



Strengthening Canada's Communities / Des communautés plus fortes au Canada

Dear Minister Selinger,

On behalf of the Manitoba Community Economic Development Network, I am writing to ask the province to allocate resources in this year's budget for the creation of 300 new units of social housing in Manitoba.

The Right to Housing Coalition, of which we are members, is asking the province to commit to the creation of 300 units of social housing each year for the next five years, in order to begin to eliminate the shortage of rent-geared-to-income (RGI) housing in our Province. The Right to Housing Coalition believes that this is a reasonable and minimal target for the province to commit to, considering that the Canadian Housing and Rehabilitation Association estimates that Manitoba requires 1000 units per year, for the next five years, to eliminate the deficit of housing units.

We recognize that the Manitoba government has increased support for affordable housing in recent years, and we commend you for that. But it simply isn't enough to meet the critical need. We also recognize that solving the housing crisis will require both provincial and federal efforts. However, Manitoba could show leadership by setting targets and timelines for new social housing that could later contribute to new federal/provincial partnerships that we hope will emerge. Inaction by the federal government is no excuse for inaction by the province.

It is widely accepted that in this current economic environment, where jobs and communities are at risk, investing in infrastructure will stimulate the economy and create and sustain jobs, providing social and economic benefits in both the short and long term. This logic needs to apply not only to highways and sewers, but also to community infrastructure such as social housing.

The cost to our communities and our economies of not investing will be significant. We hope that the Manitoba government will have foresight and take leadership by addressing this current housing and economic crisis with an investment in social housing.

Sincerely,

Brendan Reimer
Canadian CED Network – Manitoba
Regional Coordinator

cc: Hon. Gary Doer, Premier and Hon. Gord Mackintosh, Minister of Family Services and Housing

National Office - 211-620 View St., Victoria BC V8W 1J6 1-877-202-2268

Regional Office - 309-323 Portage Ave., Winnipeg MB R3B 2C1

(204) 927-3203

breimer@ccednet-rcdec.ca

www.ccednet-rcdec.ca