

AFFORDABLE HOUSING: FOR WHO?



Canada has been in a housing crisis for years. Millions of Canadians still lack access to a basic need - a home that is affordable. This is despite the fact that Canada is a rich country. While having access to affordable and healthy housing is recognised as a human right, the pandemic clearly reinforced that Housing is Health. Every person needs a home!

The federal government has committed billions of dollars to housing in Canada to realize the right to housing. We need to make sure this money goes to those who need it most.

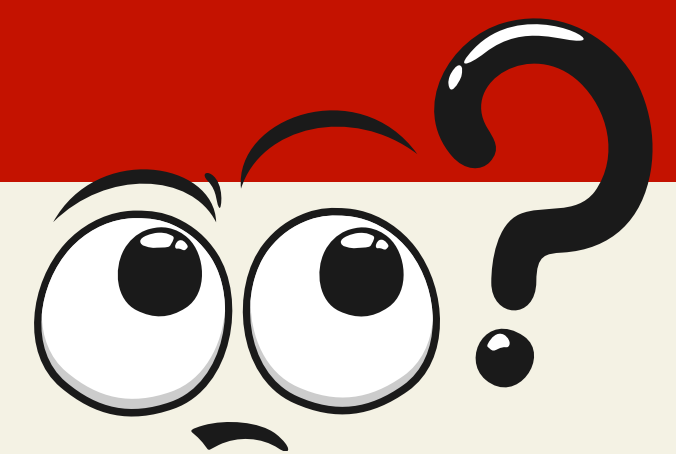
The federal government considers housing “affordable” if it costs less than 30% of a household’s before-tax income. However, despite this:

- 40% of all Canadian (renter) households spend more than 30% of their income on rent and utilities.
- 18% of all Canadian (renter) households spend more than 50% of their income on rent and utilities (1).

All public money supporting the creation of “affordable housing” must be used to support tenants who are in core housing need.

Table: Housing Need (2)

Household income before taxes	Total Number of households	Number of households in core housing need (A)	% of households in core household need	Number of households with affordability as the core housing need (75% of A)
Less than \$10,000	119,985	89,235	74.4%	66,926
\$10,000 to 19,999	1,010,940	722,075	71.4%	541,556
\$20,000 to \$29,999	1,679,635	921,455	54.9%	691,091
\$30,000 to \$39,999	2,189,680	765,085	34.9%	573,814
\$40,000 to 49,999	2,310,680	529,085	22.9%	396,814
\$50,000 & above	25,492,195	465,045	1.8%	348,784



Who should the Federal Housing programs target?

Households with lowest incomes i.e. below \$40,000 where the percentage of households in core housing need is the highest.

- 50% of the money should target those with household income below \$20,000.
- 50% of the money should target those with household income between \$20,000 - \$40,000.

End Notes:

1 - Rental Housing Index 2018 : <http://rentalhousingindex.ca/en/#intro>

2- We use the data on the number of households in core housing need. Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) defines a household in core housing need whose house is considered **unsuitable, inadequate or unaffordable** and whose income levels do not allow them to afford alternative suitable and adequate housing in their community. This is CMHC Data last updated in 2019.