



PRESS RELEASE

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Budget 2024 falls short in addressing Manitoba's low-income housing crisis

Winnipeg, April 3, 2024 – Manitoba Budget 2024/25 adds 350 new social and affordable housing units and invests \$67M to repair the existing housing stock. These targets fall far short of the need identified by the Right to Housing Coalition, which called for significant and long-term annual investments in preserving and expanding Manitoba's social housing supply (1,000 new social housing units annually and \$150M annually for repairs over 10 years).

“We cannot expect to make progress against poverty or homelessness without significant and long-term investments in rent-geared-to-income housing. We have yet to see a government in this province that either cares enough or is brave enough to make this a priority,” said Kirsten Bernas, Chair of the Provincial Working Group of the Right to Housing Coalition. “We hoped this new government would finally do what it takes to address housing insecurity and homelessness in our communities, but unfortunately this Budget falls short,” added Bernas.

Last fall, the Right to Housing coalition released a [Social Housing Action Plan \(summary\)](#) outlining actions the Manitoba government must take to address the housing crisis in Manitoba, which most deeply impacts people with low incomes. Based on the need identified in that report, the coalition called for the following investments in Budget 2024:

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 (\$1.5B over 10 years) 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.

Budget 2024 invests in each of these priority areas. It is encouraging to see that this government understands the need to take a multi-pronged approach when it comes to housing. Unfortunately, the investments in each area don't go far enough. The housing related announcements in Budget 2024 don't go even halfway toward meeting the targets put forward by Right to Housing.

Manitoba, like most other Canadian jurisdictions, has historically relied almost exclusively on the private market to produce low-rent housing. This approach has clearly failed. There is a growing consensus that the housing crisis won't be solved without government reinvestment in social housing. “We cannot keep doing the same thing and expect a different result. It's clear we need a new approach. Hopefully this government will agree and do better in Budget 2025,” added Shauna MacKinnon, Professor and Chair of the Department of Urban and Inner-City Studies, University of Winnipeg, and Member of the Right to Housing Coalition.

[Campaign backgrounder](#)



Right
to Housing

About the Right to Housing Coalition

The Right to Housing Coalition is a group of individuals and organizations concerned about homelessness and housing insecurity experienced by low-income Manitobans. The Coalition calls on all levels of government to prioritize investments in social housing to ensure all Manitobans can access a home that is affordable, safe, secure, and culturally appropriate.

Media contacts

Kirsten Bernas – provincial@righttohousing.ca, 204-688-7050

Chair of the Provincial Working Group of the Right to Housing Coalition

Shauna MacKinnon – st.mackinnon@uwinnipeg.ca, 204-296-2091

Professor and Chair of the Department of Urban and Inner-City Studies, University of Winnipeg,
Member of the Right to Housing Coalition