



# Right to Housing

## Toolkit for Endorsing Organizations

Thank you for endorsing the [5 pillars](#) of Right to Housing's [Social Housing Action Plan](#)! We need your help to ensure the Manitoba government begins to implement this plan to address housing insecurity and homelessness starting in Budget 2024. Here are some ways your organization can participate:

### Send a pre-drafted email message to all NDP MLAs

1. Click [here](#) to send an email message to all NDP MLAs. We've provided the email addresses you need and a sample message. Feel free to adapt the message to make it more personalized and be sure to sign your name at the end.
2. Share this link with staff in your organization, with your networks/email lists, and on your social media to encourage others to also send an email to MLAs:  
<https://righttohousing.ca/help-mb-budget-2024-invests-in-social-housing/>

### Participate in our postcard campaign

#### Front of postcard



#### Back of postcard

TO THE GOVERNMENT OF  
MANITOBA

\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE

\_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS

#### RIGHT TO HOUSING'S FIVE PILLARS

1. Add 1,000 social housing units annually
2. Protect and maintain existing social housing
3. Improve rent regulations and tenant protections
4. Fund support workers for social housing tenants
5. Partner with social enterprises to hire low-income people to build and maintain social housing

 **Right to Housing**  
RIGHTTOHOUSING.CA



1. Fill out [this form](#) to order postcards.
2. Distribute postcards to staff and clients of your organization and collect the signed postcards. For example:
  - a. If your organization is hosting an upcoming event, encourage participants to sign the postcards while attending your event.
  - b. Host a postcard writing blitz/event at your organization or in your drop in.
  - c. Bring postcards to upcoming meetings and encourage meeting participants to sign the postcards before they go.



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3. There is no postage on the postcards so please collect signed postcards on the spot as they are distributed so we can ensure they are all sent to the Premier no later than March 8. Use the form linked above for information on options for mailing.

## **Send a letter on your organization's letterhead to the Minister of Finance**

1. Use the template below to help draft your letter. Feel free to personalize the text. Send the letter on your organization's letterhead by email to the Minister of Finance (minfin@manitoba.ca) and copy the Premier (premier@manitoba.ca) and the Minister responsible for housing (minhah@manitoba.ca)

*The Honourable Adrien Sala, M.L.A.  
Minister of Finance  
Room 103 Legislative Building  
450 Broadway  
Winnipeg, MB R3C 0V8*

*Dear Minister:*

*With public consultations for the Manitoba Budget 2024 underway I am expressing my support for a significant investment towards social housing in Manitoba. I would like to see the government prioritize this in the upcoming budget. Specifically, I support the following investments proposed by the Right to Housing Coalition:*

- 1) *A capital and acquisition fund to add 1,000 rent-geared-to-income social housing units in 2024/25 owned by public, non-profit, and co-op housing providers.*
- 2) *A capital maintenance fund and an operating subsidy fund to protect existing social housing and ensure no units are lost due to disrepair or lack of subsidies.*
- 3) *Funding to ensure all social housing tenants have access to support workers with a minimum ratio of 1 worker per 100 units.*

*Housing is a basic human need, essential to survival, health and well-being. Housing provides the foundation to address poverty, crime, addiction, poor health, unemployment, gender-based violence, and the apprehension of children by Child and Family Services. Additionally, the Manitoba government cannot meet its goal of ending homelessness without ensuring access to low-rent housing. Not only is housing a basic human need, it is also a basic human right, recognized by the United Nations and the Government of Canada.*



# Right to Housing

*In Manitoba, thousands of people are unable to find stable housing. The private rental market is increasingly unaffordable to people experiencing poverty and homelessness. For example, households in the lowest quartile of incomes spend an average of 68% of their incomes on housing. This has escalated the demand for non-market, social housing where rents are capped at 30% of a household's income. Nearly 6,000 households are on the waitlist for a social housing unit. With nowhere else to go, many people end up staying with friends, family, in shelters, or outside. According to the 2022 point in time count, there are at least 1,200 people experiencing homelessness on any given night in Winnipeg alone. Another 4,000 more are conservatively estimated to be experiencing hidden homelessness.*

*There are clear ways to address the housing needs in Budget 2024. I strongly urge the Manitoba government to support the recommendations put forward by the Right to Housing Coalition, which have been endorsed by more than 90 organizations across Manitoba.*

*Sincerely,*

*(your signature)*

CC:

*The Honourable Bernadette Smith, M.L.A., Minister of Housing, Addictions, and Homelessness*

*The Honourable Wab Kinew, M.L.A., Premier of Manitoba*

## **Become a Supporting Member of the Right to Housing Coalition**

1. Fill out [this form](#) to ensure you are a Supporting Member so we can demonstrate the strength behind our coalition.

**If you have any questions or would like to get connected to someone at Right to Housing, contact [provincial@righttohousing.ca](mailto:provincial@righttohousing.ca).**