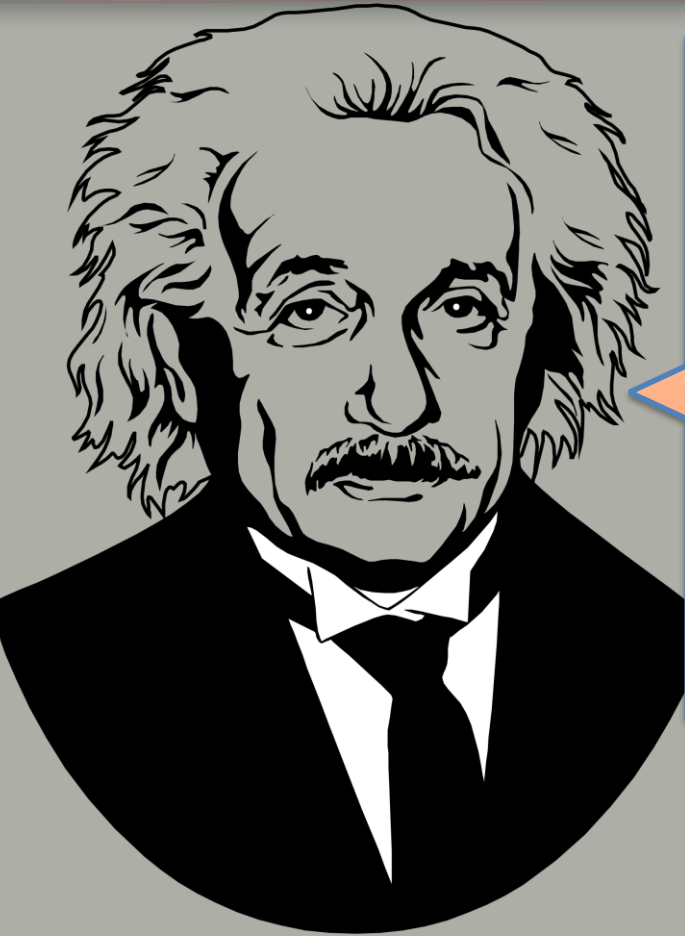




Mobilizing faith communities in ending homelessness

Michael Shapcott, Director



Everything
should be
made as
simple
as possible
but no simpler
Albert Einstein

**The solution to homelessness...
...is homefullness**



“...basic human needs are organized into a hierarchy of relative prepotency.”

- Abraham Maslow, 1943

Housing and supports: Necessary but not sufficient!

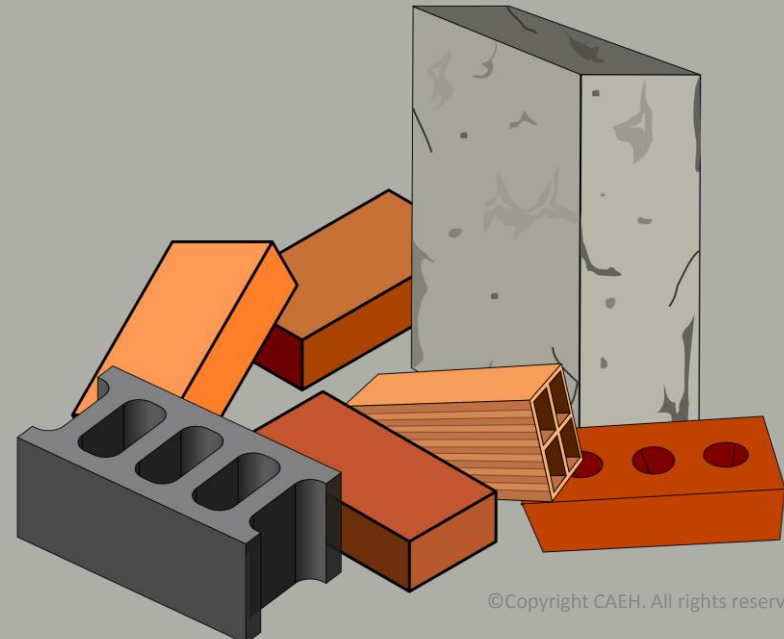
“Home. Homelessness. Longing for home. Our is a culture of displacement, exile and homelessness. Socioeconomic homelessness is growing with many people seeking adequate housing. Ecological homelessness is increasing, with its sense of alienation from a degraded and defiled earth. And a profound spiritual homelessness pervades postmodern culture...”

- Steven Bouma-Prediger + Brian Walsh, *Beyond Homelessness*

Home-building is more than:

- * public policy debate;
- * complex financing;
- * proper land use planning;
- * construction technology;
- * facilities management.

- ☑ morals,
- ☑ moral purpose,
- ☑ moral virtue.



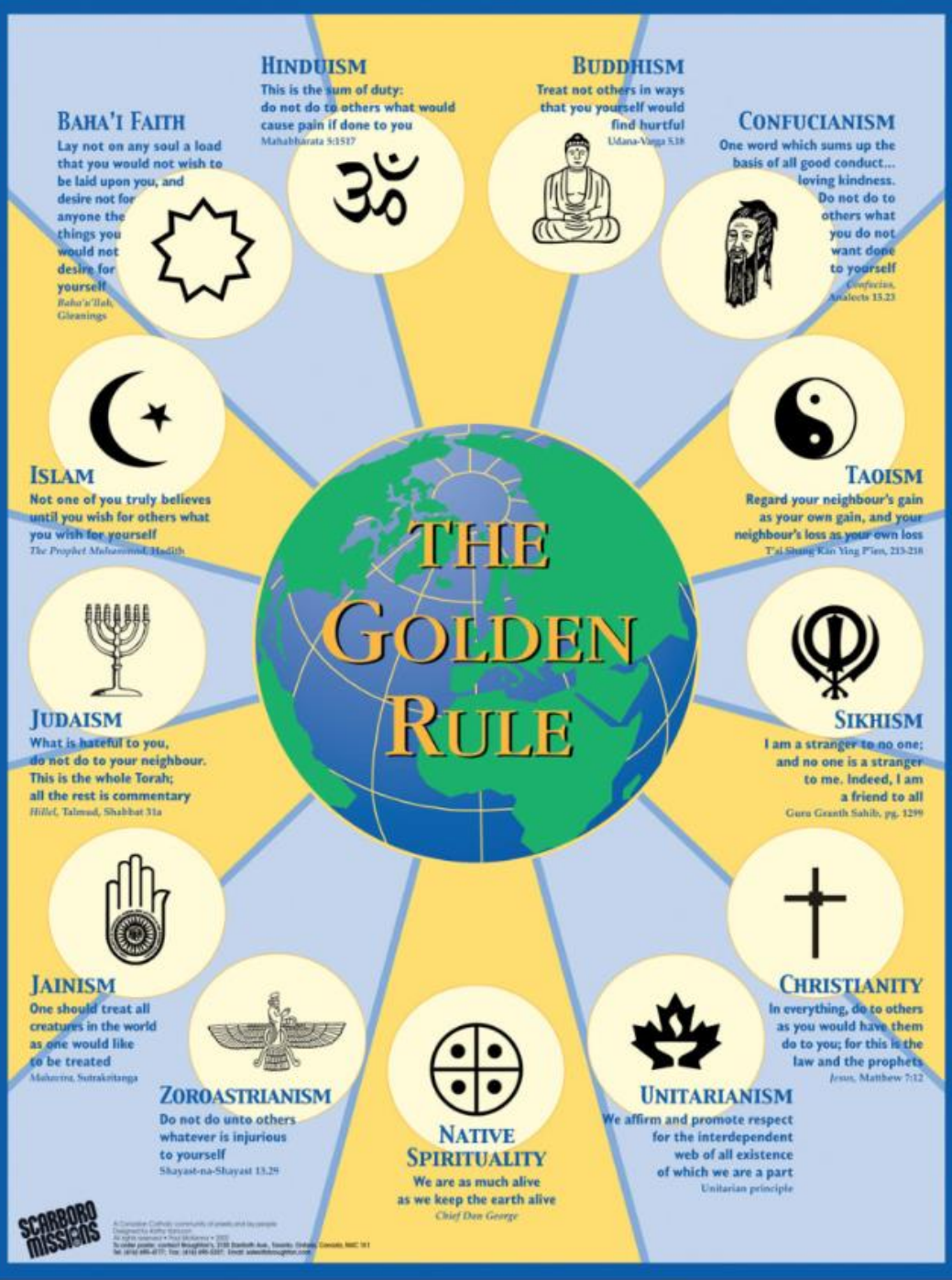


Michelangelo [Public domain], via Wikimedia Commons

**God created human beings in God's own image;
in the image of God they were created...**

Genesis 1:27

Namaste (in Hindi): I bow to the divine in you



From many faiths,
a common understanding:

Reciprocity
and belonging
are the basis of
moral purpose
and virtue

“The claim of the
Christian Church to
make its voice heard in
matters of politics and
economics is very
widely resented...”

*Archbishop of Canterbury
William Temple, 1941*






Lazarus and the rich man (Dives)

“There once was a rich man, who used to dress in purple and the finest linen, and feasted sumptuously every day...”

“...At his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, who was covered with sores. He would have been glad to satisfy his hunger with the scraps from the rich man’s table.

Dogs used to come and lick his sores...”





“...One day the poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried [and then] in Hades, where he was in torment...”

**Why did Dives
end in torment?**



Lazarus and the rich man (*Luke 16:19-30*)

Girolamo da Ponte [Public domain], via Wikimedia Commons

Eleanor Roosevelt...



Universal Declaration of Human Rights begins:

“*Whereas* recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world...”

“*Whereas* disregard and contempt for human rights have resulted in barbarous acts which have outraged the conscience of mankind, and the advent of a world in which human beings shall enjoy freedom of speech and belief and freedom from fear and want has been proclaimed as the highest aspiration of the common people...”

Article 25 of the UDHR:

“Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control.”

Canadian housing and homelessness superhero: John Peters Humphrey



National Housing Act 1973

“Good housing at a reasonable cost is a social right of every citizen of this country... This must be our objective, our obligation, our goal.”

Hon Ron Basford, federal housing minister

Legislation, funding + programs: Over the next two decades, more than 600,000 good quality, healthy and affordable non-profit / co-op homes were built.

iPad 13:14 94%

Done RightToAdequateHousing

Human Rights Council
Thirty-seventh session
 26 February–23 March 2018
 Agenda item 3
**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,
 political, economic, social and cultural rights,
 including the right to development**

**Report of the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a
 component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and
 on the right to non-discrimination in this context**

Note by the Secretariat

In the present report, the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and on the right to non-discrimination in this context provides States and other actors with concrete guidance on implementing effective rights-based housing strategies. The report explains the difference between a housing strategy and housing policy. It outlines the value of a human rights-based approach to housing strategies and describes the key principles upon which effective rights-based housing strategies must be based. While there is no “one size fits all” housing strategy, the Special Rapporteur identifies the most important requirements of each principle that should be shaped to fit specific national and local contexts. These draw both on human rights norms — as articulated by United Nations treaty bodies, courts and human rights institutions — and on the practical experiences of the Special Rapporteur, various levels of government, civil society, experts and other actors. The report also provides examples of how these key principles have been implemented in practice, in diverse national or local contexts. The report concludes with a checklist to facilitate the design, monitoring, financing and implementation of human rights-based housing strategies.

UN Special Rapporteur Leilani Farha: From housing strategy to programs to home.

“A key obligation in the international right to adequate housing is to “prioritize those most in need” ... those without housing and precariously housed must be first served... The federal government promised [to reduce] chronic homelessness by 50%... chronic homelessness accounts for less than 15% of homelessness. This means only half of 15% of those currently homeless or who enter homelessness over the next ten years will be housed. The vast majority are condemned to homelessness...”

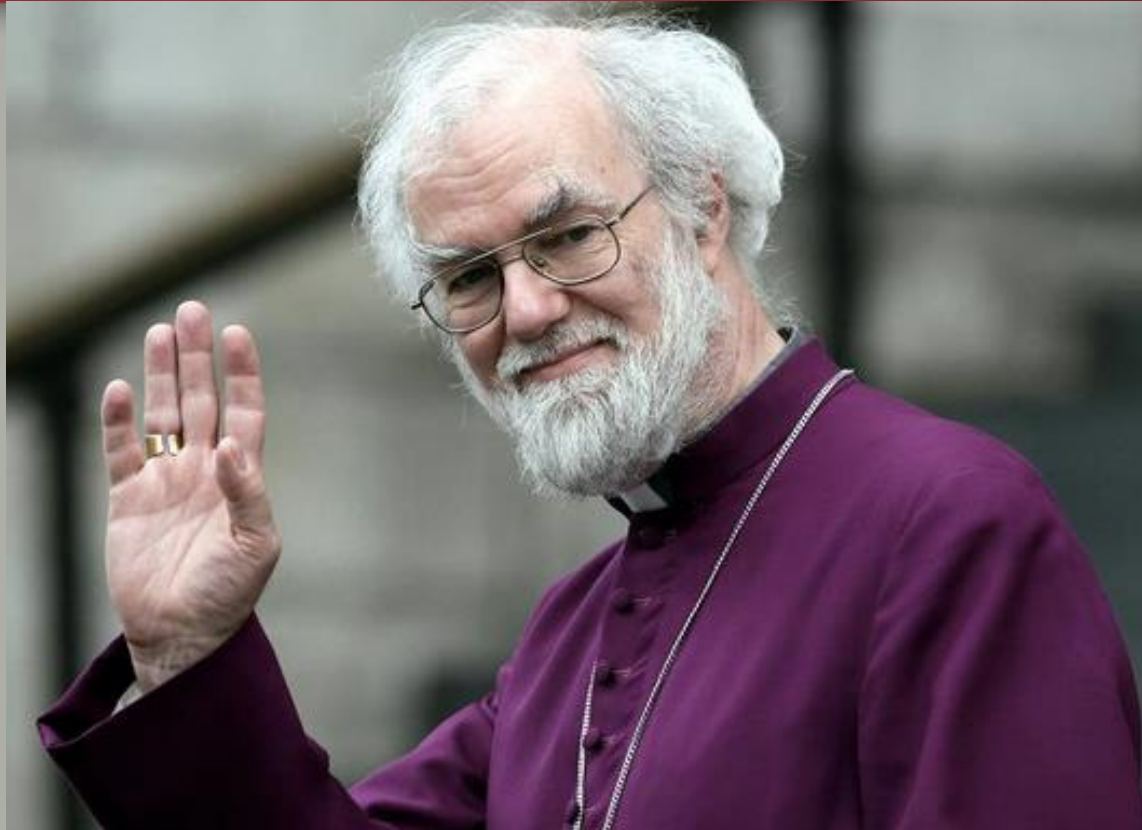
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**OPEN LETTER URGES PRIME MINISTER TO MAKE GOOD ON
HIS COMMITMENT TO THE RIGHT TO HOUSING**

OTTAWA (August 14, 2018) - At a press conference in Ottawa today advocates released an open letter to Prime Minister Trudeau signed by over 170 organizations and prominent Canadians urging the Prime Minister to make good on his commitment to the right to housing by enshrining that right in upcoming National Housing Strategy legislation.

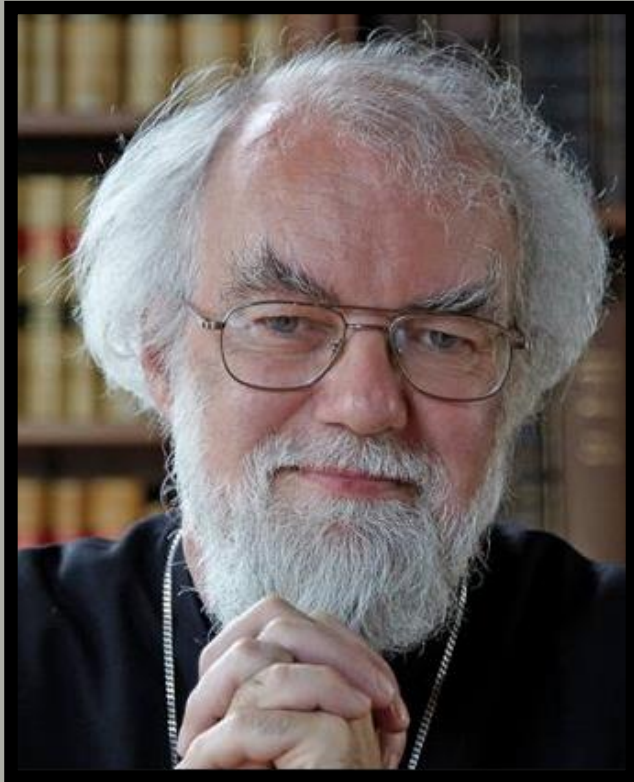
The letter was penned by Amnesty International Canada, Campaign 2000: End Child and Family Poverty in Canada, Canada Without Poverty, the Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness, housing and homelessness researcher Emily Paradis, and the Social Rights Advocacy Centre. Supported by the UN Special Rapporteur on the right to housing, the letter outlines key requirements of right to housing legislation consistent with international human rights law.

The campaign today



1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights is ‘a landmark in the history of moral consciousness.’

Dr Rowan Williams, 2012



[We need to] “reconnect thinking about human rights and religious convictions about human dignity and human relatedness, how we belong together... rights are a crucial way of working out what it is for people to belong together...”

Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams, 2012

“The individualistic gospel taught us to see the sinfulness of every human heart... But it has not given us an adequate understanding of the sinfulness of the social order and its share in the sins of all individuals within in. It has not invoked faith in the will and power of God to redeem the institutions of human society...”

“Shout aloud without restraint; lift up your voice like a trumpet. Declare to my people their transgression, to the house of Jacob their sins... Buildings long in ruins will be restored by your own kindred and you will build on ancient foundations; you will be called the rebuilder of broken walls, and restorer of houses in ruins.”

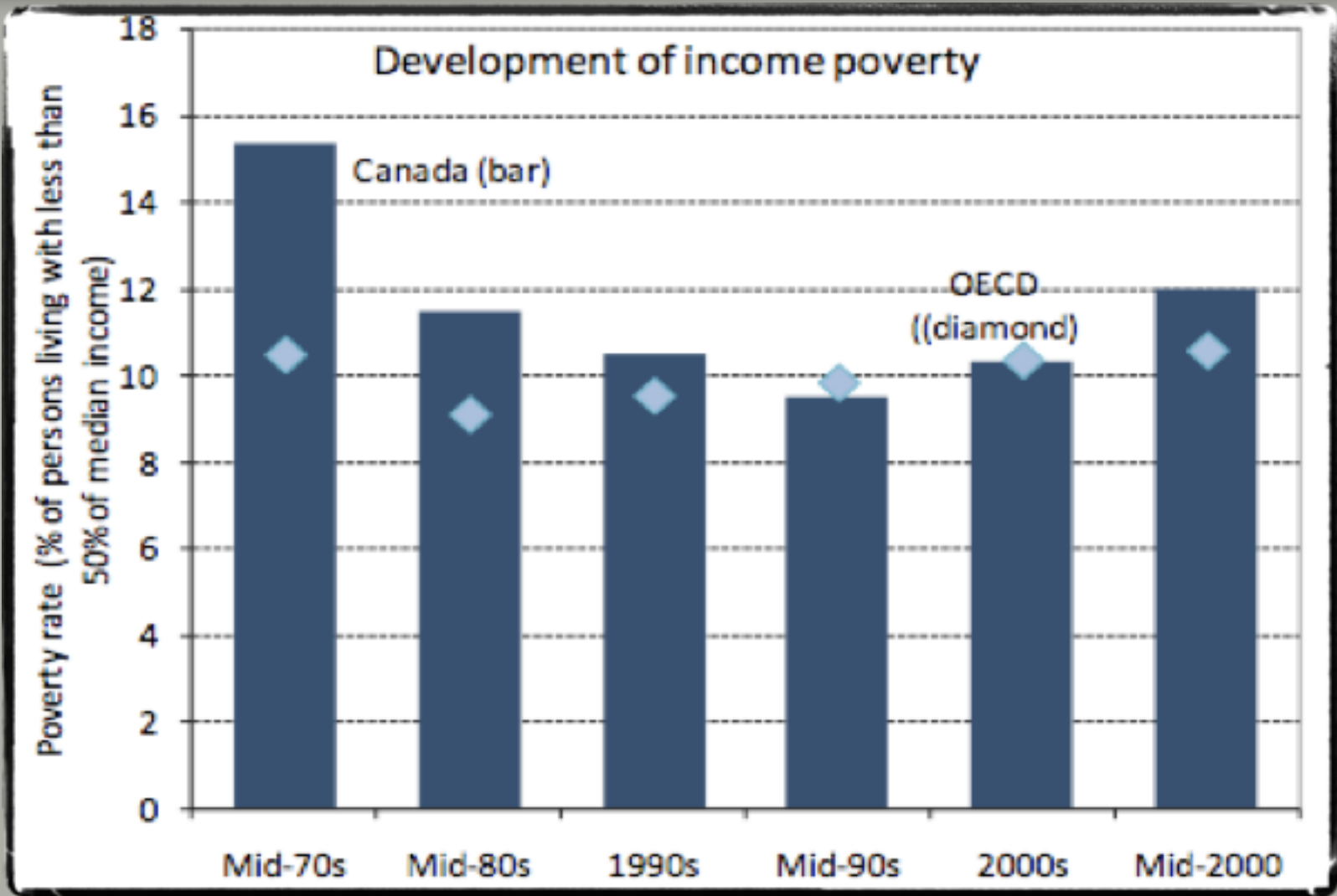
Isaiah 58:1,12

Homeless Makers & Making Processes

Homeless-making Processes and
the Homeless-Makers

René I. Jahiel, M.D., Ph.D.

- 1) Homelessness does not occur in a social or political vacuum.
- 2) The events that make people homeless are initiated and controlled by other people.
- 3) The primary purpose of these activities is not to make people homeless.
- 4) Homelessness occurs as a side effect.



OECD - Growing Unequal - 2008

OVER THE PAST 25 YEARS...



**↑ CANADA'S POPULATION INCREASED
BY ALMOST 30%**



**↓ ANNUAL NATIONAL INVESTMENT
IN HOUSING HAS DECREASED
BY OVER 46%**



**↓ FEDERAL SPENDING ON LOW-INCOME
HOUSING (PER CAPITA) DROPPED
\$115* TO \$60**

*figure adjusted for inflation

State of Homelessness in Canada - 2014

Bringing morality to public policy

“The charge against our social system is one of injustice. The banner so familiar in earlier unemployed or socialist processions – ‘Damn your charity; we want justice’ – vividly exposes the situation... If the present order is taken for granted..., charity from the more or less fortunate would seem virtuous and commendable; to those for whom the order itself is suspect or worse, such charity is blood-money... The Church must announce Christian principles and point out where the existing social order is in conflict with them.”

- *William Temple, 1941*





After concerted advocacy, federal promises of substantial new investment in housing and homelessness...

National Housing Strategy Targets

530,000

households removed from housing need

100,000

new housing units created representing 4x as many units built under federal programs from 2005 to 2015*

300,000

existing housing units repaired and renewed representing 3x as many units repaired and renewed under federal programs from 2005 to 2015*

385,000

households protected from losing an affordable home and another 50,000 benefiting from an expansion of community housing

50%

reduction in estimated number of chronically homeless shelter users

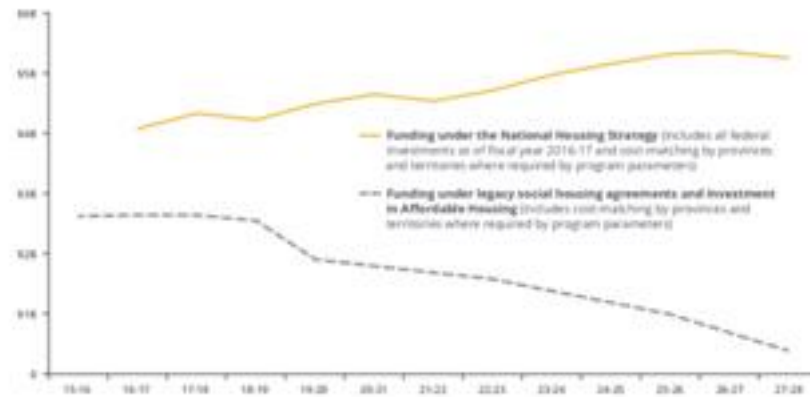
300,000

households provided with affordability support through the Canada Housing Benefit

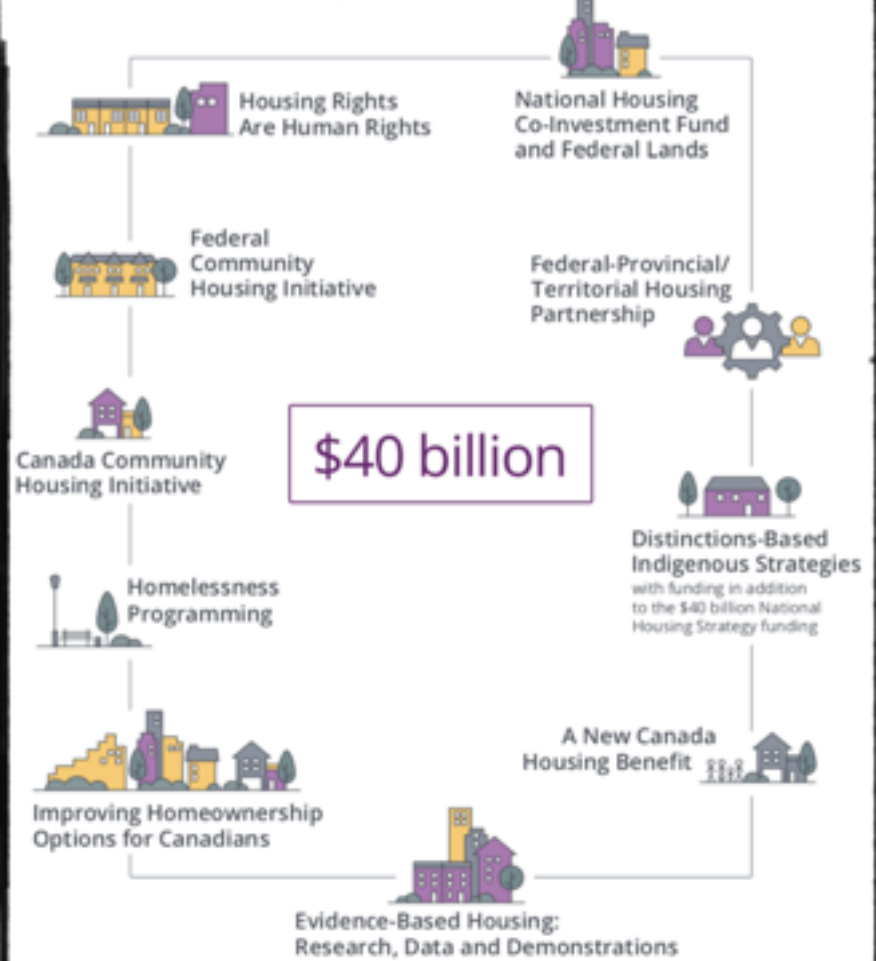


* Compared to units built and repaired through the Affordable Housing Incentive (AMI), Renovation Programs and the investment in Affordable Housing (AMI)

Investments under the National Housing Strategy vs. Baseline Housing Investments



A \$40 Billion Once-in-a-Generation Joint Investment



“What’s missing is a practical community-based approach that shifts the focus from **managing homelessness, to a system focused on **ending it**. We need to move from **crisis responses** (like shelters and soup kitchens) to **solutions** - permanent, appropriate, safe and affordable housing with the support necessary to sustain it.”**

A Plan, Not a Dream: Canadian Alliance to End Homeless

We believe homelessness is a national emergency requiring urgent and immediate action.

The time has come to stop managing homelessness, and start ending it.

We are dedicating ourselves to taking action.



Housing First

Permanent, safe, appropriate and affordable housing happens first and fast. We believe housing is a right for all Canadians.

Knowing who's out there

Every homeless person is known by name...

Tracking our progress

Local teams and national campaign will use regularly collected, person-specific data...

Improving local systems

We will seek to build coordinated housing and support systems...

Resolutely focused on our mission

We are not interested in credit or blame... only in achieving our objective and ending homelessness.

Taking action

We favour action over perfection and will find a way to meet our objectives...

**Our guiding principles start with:
Housing is a right for all Canadians**

20,000 HOMES CAMPAIGN

BEGINNING THE END OF HOMELESSNESS IN CANADA

[JOIN TODAY!](#)

20,000 HOMES CAMPAIGN

The 20,000 Homes Campaign is a national change movement focused on ending chronic homelessness in 20 communities and housing 20,000 of Canada's most vulnerable homeless people by **July 1, 2020**.

Our manifesto

38

PARTICIPATING
COMMUNITIES

18,576

HOUSING MOVE-INS
REPORTED

12

COMMUNITIES WITH
QUALITY REAL-TIME
DATA

0

COMMUNITIES
REDUCED CHRONIC
HOMELESSNESS

0

COMMUNITIES
ENDED CHRONIC
HOMELESSNESS

606

DAYS LEFT

The campaign today



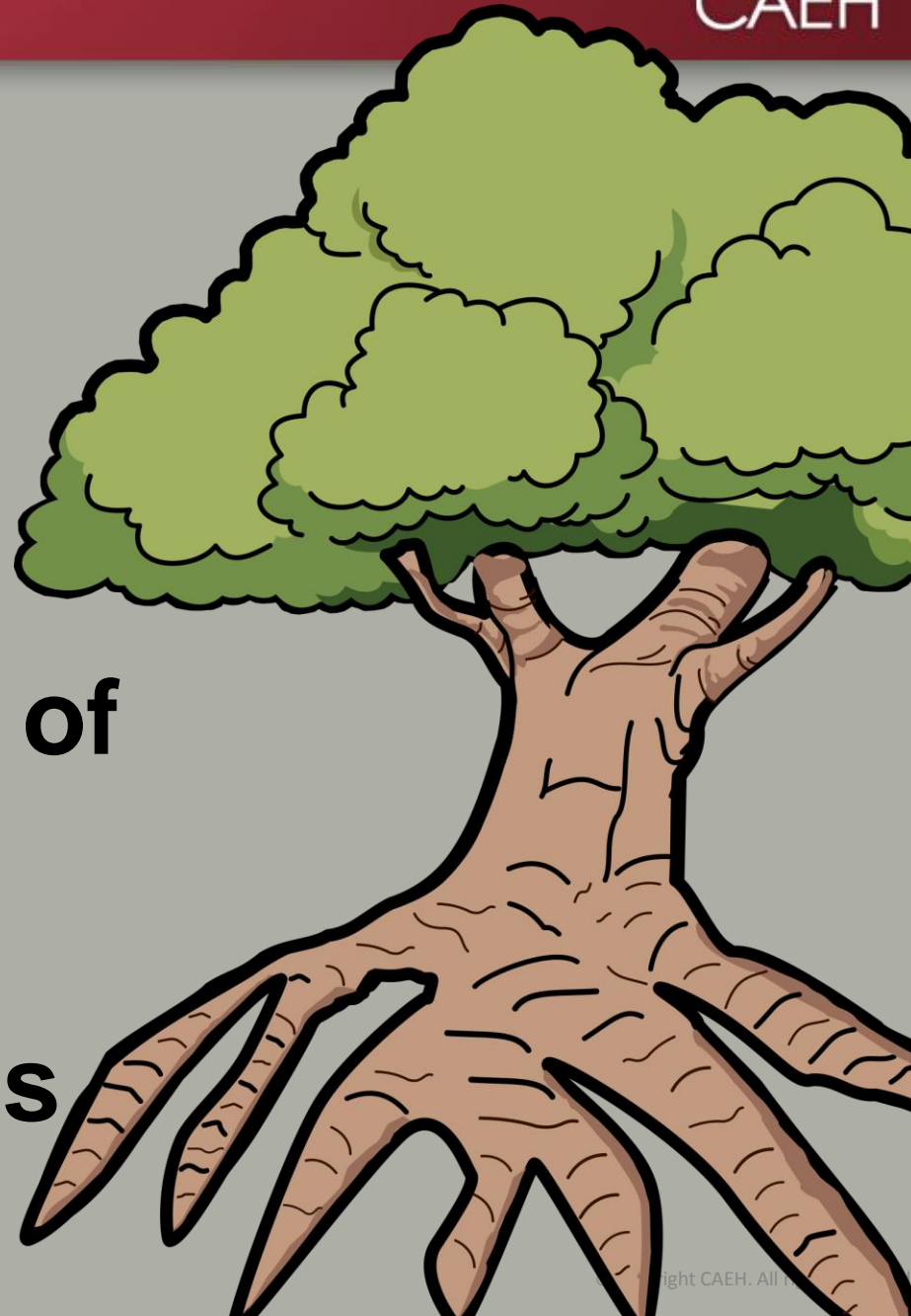
Homeless memorial: lamenting; remembering;
honouring the dignity of those who died

**A sign of hope,
of moral progress**



Faith and housing:

- ☑ What are people of faith doing?
- ☑ What more needs to be done?



Thank You.

For more information about CAEH,
please visit www.caeh.ca or contact us at:

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