

PETITION TO THE HOUSE OF COMMONS IN PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLED

We, the undersigned, citizens of Canada draw the attention of the House to the following:

THAT,

whereas the Right to Housing is understood to mean the economic, social, and cultural right to adequate housing and shelter, and enshrined in both the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights,

whereas Canada has signed and ratified both the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights,

whereas the Wellesley Institute has concluded that as of 2010, in Canada there are between 150,000-300,000 visible homeless, between 450,000-900,000 hidden homeless, 1.3 million households residing in substandard housing in need of major repairs, and 3.1 million households residing in unaffordable housing (requiring greater than a 30% share of income),

whereas the immense numbers of Canadians who are suffering from homelessness or living in substandard or unaffordable housing constitutes a housing crisis, and any swift resolution of this crisis will require a range of solutions, including support for both market and non-market housing, and concerted action from all levels of government,

whereas the Federation of Canadian Municipalities has urged the Government of Canada to help ease the housing crisis by, among other things, reforming the federal tax system to better support the creation of a larger stock of private, market rental housing,

THEREFORE,

your petitioners call on the Government of Canada to,

in accordance with the Plan on Housing and Homelessness created by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, take immediate steps to ease the crisis of homelessness and housing affordability by creating a National Affordable Housing Program, and by reforming the tax system to provide tax benefits to rental investors for the construction, maintenance and upgrading of affordable rental housing; and to consider all measures that would maximize the affordability of market rental housing.

Names:

Signature [sign your own name, do not print]

Addresses [full with city and province]

