



December 07, 2021

Honourable Scott Fielding, Minister of Finance
c/o Budget Engagement, Manitoba Government
103 - 450 Broadway
Winnipeg, MB R3C 0V8
Budget2022@gov.mb.ca

Dear Minister Fielding:

On behalf of End Homelessness Winnipeg, I am writing to provide input on the Manitoba Government's Budget 2022 as part of the public engagement process announced by the province on November 22.

End Homelessness Winnipeg serves as the backbone organization coordinating implementation of the [10-Year Plan to End Homelessness in Winnipeg](#). Since April 1, 2019, End Homelessness Winnipeg also serves as the Community Entity for Reaching Home: Canada's homelessness strategy, administering federal homelessness funding locally.

The recent Speech from the Throne in Manitoba made an historic commitment to end homelessness in our province. Currently, thousands of Manitobans are without a home on any given day and more than one in ten live in core housing need, placing them at high risk of experiencing homelessness. For Indigenous people, the rate of core housing need is almost double, and the rate of homelessness more than five times that of other Manitobans. A [Comprehensive Housing Needs Assessment](#) completed by the Institute of Urban Studies in 2020 highlighted critical gaps along the low-income end of the housing continuum that exacerbate homelessness in our province's capital. Across Manitoba, core housing need in rural, remote and Indigenous communities contributes to housing demand in urban centres, and to homelessness provincewide.

The Manitoba Government has a vital role and interest in addressing this crisis. Housing precarity and homelessness dramatically [increase provincial costs for health and emergency services](#). The COVID-19 pandemic makes it apparent, as never before, that safe and affordable housing is part of every Manitoban's basic health care needs. Investing in much-needed housing infrastructure is a critical step in COVID-19 economic recovery: it can stimulate new investments, address urgent socioeconomic needs, and save taxpayer funds.

Over the past year, the Manitoba Government has provided special funding for emergency shelters and safe spaces, and facilitated implementation of the Canada-Manitoba Housing Benefit and the Manitoba Helps Rent Bank to provide new income supports to assist some Manitobans in securing and sustaining housing, among other initiatives.





Emergency shelters, rent supplements and rent banks will not end homelessness in Manitoba without an adequate supply of housing for those who experience or are at risk of losing their homes. End Homelessness Winnipeg conservatively estimates that at least 1,522 new, low-income units are required in Winnipeg alone by 2025:

Type of Housing	Target	# Of Units Created Since 2019	# Of Units in Development	# Of Additional New Units Needed by 2025
Transitional	225	20	114	91
Social (RGI) Housing	470	-881	39	1312
Supportive Housing	200	50	109	41
Private Below-Market Rental	450	102	270	78
Total	1345	-709	532	1,522

[Kíkininaw Óma, the Strategy to Support Unsheltered Winnipeggers](#), released in June 2020, calls on the Province to urgently invest in 200 new units of supportive housing and 470 new units of rent-geared-to-income housing in Winnipeg, while maintaining existing housing stock. Further, if housing management is devolved, the Strategy recommends that Indigenous organizations be prioritized to sponsor manage housing, in order to address Indigenous homelessness and core housing need and advance Reconciliation. To effectively leverage this opportunity, capacity-building supports for Indigenous housing providers must also be considered. This recommendation is echoed in the [North End Housing Lab Report](#), which also calls for new social financing approaches to support the urgent need for low-income housing, such as the Cost Avoidance Model recently developed by End Homelessness Winnipeg. The Social Innovation Office is urged to explore this model and other innovative ways of financing the construction and operation of new low-income housing. For the province to benefit most from federal programs such as the recent [Rapid Housing Initiative](#), aligned provincial investments in operating costs are required. Lastly, long-term support to transition the emergency winter warming space at 190 Disraeli into a sustainable, Indigenous-led housing hub, with onsite transitional units and a range of culturally appropriate supports, will help to address our shared goals of advancing Reconciliation and ending homelessness.

Bold investments in new low-income housing initiatives must be at the top of the agenda during the province's Budget 2022 plans. Please do not hesitate to reach out for more information or clarification.

Sincerely,

Jason Whitford
CEO, End Homelessness Winnipeg

