

# WHAT CAN GOVERNMENTS DO TO HELP?



Municipalities can partner with housing providers to understand how changes to policy and operations impact those living in affordable housing



Municipalities can proactively address community opposition and involve those with lived experience in the public engagement process



Municipalities can make the planning process more predictable and easier to access other funding

Providing social and affordable housing relies on partnership, support, and collaboration from all levels of government, the non-profit sector and civil society, and the private sector.

Policies and programs need to be aligned and not inadvertently create barriers to housing so that more people can access a home.

## Municipalities

- Land use, zoning, and permitting processes determine the types of housing available and the ease of building new social and affordable housing.

Municipalities are often partial owners of community housing stock (land and/or buildings)

## How can Municipalities help?

- Partner with housing providers to implement changes while understanding how policy and operational changes impact the unique needs of the vulnerable people served.  
*e.g., garbage collection changes affect multi-home complexes and large families differently than single households.*
- Improve the affordable housing planning process so that it is more predictable, does not create barriers, and makes it easier to access other funding.  
*e.g., lowering development fees, shortening development timelines, having land zoned for affordable housing.*
- Proactively address community opposition (NIMBYism) by sharing the social and economic benefits of affordable housing and intentionally addressing myths and stigma.
- Offer a more equitable and inclusive public engagement process that involves those with lived experience of housing need.

- **Remove eligibility barriers** to subsidized municipal services like recreation or transit passes, libraries and child-care.
- Ensure housing is **well connected to other services and supports** like public transit, health care facilities, green space and parks, and employment opportunities.

## Provincial governments

- **Negotiate with the federal government and CMHC\*** on housing programs and funding.
- **Own most of the community housing stock.**

Provinces establish policy and program guidelines for the delivery of affordable housing

### How can Provinces help?

- **Shift government's role** from owner/operator to funder and partner.
- **Modernize** the regulatory framework.
- **Increase the capacity** of housing providers.
- **Transfer provincially owned buildings and land** to housing providers.
- **Provide a vehicle for affordable lending** and risk reduction on borrowing activities.

## Federal government

- **Sets nation-wide initiatives** which enables the housing sector to work collaboratively.

Federal government funds housing through grants and loans administered by CMHC\*

### How can the Federal government help?

- **Improve, modernize and simplify** the funding application process.
- **Ensure accessible funding** for urban, rural, small town, and Indigenous communities to address housing need.
- Establish a **consistent policy framework** for affordable housing.



Municipalities can ensure housing is well connected to other **services and supports**



Provinces can **modernize the regulatory framework** for affordable housing



Federal government can **improve the funding application process** and ensure **accessible funding** for all communities

\*CMHC – Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation