



News Release

November 22, 2017

National Housing Strategy a major step in the right direction

The Canadian Federation of Apartment Associations (CFAA) applauds the steps the federal government has taken to improve supports for low-income renters in the National Housing Strategy (NHS). In particular, CFAA applauds the plan to create a new portable housing benefit for low-income Canadians, including some who rent in the private rental housing market.

As Census data showed last week, more than one million Canadian rental households are in core housing need. Among these, 836,000 are paying more than 30% of their income on their rent. Close to 400,000 households have to pay more than 50% of their income on their rent.

CFAA commends the federal government for identifying those in the deepest need as being the most in need of assistance, and for adding a portable housing benefit as a necessary pillar in its policy to reduce poverty, housing need and homelessness.

CFAA President John Dickie says, "It is now up to the provinces to come to the table and work with the federal government to make the Canada Housing Benefit a reality for everyone who needs it, and especially those who need it the most because of their high housing cost burdens."

Many other features in the NHS are also worthy of approval, including

- The target to reduce chronic homelessness
- The priority being placed on contributions to repairing and retrofitting existing affordable rental housing
- The planned campaign to reduce NIMBYism as it affects affordable housing.

Need for private market rental construction

CFAA urges the federal government to encourage the provinces and municipalities to streamline the development process, so that new rental housing can be built with fewer hurdles and delays. All levels of government need to reduce their taxes and development charges, which make up a large proportion of the cost of all new housing.

CFAA Chair David Hutniak says, "The NHS is excellent news! However, an increased supply of purpose-built rental housing for the missing middle remains a concern. More rental housing is especially needed in high-cost centres, such as Toronto and Vancouver, where vacancy rates are persistently low and middle income tenants struggle to find suitable accommodation. Furthermore, in order for the NHS to effect the desired changes, all levels of government must ensure that the application of the funds is robustly monitored to deliver the targeted outcomes."

For more information contact

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