, and housing instability for people living with disabilities and chronic illnesses.

- This includes ensuring that the Canada Disability Benefit (CDB) is able to directly reduce financial burdens on disabled women and gender-diverse people – particularly where provincial disability supports fall short of covering housing costs and basic necessities such as food and clothing.¹²
- Particular attention should be paid to ensuring that federal disability supports do not reduce provincial benefits. Alberta remains the only province to implement a \$200 clawback to this important new source of support for individuals receiving both the CDB and provincial disability benefits through either the Assisted Income for the Severely Handicapped (AISH)¹³ program or Alberta Disability Assistance Program (ADAP).¹⁴

Recommendation 9: Establish as a priority the prevention of institutionalization as a substitute for housing when it is not medically necessary, including the use of long-term care facilities to address unmet housing needs. Disabled women, girls and gender-diverse people have the right to live with dignity in the community and in housing settings of their choice. Institutions are too frequently used as a form of housing for disabled people against their will.¹⁵ The federal government must act to ensure that people are not institutionalized due to a lack of accessible, affordable, and appropriate housing options.

- Housing shortages must not be addressed through the institutionalization of disabled people against their wishes.
- Require provinces and territories to clarify whether residents of long-term care facilities, supportive housing, and other congregate living settings are protected under their respective Residential Tenancies Acts and have access to landlord-tenant dispute resolution mechanisms.
- Where residents fall outside the scope of these Acts, governments should establish independent, accessible, and rights-based grievance and appeals processes,

¹² Government of Canada. (2025). *Canada Disability Benefit*.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/disability/canada-disability-benefit.html>

¹³ Government of Alberta. (n.d.). *Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped (AISH)*. <https://www.alberta.ca/aish>

¹⁴ Government of Alberta. (n.d.). *Alberta Disability Assistance Program*. <https://www.alberta.ca/alberta-disability-assistance-program>

¹⁵ DAWN Canada. (2023). *Submission to the National Housing Council: Financialization of Purpose-Built Rental Housing*. <https://dawnCanada.net/resource/submission-to-the-national-housing-council-financialization-of-purpose-built-rental-housing/>

Mulligan, P. (2025). “Advocate says too many Nova Scotians with disabilities still live in institutions”. *CBC News*. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/disabilities-institutional-living-vicky-levack-1.7438673>

including a dedicated oversight office to receive complaints and applications for remedy, and an impartial tribunal with the authority to ensure fair hearings and enforceable resolutions.

Recommendation 10: Expanded funding to address the gap in disaggregated research on gendered, age-related, and disability intersecting outcomes in Canada.

- This funding should prioritize longitudinal and intersectional data collection that meaningfully captures the lived realities of older women and gender-diverse people, particularly in relation to housing insecurity, health outcomes, and social supports.
- Resources should also be allocated to community-led and Indigenous-led research initiatives, ensuring that those most affected are directly involved in defining research priorities, methodologies, and knowledge translation.
- Without sustained investment in this area, policy frameworks will continue to rely on outdated evidence, perpetuating systemic blind spots in housing, health, and income support systems.

Addressing Systemic Siloes Between Housing, Violence, Healthcare, and Social Supports

The evidence identifies significant siloes between housing systems, violence-against-women services, healthcare, income assistance, child welfare, and homelessness responses. Women, Two-Spirit, trans, and gender-diverse people experiencing housing instability often navigate multiple forms of violence simultaneously, including intimate partner violence, family violence, coercive control, economic abuse, sexual exploitation, and human trafficking. At the same time, they frequently encounter barriers to accessing coordinated, appropriate, and trauma-informed supports.

Housing insecurity frequently limits an individual's ability to leave unsafe situations, while the lack of safe, affordable, accessible, and culturally appropriate housing can force people to remain in violent environments. Indigenous women, girls, Two-Spirit, and gender-diverse people are disproportionately affected by these intersecting realities, reflecting the ongoing impacts of colonialism identified through the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG2S+). Housing must therefore be recognized not only as a basic need, but as a critical violence prevention, safety, and recovery intervention.

Recommendation 11: Develop integrated, gender-responsive, and trauma-informed housing and homelessness strategies that improve coordination across housing, violence prevention and response, healthcare, disability supports, income assistance, and social service systems.

Recommendation 12: Expand safe transitional and permanent housing options for survivors of gender-based violence, human trafficking, sexual and labour-based exploitation, and coercive control, including housing that is culturally appropriate, accessible, and designed to support long-term stability.

Recommendation 13: Strengthen protections against gender-based evictions, discrimination, and housing loss associated with violence, disability, chronic illness, caregiving responsibilities, poverty, and prolonged hospital stays.

Recommendation 14: Strengthen formal coordination mechanisms between federal, provincial, territorial, municipal, and First Nations governments to align housing strategies, funding streams, direct supports, and service delivery, ensuring that gender-responsive, accessible, and deeply affordable housing initiatives are consistently implemented across jurisdictions.

Recommendation 15: Introduce a Guaranteed Livable Income (GLI) as a targeted investment in homelessness prevention and housing stability for women, Two-Spirit, trans, and gender-diverse people, including those who live with disabilities. A GLI is identified as a Call for Justice (Call 4.5 under Human Security) in *Reclaiming Power and Place: The Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls*.¹⁶ It is also a recommendation from the Neha Review Panel report¹⁷ to implement GLI “as a step toward addressing the income disparities experienced by women, Two Spirit, Trans and gender-diverse people.”

- Bill S-206, *An Act to develop a national framework for a guaranteed livable basic income*, represents a recent effort to establish such a support. However, no updates on the progress of this legislation have been reported since its consideration by the Standing Senate Committee on National Finance.¹⁸
- Under Bill S-206, Guaranteed Livable Income would include “cash transfer sufficient to allow people to afford adequate food, housing, clothing, transportation and other necessities”.¹⁹

¹⁶ National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. *Reclaiming Power and Place: Calls for Justice*. Ottawa: National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, 2019. https://www.mmiwg-ffada.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Calls_for_Justice.pdf

¹⁷ Neha Review Panel. (2025). “We are human. We deserve a place to live. It’s that simple”: The final report and recommendations of the Neha review panel. Ottawa: National Housing Council.

¹⁸ LEGISinfo. (2026). *An Act to develop a national framework for a guaranteed livable basic income*. Parliament of Canada. <https://www.parl.ca/legisinfo/en/bill/45-1/s-206?view=progress>

¹⁹ Senator Kim Pate. (n.d.) “Why a Guaranteed Livable Basic Income?” *Senate Canada*. <https://senpate.sencanada.ca/en/current-work/s-206/>

Indigenous Housing Leadership and Self-Determination

The evidence emphasizes that Indigenous women and gender-diverse people continue to experience disproportionate housing insecurity as a result of colonial displacement, systemic discrimination, and underinvestment in Indigenous-led housing solutions.

Recommendation 16: Expand long-term investments in Indigenous-led urban, rural, and northern housing strategies while ensuring Indigenous women and gender-diverse people equitably benefit from all housing investments. Such investments should be Indigenous designed, governed, and led across all stages of planning, implementation, and oversight, including governance over housing systems.

Recommendation 17: Support implementation of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Calls for Justice through sustained investments in Indigenous-led housing, homelessness prevention, violence prevention, and community wellness initiatives that advance safety, housing stability, and self-determination.

Climate-Resilient and Sustainable Housing

The Intersectional Feminist Housing Agenda emphasizes that housing justice, climate justice and disability justice are all intimately connected. Housing instability during climate events can leave people with disabilities vulnerable to extreme weather and other environmental hazards. Climate change increasingly impacts housing affordability, health, housing stability, and displacement, particularly for low-income households, disabled people, seniors, and people experiencing homelessness.

Recommendation 18: Ensure all federally funded housing developments incorporate climate-resilient, energy-efficient, and sustainable building standards while maintaining deep affordability and accessibility.

Recommendation 19: Invest in retrofitting existing affordable and supportive housing to improve energy efficiency, cooling systems, air quality, accessibility, and climate resilience, as well as supporting the costs of usage to tenants.

Recommendation 20: Ensure emergency climate and disaster response planning is gender-responsive, frames housing as a human right for all, and, in doing so, includes accessible housing responses and protections for people experiencing homelessness, housing insecurity, disability, chronic illness, and gender-based violence.

Recommendation 21: Require that all housing and infrastructure investments incorporate forward-looking climate risk assessments, updated building codes, and resilience standards that reflect future climate conditions, including extreme heat, flooding, and severe weather.

Recommendation 22: Align National Housing Strategy policies and investments with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and international human rights frameworks, including the right to adequate housing, by embedding measurable targets related to gender equality, accessibility, climate resilience, and poverty reduction. This should include collaboration with United Nations bodies, as well as the integration of SDG-aligned indicators and reporting mechanisms, to ensure that Canada's housing policies contribute to global commitments on gender equality (SDG 5), reduced inequalities (SDG 10), sustainable cities and communities (SDG 11), and climate action (SDG 13).

Recommendation 23: Develop gender-responsive homelessness definitions, enumeration methods, and data collection systems that recognize hidden homelessness and improve visibility of women, Two-Spirit, trans, and gender-diverse people experiencing housing precarity. This is with the understanding that these groups often avoid shelters and survive through couch surfing, overcrowding, or remaining in unsafe relationships, and existing homelessness definitions and data collection methods undercount women, Two-Spirit, trans, and gender-diverse people.

Recommendation 24: Expand housing loss prevention and housing transition strategies including eviction prevention programs, rent supports (e.g. rent banks), income supports, legal advocacy, and early interventions that takes the form of coordinated discharge planning from hospitals, psychiatric facilities, correctional facilities, child welfare systems, violence-against-women services and other institutional settings.

Recommendation 25: Co-develop a dedicated Northern Housing Strategy, along with First Nations, Inuit, Métis, rural, remote, and fly-in communities that addresses their unique housing realities. This should include the following:

- Flexible funding models and comprehensive commitments to Indigenous-led housing initiatives that have Indigenous governance embedded throughout all stages.
- Workforce housing, staff accommodations, long-term operating support, maintenance costs and transportation supports that address issues such as extremely high construction costs, the impact of climate change on housing infrastructure (e.g. permafrost thaw), limited infrastructure (e.g. rural and remote communities) as well as overcrowding.

- The inclusion of emergency shelter infrastructure, and other community-led housing and homelessness solutions that reflect the realities of housing precarity in the North.

Recommendation 26: Provide long-term operational funding for non-profit, Indigenous-led, supportive, and affordable housing providers to ensure sustainability, staffing, maintenance, and culturally grounded service delivery.

Recommendation 27: Establish transparent public reporting requirements and accountability mechanisms for all National Housing Strategy investments in order to track their successful and timely implementation, including gender-disaggregated, Indigenous-specific, disability-inclusive, and regionally disaggregated outcomes.

Recommendation 28: Ensure access to safe drinking water and sanitation as core components of housing adequacy, by prioritizing the elimination of all long-term boil water advisories through coordinated investments in water treatment, long-term water-quality maintenance, and plumbing retrofits, particularly in First Nations communities.

Recommendation 29: Integrate winter accessibility standards into all housing, infrastructure, and urban planning policies by requiring consistent snow and ice removal, accessible winter maintenance of sidewalks and entryways, and climate-responsive design to ensure year-round accessibility for people with disabilities and older adults.

Recommendation 30: Ensure women, Indigenous women, Two-Spirit, trans, gender-diverse people, persons with disabilities, and people with lived and living expertise of homelessness are meaningfully involved in the design, implementation, governance, and evaluation of National Housing Strategy programs and investments.

Recommendation 31: Establish standards for minimum and maximum allowable rental unit and shelter temperatures, and create enforcement mechanisms to bring non-compliant housing providers in line with these standards with the input of tenant and shelter residents. Create an avenue for tenants and shelter clients to confidentially report non-compliant housing providers.