

How the National Housing Strategy compares to ONPHA's Recommendations

ONPHA's Recommendation	Summary of Recommendation	How/is this included in the NHS?
<p>1. Preserve stock, fund new development, and increase the capacity of the community-based non-profit housing sector</p>	<p>In our submission we detailed the contributions that non-profit housing providers and local housing corporations have made to the sector, as well as some of the diverse challenges they are facing in today's changing environment. ONPHA recommended that the federal government ensure that two dedicated, consistent, long-term, stable and robust funding streams are created specifically for renovation/repair of existing housing stock and for new affordable rental housing development, including new supportive housing.</p>	<p><i>Recommendations were largely adopted, although the Strategy doesn't distinguish between two distinct streams of funding. The Strategy recognizes the contributions of the non-profit sector and expresses a commitment to maintaining it in the future specifically through:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Canada Community Housing Initiative which is aimed at protecting and building a sustainable community-housing sector • The Housing Co-Investment Fund which includes 3 previous commitments (the Rental Construction Financing Initiative, the Affordable Rental Innovation Fund and the transfer of federal lands) and will focus on repair and expansion • A commitment to making the Social Housing Agreements more flexible which will have indirect positive impacts (as will the modification to the pre-payment flexibility program for S. 26/27 providers) • The Housing Partnership Fund (FPT) (which is the Investment in Affordable Housing (IAH) successor) • The forthcoming successor to the Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS) Successor which might have positive impacts in this area (will need to wait until details about new Strategy are released)
<p>2. Recognize the growing need for supportive housing</p>	<p>We know that there is not enough supportive housing to meet increasing demand, so we recommended that the government undertake a systematic approach to identify needs and offer supports. We also</p>	<p><i>The Strategy includes statements about needing to prioritize vulnerable Canadians within programs, and there seems to be a shift in approach to homelessness programs. Specifically:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a list of targeted vulnerable groups. The list does not include

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	recommended that the federal government engage in cross-ministerial collaboration to coordinate housing and support.	<p>mental health and addictions, but target groups are not limited to that list</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supportive housing, seniors housing and housing for individuals with developmental disabilities is mentioned in reference to the new Co-Investment Fund • Supportive and transitional housing and homelessness prevention is mentioned in reference to the HPS successor
3. Address the housing needs of Indigenous people	Canada’s Indigenous population has greater housing and health needs than the non-Indigenous population, but has been highly underserved by prior programs. Therefore, we recommended that the federal government create a meaningful action plan and dedicated funding stream to address the serious challenges that this population is faced with. Specifically, we recommended that: a range of housing options are made available; End of Operating Agreements (EOA) are addressed; dedicated funding for culturally appropriate supports is introduced; and Indigenous governance structures are respected.	<p><i>Whether the forthcoming Indigenous Housing Strategy addresses these recommendations has yet to be determined:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The federal government is still working on a separate Strategy, and no new funding has been identified yet. • The Strategy mentions urban Aboriginal housing which is promising, and Prime Minister Trudeau and Adam Vaughan also both mentioned the need to include urban Aboriginal housing perspectives in their comments at the release of the Strategy in Toronto
4. Define the federal interest, reflect that interest in ministerial roles, and work with	ONPHA recommended that the National Housing Strategy define the government’s interest in housing, and ensure that this interest is reflected in the mandates of federal ministers, departments and agencies. We recommended that the government	<p><i>Federal interest is largely defined through the Strategy:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The federal government will introduce new legislation, create a National Housing Advocate and a National Housing Council • In terms of connecting with provinces, many programs will be cost-shared, connected and co-designed

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<p>provinces to connect strategies effectively</p>	<p>ensure that federal action connect seamlessly with provincial, territorial and local strategies. ONPHA also indicated that the lack of knowledge about Canada's housing landscape both reflects and stalls the development of housing policy and strategy, and stressed the need for improved access to relevant and current data.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ONPHA's recommendations around the need for better research and data were also largely adopted
<p>5. Create greater incentives for energy and climate change retrofits and initiatives that help housing providers reduce their operating costs</p>	<p>We recommended that the government recognize the link between housing operating costs and energy efficiency, and that the National Housing Strategy include funding and incentives for energy and climate change retrofits for the social housing sector. We stressed that this will contribute to the overall sustainability of social housing, and to Canada's ability to achieve their broader climate change commitments.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy efficiency is built into other initiatives (i.e. the Housing Co-Investment Fund specifically) • Further incentives may be built into the design of other programs/initiatives (i.e. the HPS or the IAH successors)
<p>6. Preserve tax exemptions, rebates and rent subsidies</p>	<p>We recommended that the federal government ensure that the tax-exempt treatment of non-profit housing programs continue to ensure affordability for tenants, and that the federal government continue subsidizing rents to ensure that housing programs can continue offering affordable housing.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tax exemptions and rebates could be realized through the Co-Investment Fund requirement to have support from multiple levels of government • Baseline funding will be preserved through the Community Housing Initiative and Canada Community Housing Initiative (although we have questions around how money will flow to Service Managers and providers in Ontario)

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<p>7. Incent the private sector to develop more affordable rental housing stock in partnership with the community-based non-profit housing sector</p>	<p>In our submission, ONPHA raised pros and cons of both supply (i.e. private sector and non-profit housing stock) and demand (i.e. rent supplements, allowances and portable benefits) approaches. Ultimately, we recommended that both are needed in conjunction with one another, and that communities are in the best position to determine and implement the tools and measures that will be most effective for their local contexts. In terms of incenting private sector development of affordable housing, we suggested that increased affordable rental supply could be promoted through measures such as capital grants and tax credits.</p>	<p>Recommendations adopted through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The introduction of the new portable housing benefit alongside supply measures (including the development of new supply, preserving existing supply and preserving the affordability of existing units through various initiatives) • The Commitment to working with communities to develop strategies/implementation that suits local contexts (again, through various initiatives) • Incenting private supply through the Co-Investment Fund, and likely through the IAH successor • ONPHA is also happy to see there is focus/encouragement around partnerships, and a prioritization for non-profit providers built into initiatives)