A Community Call to Action: The Right to Housing

On November 18, 2026 community members gathered at The 519 to hear from housing advocates, and collaborated on a list of housing priorities that recognize housing as a basic human right.

These are our advocacy priorities and demands that came out of that session. Visit ArmyOfLovers.ca to learn more.

A People's Housing Platform:

1. **Create and protect affordable housing**
   - Establish rent control for all units
   - Implement vacancy rent control
   - Establish right of first refusal on buildings for sale on public land

2. **Make housing for people not profit**
   - Ban short-term rentals
   - Invest in non-profit housing such as co-ops and land trusts
   - Implement stronger measures to limit vacant homes/units

3. **Support shelters to transition people into permanent housing**
   - Invest in wrap around care and culturally relevant supports
   - Build more Indigenous-led and trans-specific shelters
   - Ensure all shelters comply with the Toronto Shelter Standards

Housing is a human right and we must hold all levels of government accountable to the right to safe, adequate and affordable housing for all.

Take Action Now

We're calling on our community to hold all levels of government accountable. Reach out to your elected official and demand that they take action to make housing affordable for all.

Federal Government
Mark Carney - Prime Minister
Gregor Robertson - Minister of Housing and Infrastructure
Your Member of Parliament - Search here

Provincial Government
Doug Ford - Premier
Rob Flack - Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
David Piccini - Minister of Infrastructure
Your Member of Provincial Parliament - Search here

Municipal Government
Mayor Olivia Chow
Planning and Housing Committee
Your City Councillor - Search here

PHONE SCRIPT

Hi, my name is [your name] and I'm a constituent in [your ward/riding]. As part of **National Housing Day,** I'm calling today to demand your government take action to make housing a right for all.

The cost of housing has made life unaffordable for too many people. I demand you create new and protect existing affordable housing by establishing rent control for all units, implementing vacancy rent control, and establishing the right of first refusal for buildings for sale on public land.

We know that the financialization of housing is a crucial part of the problem. I want your government to pursue housing policy that makes housing for people not profit. I support a ban on short term rentals, investments in non-profit housing, and stronger measures to limit homes that remain vacant.

Each night hundreds of people in Toronto are turned away from our shelters and thousands more are stuck in the shelter system. We need to see more support for shelters, with the understanding that these are temporary solutions that need to lead to safe and permanent housing. I want to see investment in wrap-around care and culturally relevant supports, more Indigenous-led and trans-specific shelters, and better enforcement of the Toronto Shelter Standards, to ensure safety, respect and dignity for all shelter residents.

We all deserve a safe, secure, and affordable place to live. Through these actions your government can be a part of the solution to ensuring housing is a right for all. Thank you for your time.

For more information visit ArmyOfLovers.ca or contact:

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and
Martha Singh Jennings
Director, Housing Advocacy and Support Services
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EMAIL SCRIPT

Hi [elected official title and name],

On November 22 we recognized the National Housing Day in Canada. That's why I am asking your government to take action to make housing a right for all. Below is a list of steps you can take to help everyone find a good place to live.

1. **Create new and protect existing affordable housing**

The cost of housing has made life unaffordable for too many people. We can address this by building more affordable housing but also protecting the affordable housing that exists. We need real rent control for all units, vacancy rent control, and the establishment of the right of first refusal for buildings for sale on public land.

2. **Make housing for people not profit**

The financialization of housing is a crucial reason why so many people struggle to find and maintain a place to live. That's why I support a ban on short term rentals, investments in non-profit housing, and stronger measures to limit homes that remain vacant.

3. **Support shelters to transition people into permanent housing**

Each night hundreds of people in Toronto are turned away from our shelters and thousands more are stuck in the shelter system. We need to see more support for shelters, with the understanding that these are temporary solutions. People must have pathways to safe and permanent housing. I want to see investment in wrap-around care and culturally relevant supports, more Indigenous-led and trans-specific shelters, and better enforcement of the Toronto Shelter Standards, to ensure safety, respect and dignity for all shelter residents.

We all deserve a safe, secure, and affordable place to live. Through these actions your government can be a part of the solution to ensure housing is a right for all.

Take Care,
[Your Name]
[Postal Code or Ward/Riding]

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