

## ISSUE

In Canada, almost 1 in 5 households are experiencing severe housing affordability difficulties—spending 50% or more of income on rent and living in poverty. Over 235,000 Canadians experience homelessness in a year.

## CONTEXT

The housing crisis emerged in the 1990s as a result of national funding cuts in affordable housing. Despite occasional one-time investments, federal funding has dropped drastically by over 46% in the past 25 years.

Underfunding jeopardizes access to safe and affordable housing for women and children escaping violence. As well, compared to the national average, Indigenous people, newcomers, and female-led families are disproportionately affected by the lack of affordable housing.

In addition, the affordable housing we have is at risk. An estimated 365,000 low-income households living in co-op and non-profit housing will be at risk of homelessness due to the loss of federal subsidies as housing operating agreements expire. While the federal budget made a commitment to maintain social housing funds at current levels over the next four years, there's no plan to use those funds to sustain existing affordable housing.

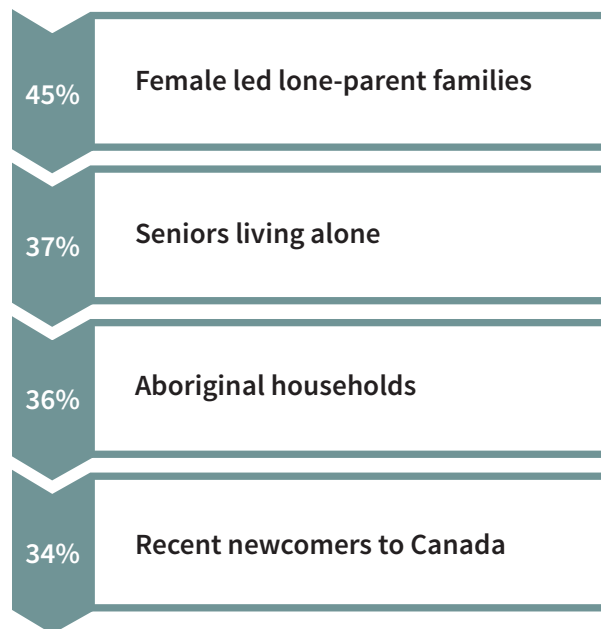
York University's Homeless Hub is calling for a total investment of \$44 billion over the next 10 years to end homelessness in Canada and make housing affordable for more people. It'll cost an additional \$2.04 a week per person in Canada. That's doable. Will our elected leaders do it?

## QUESTIONS

- Does your party support the introduction of a National Housing Strategy? If yes, how will you make sure it is implemented?

- Do you support the Homeless Hub's proposal for an additional \$2.04 a week per person to end homelessness and expand affordable housing in Canada?
- How will your party address the loss of affordable co-op and nonprofit housing as federal housing operating agreements expire?

## Rental households most in need



## RESOURCES

For more information and additional fact sheets in this series: <http://spno.ca/canada-votes-2015>