Right to Housing

The Honourable Wab Kinew, M.L.A.
Premier of Manitoba
204 - 450 Broadway
Winnipeg, MB R3C 0V8

The Honourable Bernadette Smith, M.L.A.
Minister of Housing, Addictions and Homelessness
330 - 450 Broadway
Winnipeg, MB R3C 0V8

The Honourable Matt Wiebe, M.L.A.
Minister of Justice and Attorney General
104 – 450 Broadway
Winnipeg, MB R3C 0V8

November ??, 2026

Dear Premier Kinew, Minister Smith and Minister Wiebe:

**We the undersigned support the call from the Right to Housing Coalition for a public inquiry into the conditions in public and non-profit housing for low-income seniors.**

On Saturday October 24, 2026, the Winnipeg Free Press reported the suspected homicide of a 70-year-old man with a disability who was living in non-profit 55+ housing.

This tragedy increases the urgency to act on this issue. The Seniors Working Group of the Right to Housing Coalition has long been hearing stories about the severe stress faced by low-income seniors living in non-profit and public 55+ housing, because of incidents of violence, property damage, and disruptive behaviour, some of which are associated with substance use and unmet mental health needs. Many tenants in these buildings worry about not having a safe place to live out their years.

It is unacceptable that already vulnerable low-income seniors, with extremely limited options for where to live, must endure these conditions. ALL seniors deserve safety and security in their final years including those with multiple complex needs.

The Right to Housing Coalition along with supporting organizations, has called on the government to immediately initiate a public inquiry into living conditions in public and non-profit seniors housing to better understand:

- The nature and extent of problematic conditions in 55+ buildings
- Impact on the tenants
- Conditions that contribute to this environment
- Solutions to rectify the situation, so that all low-income seniors can rely on safe, secure housing

We call on the government to immediately follow through on this call.

Sincerely,