

The Green Party of Canada has a fairly extensive affordable housing policy spelled out in the middle section of our 2021 platform, the section called "Life with Dignity".

I, as an individual candidate, am certainly committed to ensuring that we have fully adequate funding to sustain affordable housing across Canada.

Here is what our platform says.

A Green government will:

Declare housing affordability and homelessness a national emergency,
Redefine affordable housing using a better updated formula that accounts for regional variations across the country,
Immediately appoint the federal housing advocate as established in the National Housing Strategy Act.

Support for Renters:

We will:

Establish a national moratorium on evictions,
Maintain a moratorium on evictions until the pandemic is over and for a reasonable time there-after, in cooperation with provincial governments,
Create national standards to establish rent and vacancy controls.

A Green government will provide a retro-active residential arrears assistance program to protect Canadians at risk of eviction or of being driven into homelessness due to accumulated rent arrears as recommended by the National Right to Housing Network, (NRHN),

A Green government will:

Strengthen regulation to limit foreign investment and end predatory practices in residential real-estate,
Raise the "empty home" tax for foreign and corporate residential property owners who leave buildings and units vacant,
Assess the role of real-estate investment trusts in Canada's housing market,
Close tax haven loopholes that allow foreign investors to hide the names of beneficial owners of properties in Canada,
Crack down on money laundering in Canadian real-estate.

Investment of Housing:

Re-invest in affordable, non-profit co-operative and supportive housing,
Protect the existing stock of affordable housing by funding the purchase of buildings by non-profit and co-operative affordable housing organizations,
Expand the rapid housing initiative to bring new affordable and supportive housing on stream without delay,
With this expansion, more quality projects with funding and agreements already in place can quickly become affordable or supportive housing,
Invest in construction and operation of fifty thousand supportive housing units over ten years,
Build and acquire a minimum of three hundred thousand units of deeply affordable non-market, co-op and non-profit housing over a decade,
Create a Canada co-op housing strategy and update the mechanisms for financing co-op housing in partnership with CMHC, co-op societies, credit unions and other lenders,
Require covenance to ensure that subsidized construction remains affordable over the long term,
Restore quality, energy efficient housing for seniors, people with special needs and low income families by providing financing to non-profit housing organizations, co-operatives and social housing to build and restore quality and affordable housing,
Implement integrated housing so that everyone can afford to live in the communities in which they work and under quality conditions,

Restore tax incentives for building purpose built rental housing and provide tax credits for gifts of land or of land and buildings to community land trusts to provide affordable housing,
Re-focus the core mandate of Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) on supporting the development of affordable, non-market and co-operative housing, as opposed to its current priority of supporting Canadian lenders to risk investment in housing ownership. With many housing markets demonstratively over-valued and home ownership rates among the highest in the world, individual home ownership should not be the preoccupation of a public service housing agency and a national housing strategy.

Appoint a minister of housing to meet the needs of affordable housing that are unique to each province, oversee its implementation in collaboration with provincial ministers and build on other aspects of the housing and homelessness crisis in Canada to tackle these issues.

Increase access to housing for people with disabilities:

Require that housing developments that receive federal funding must ensure that thirty percent of all units in each development must be deeply affordable and/or available to people with disabilities and special needs.

Develop a strategy to face housing challenges in rural areas.

Ensure access to housing for Indigenous people:

Guided by First Nations, Inuit and Metis Nations, develop inclusive and culturally appropriate urban Indigenous housing strategies for Indigenous people and by Indigenous people, as proposed by the Canadian Housing and Renewal Association's Indigenous Caucus,

Re-invest in housing for Indigenous Communities:

Change the legislation that prevents Indigenous organizations from accessing financing through CMHC to invest in self-determined housing needs,

Allocate funding toward urban Indigenous housing providers,

Develop and implement an urban, rural and northern Indigenous housing strategy,

Ensure that all housing in Indigenous communities is built following principles laid out in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, (UNDRIP),

Leverage federal lands and real property for transfer to off reserve Indigenous organizations to create housing and economic development opportunities,

Assist urban and rural Indigenous people in identifying emergency accommodation and affordable housing options for youth, elders, 2SLGBTQIA+ and vulnerable populations,

Establish a "For Indigenous, by Indigenous" housing support program for all off reserve and urban Indigenous communities, and include off-reserve status and non-status Indigenous people.

Confronting youth homelessness and unaffordable housing:

A Green government will:

Support existing youth shelters and other infrastructure through federal grants,

Invest in the creation of new youth shelters in urban and small urban centres across the country which would work on a needs-driven and community-centric approach,

Remove shelter maximum stays for youth,

Provide on site and remote access guidance counseling and therapy for youth suffering from homelessness,

Provide optional relocation services for rural youth suffering from homelessness to ensure they have access to youth shelters and other infrastructure,

Support and invest in the co-operative model for youth housing.

Provide services and support for the homeless community:

Provide expanded mental health services to the homeless community,

Increased access to high quality mental health services would recognize the intersection between those experiencing homelessness and those experiencing mental health issues.

Implement programs that direct funds to municipalities providing support to people in the homeless community who use drugs,
Support housing first initiatives and other successful models of improving health outcome.