

# A Place to Call Home

Affordable Housing in Canada: Needs, Costs & A Way Forward

## Many Canadians are homeless or living with housing need.

Canadians with housing need:

3.2 Million

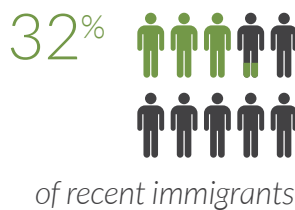
That's 1 in 9 Canadians.



People live in 'core housing need' if they either:

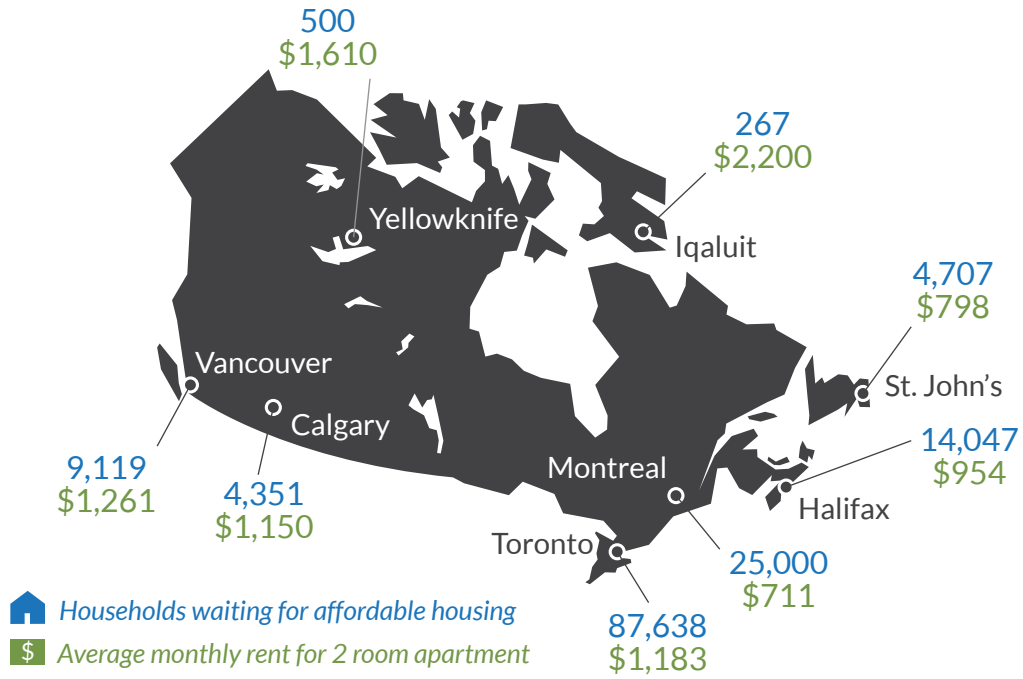
- spend more than they can afford on housing;
- live in homes in need of major repairs; or
- live in homes that are overcrowded.

Who lives with housing need?



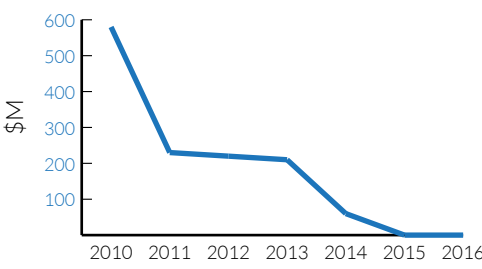
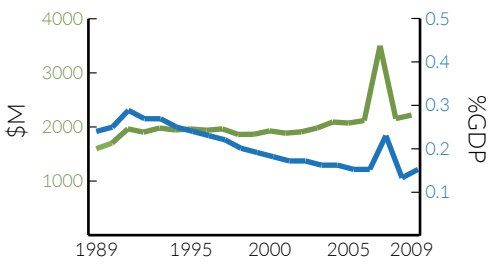
## In Canada, there just isn't enough affordable housing.

Across the country, thousands of people are waiting—sometimes up to 9 years—for affordable housing. And rental rates in numerous cities put housing out of reach for many.



## Federal Investments in housing are drastically declining.

As a percentage of GDP, we're spending 40% less on housing than we did 20 years ago. Moreover, funding from the *Federal Affordable Housing Initiative* will end in 2015.



## And federal cuts hit extra hard.

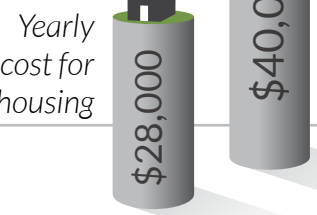
Often, federal funding is matched by provincial, municipal, private and non-profit dollars.

So every dollar cut really means **up to \$4.00 less** for affordable housing.



## Yet providing basic housing needs is less costly than alternatives.

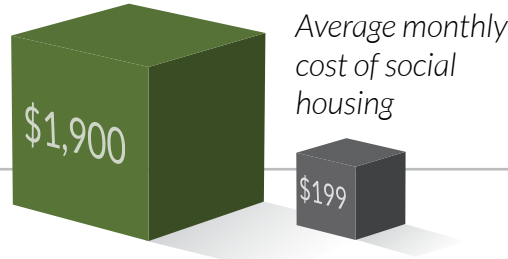
Yearly cost of someone on the street in Vancouver\*



\*emergency shelters, hospital visits, etc.

Leaving someone on the street costs nearly **43% more** than housing.

Cost of shelter bed per month in Toronto



A shelter bed costs **10 times as much** as social housing.

Every single dollar invested in housing...



...increases Canada's GDP by



## This is what we need.

### 1. A national housing plan:

Canada is the only G8 country without a plan. It's time to create one. Canada's federal government has an important role to play in bringing stakeholders together to ensure everyone in Canada has a place to call home.

### 2. Increased, predictable investments in affordable housing:

This includes the renewal of the *Homelessness Partnering Strategy* and the *Affordable Housing Framework*, both expiring in 2014.