



Right to Housing

Budget 2026 Submission to the Government of Manitoba Establishing a Dedicated Funding Stream for Social Housing for Women and Gender-Diverse People

The Policy Ask

Budget 2026 Commitment

The Government of Manitoba should:

- Establish a dedicated, multi-year funding stream to develop and support social housing for women and gender-diverse people
- Ensure the funding is available for: new construction; acquisition and renovation of existing buildings; operating subsidies to keep rents affordable; and tenant support that promotes long-term housing stability
- Ensure the fund is accessible only to non-market housing providers
- Commit to predictable, multi-year funding to enable long-term planning and development

Funding could be used to develop housing that prioritizes or is designated for women and gender-diverse people. It could also ensure features such as proximity to caregiver services like schools, healthcare, childcare, and family supports; access to trauma-informed, gender-responsive support workers, caretakers, and landlords; safety features like well-lit common areas and secure buildings and units; and larger units for families.

Why This Investment Is Needed

Gendered Housing Risk

Women and gender-diverse people face a disproportionately high risk of housing insecurity and homelessness driven by lower incomes, gender-based violence, discrimination in the rental market, and caregiving responsibilities. Survivors of violence, Indigenous women, single mothers, and gender-diverse people are overrepresented among those impacted. Many are forced into dangerous situations due to the lack of safe, affordable, and appropriate housing.

Gaps in Manitoba's Current Housing Funding Model

While Manitoba has made important investments in housing, existing programs are not designed to address the specific needs of women and gender-diverse people. A multi-year fund allows for long-term investment in housing that responds to the specific safety, affordability, and inclusion needs of women and gender-diverse people across Manitoba. A dedicated funding stream ensures this housing is not overlooked or forced to compete in general programs.

A dedicated funding stream ensures that housing for women and gender-diverse people is planned for, funded consistently, and treated as a core part of Manitoba's housing system, not an afterthought.

Outcomes and Public Value

Increased access to safe and affordable housing prevents people from cycling through shelters, emergency health care, child welfare, and the justice system while generating cost savings for both individuals and government. Moreover, it reduces exposure to violence and exploitation, and supports health, dignity, strong families, and the ability to participate fully in community life. Without intentional, gender-responsive housing investments, women and gender-diverse people are less likely to benefit from these outcomes.

Alignment with Manitoba Government Priorities

This proposed investment directly supports Manitoba's commitments to expand social housing, end chronic homelessness, and build safer communities - while ensuring those efforts reach women and gender-diverse people facing the greatest housing risks.

Conclusion

With the right investment in Budget 2026, Manitoba has the opportunity to show leadership by ensuring that women and gender-diverse people are not left behind in housing policy, and instead have safe, affordable homes built for their needs. A dedicated, multi-year funding stream for gender-responsive social housing will save lives, reduce public costs, and strengthen communities across the province.

We urge the Government of Manitoba to make this commitment in Budget 2026 and to work with community partners on implementation.