

# ***Community Focus Bulletin:*** ***Creating Community Conversations***



Prepared by Merriam & Associates

Canadian Housing and Renewal Association <[cflafaivre@chra-achru.ca](mailto:cflafaivre@chra-achru.ca)>

## **Strength in Numbers: Launch of Vote Housing for All Network**

The Canadian Housing & Renewal Association (CHRA) has announced its participation in the newly formed **Vote Housing for All Network**, made up of dozens of local and national groups and associations aiming to make affordable and social housing a federal election issue. Network members include Advocacy Centre for Tenants Ontario (ACTO), Front d'action populaire en réaménagement urbain (FRAPRU), Right to Housing Coalition Ontario, Right to Housing Coalition Winnipeg, YWCA Canada, and many more concerned organizations.

### **Why do we need social housing?**

The Affordable Housing Action Committee for Peterborough City and County, is preparing its 10<sup>th</sup> report on housing. "Housing Is Fundamental" has provided detailed analysis of the status of housing and affordability over the past decade. These annual reports have documented such facts as the following:

- One in four households in Canada have unaffordable housing costs while in Peterborough 26.1% of owners and renters are in core housing need.
- The wait list for social housing has remained consistent and that is approximately 1,500.

The Quality of Life report released by the Peterborough Social Planning Council documented that:

- 47, 240 individuals have annual incomes below the median before-tax income of \$29,294.
- More than 29,000 people have annual incomes below \$15,000.
- Peterborough ranks fourth worst among major Ontario cities in the availability of decent, affordable housing, (Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation.) The ranking comes from 2011 Census data that showed that only Toronto, Barrie and Brantford ranked worse for availability of adequate, affordable housing (affordable is defined as less than 30% of before tax household income) among major cities in Ontario.

The **Vote Housing for All Network** is aiming to make affordable and social housing a federal election issue in 2015. In essence it is campaigning for:

1. the development of a national housing strategy;
2. the recognition that housing is a human right; and,
3. federal re-investment in housing.

In order to share election housing-related happenings, network members will be posting information from now until the October 19 election via the revamped [www.housing4all.ca](http://www.housing4all.ca) site.

For more information contact:

Canadian Housing and Renewal Association [cflafaivre@chra-achru.ca](mailto:cflafaivre@chra-achru.ca)

Some questions to consider as we plan for housing for the future:

- How does Canada compare in terms of its commitment to social housing in comparison to other G-20 nations?
- How can we develop a national housing strategy that recognizes the role that is played by income distribution, food security, employment, appropriate land-use planning and physical/mental health plays in achieving a healthy community?
- What is needed to build partnerships amongst the municipal, provincial and federal levels of government to develop a comprehensive housing strategy?
- How can we limit urban sprawl and encourage intensification which promotes improved service delivery and decreases the development on food-producing lands?
- What is needed to increase the amount of physically accessible housing to meet the needs of an aging population?
- How can we increase the amount of supportive housing that is built in our community?

For more information about our upcoming Community Focus Bulletins go to:

<http://www.merriam-associates.com/contact-us>

Or email Dawn Berry Merriam at

[dawnbm@merriam-associates.com](mailto:dawnbm@merriam-associates.com) or call 705-743-8050.

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