



MUNICIPAL ELECTION ADVOCACY TOOLKIT

THIS TOOLKIT IS DESIGNED TO HELP ADVANCE
URGENTLY NEEDED HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS
SOLUTIONS AT THE MUNICIPAL LEVEL.

INCREASE THE SUPPLY OF AFFORDABLE AND SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

BAN “DEMOVICTIONS”

Replace lost units.

Support tenant relocation to similar units and rents in their neighbourhoods.

Offer temporary accommodations and rent top-ups during construction.

Provide 4 months’ notice.

CONVERT UNUSED BUILDINGS INTO HOUSING

Provide grants, tax credits and zoning changes to convert unused commercial and office spaces into safe and affordable housing.

INCREASE NEW BUILDS OF SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

Increase funding allocations for new affordable housing.

Make it easier for non-profit housing providers to access grants for new builds.

INCREASE AFFORDABLE HOUSING THROUGH INCLUSIONARY ZONING

Adopt Montreal’s 20/20/20 bylaw requiring developers to set aside new housing units for social housing, affordable housing and family units.

INCREASE PUBLIC ACQUISITION OF PRIVATE MARKET HOUSING SUPPLY

Support community-based acquisition of affordable rental housing through land trusts, dedicated funding and other mechanisms.

ADDRESS STRUCTURAL BARRIERS TO ASSISTANCE

INCREASE PARTNERSHIPS WITH RELATED SERVICE PROVIDERS

Increase partnerships with homelessness service providers through incorporating them in decision-making, oversight, guidance, monitoring and evaluation.

INCREASE ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY THROUGH REGULAR REPORTING

Promote accountability and transparency through real-time data on homelessness and annual reports on homelessness, including outcomes.

CLOSE GAPS IN ORGANIZATIONAL DISCHARGE PLANNING

Ensure that partnerships include hospitals, corrections, child care protection, etc., to ensure that clients don’t fall into homelessness upon release.

MOVE TOWARD A COORDINATED ACCESS SYSTEM FOR THE HOMELESSNESS CONTINUUM

Remove barriers to accessing help for vulnerable people by streamlining the process to connect them to housing and supports based on their preferences and need.

CHALLENGE STIGMA CONCERNING HOMELESSNESS

Promote public awareness and understanding through regular public education campaigns concerning why people may become homeless.

PROTECT COMMUNITIES THAT ARE MOST AT RISK OF HOMELESSNESS

THOSE WHO ARE CHRONICALLY HOMELESS

Put measures in place to ensure “functional zero homelessness” - Homeless period is as brief as possible with the supports to make a return to homelessness unlikely.

INDIVIDUALS WITH PHYSICAL OR MENTAL HEALTH CONDITIONS, OR ADDICTIONS

Expand supportive housing with individualized case management and programs for people who are especially vulnerable.

INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE FLEEING VIOLENCE

Expand emergency, transitional and permanent housing options for those fleeing violence, including women, immigrants and refugees, youth, people with disabilities, the 2SLGBTQ+ community, and others.

INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE INDIGENOUS, AND INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE RACIALIZED.

Expand emergency, transitional and permanent housing options to include diverse cultural needs, and ensure all communities feel welcome, safe and accepted.

THE 2SLGBTQ+ COMMUNITY

Ensure access to medical and social services and support all communities to feel welcome and accepted.

THOSE WHO LIVE IN A FAMILY GROUP

Expand emergency, transitional and permanent housing options for diverse family structures experiencing homelessness to ensure they feel safe, cared for, and supported.

PREVENT PEOPLE FROM BECOMING HOMELESS

BAN “RENOVICTIONS”

Adopt New Westminster’s bylaw requiring landlords to provide tenants with temporary accommodation and allowing them to return to renovated units on the same terms.

INCREASE SUPPORT FOR ASSISTANCE WITH ARREARS

Create a municipal rent bank in Ottawa and expand current emergency provincial assistance to provide interest-free assistance with arrears.

INCREASE SUPPORT FOR RENT AND SECURITY DEPOSITS

Through the rent bank, increase access to interest-free rent and security deposits to remove barriers to tenants.

INCREASE RENT SUPPLEMENTS, PORTABLE HOUSING BENEFITS, AND RENTS – GEARED TO INCOME

Divert money spent on providing housing in offsite motels.

Change provincial-municipal funding arrangements to support such measures.

