

**LIST OF RECOMMENDATIONS<sup>1</sup>**  
*In from the Margins: A Call to Action on  
Poverty, Housing, and Homelessness*  
December 2009 Report issued by:  
The Standing Senate Committee on Social Affairs,  
Science and Technology

## **HOUSING**

### **Recommendation 37**

The Committee recommends that the federal government provide sustained and adequate funding through the Affordable Housing Initiative to increase the supply of affordable housing.

### **Recommendation 38**

The Committee recommends that the federal government issue a White Paper on tax measures to support construction of rental housing in general and affordable rental housing in particular, including the donation of funds, lands or buildings for low-income housing provision.

### **Recommendation 39**

The Committee recommends that the federal government clarify the mandate of Canada Lands Corporation to favour use of surplus federal lands for development of affordable housing and to expedite planning processes to facilitate this use.

### **Recommendation 40**

The Committee recommends that the federal government support the work of local and provincial non-profit housing developers by making housing programs longer term to accommodate five-year development cycles and ten-year planning cycles, and to permit more effective planning at the local and provincial levels. To assist tenants facing discrimination in housing, the Committee recommends the explicit identification of civil legal aid as an element to be supported by the Canada Social Transfer.

### **Recommendation 42**

The Committee recommends that the federal government extend the Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program as a permanent program, increase the budget allocations for this program, and amend eligibility requirements to take into account differential costs for repairs in different communities across Canada, and projects converting housing units for affordable rental accommodation.

### **Recommendation 43**

The Committee supports the use of rent supplements to provide faster access to affordable housing and recommends that the federal government, with provincial housing authorities, private landlords' associations and non-profit housing providers, assess the impact of portable housing allowances on rents.

### **Recommendation 44**

The Committee recommends that the federal government, in collaboration with provincial governments, representatives of municipal governments, First Nation organizations, and other housing providers, develop a national housing and homelessness strategy to include:

- priorities established by and for each provincial and territory with respect to meeting existing needs for affordable and secure housing;
- a 10-year commitment of funds from the federal government, to include similar commitments from provincial and territorial governments that will receive these funds;
- annual reporting on how the money is being spent, with particular attention to the number of people housed who could not afford to secure housing in the private market;
- a specific focus, with targets and funding commitments, with respect to meeting the needs for affordable housing for urban Aboriginal peoples;
- a simpler, more integrated application process for funds, cutting across programs related to housing funded at the federal level;
- the integration of the Homelessness Partnering Initiative, with an expanded mandate and budget to support combined local housing and homelessness plans and the initiatives identified in them; and
- a thorough evaluation at the end of the 10-year period to assess achievements and continuing gaps.

## **HOMELESSNESS**

### **Recommendation 45**

The Committee recommends that federal funding focussed on homelessness be sustained until a combined strategy on housing and homelessness is developed to guide federal investment.

### **Recommendation 46**

The Committee recommends that the federal government, with provincial and territorial governments and health researchers across Canada, provide funding for physical health services for people who are homeless.

### **Recommendation 47**

The Committee recommends that the Homelessness Partnering Strategy be expanded to play a greater coordinating role within the federal government, engaging all departments and agencies with a mandate that includes housing and homelessness, especially for those groups over-represented among those in need.

### **Recommendation 48**

The Committee recommends that the federal government provide financial incentives to encourage communities already supported through the Homelessness Partnering Strategy to use a 10-year time horizon in adjusting and renewing their community plans.

### **Recommendation 49**

The Committee recommends that the federal government continue to provide direct funding for and continued support of related research and knowledge dissemination