

Build Together: Strengthening the Community Housing Sector in Nova Scotia

DESIRED AND PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE COMMUNITY HOUSING SECTOR IN NS

BUILD TOGETHER – DESIRED CHANGES	<u><i>BUILD TOGETHER CONSULTATIONS FINDINGS¹</i></u>	<u><i>KEYS TO A HOUSING SECURE FUTURE FOR ALL NOVA SCOTIANS²</i></u>	<u><i>CHARTING A NEW COURSE FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN NOVA SCOTIA³</i></u>
CAPACITY BUILDING	Increase collaboration with government, municipalities, and within the Community Housing Sector	<p>Chapter 2: Forefront Public Provision and Community Control</p> <p><u>Recommendation 7:</u> Provide multi-year funding to build the capacity of the community housing sector. (Annual Budget: \$180,000)</p>	<p>Recommendation #10 Build community housing capacity.</p> <p>Recommendation #17 Support innovation and promote cross-sectoral partnerships.</p>
	Improve coordination of programs and services to support the Community Housing Sector	<p>Chapter 8: Support Democratization</p>	<p>Recommendation #6 Support the creation of more affordable housing, prioritizing a mixed-income, multi-partner approach. This would support the growth and capacity of the sector while improving the efficiency of operating models.</p> <p>Recommendation #10 Critical Success Factor: Build on the recommendations from the Build Together: Strengthening the Community Housing Sector in Nova Scotia initiative.</p> <p>Recommendation #13 Fund culturally responsive initiatives such as housing community liaisons and navigators to build more affordable housing that meets their needs.</p>
	Increase advocacy skills required to strengthen the community housing sector		
	Increase expertise in proposal development to enable successful community housing projects		
	Improve organizational development skills and capacities		

¹ Build Together Consultation A Findings <https://coady.stfx.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/CHS-Consultation-A-Findings-update.pdf> --

² Keys to a housing secure future for all Nova Scotians, Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives-Nova Scotia with the Housing for All Working Group released the report on May 25, 2021.

³ Charting a new course for Affordable Housing in Nova Scotia – NS Affordable Housing Commission Final Report - <https://beta.novascotia.ca/sites/default/files/documents/1-2679/charting-new-course-affordable-housing-nova-scotia-en.pdf> released on May 31, 2021.

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	Increase the research capacity of the community housing sector		<p>Recommendation #16 <i>Improve access to rental housing data.</i></p> <p>Recommendation #17 <i>Support innovation and promote cross-sectoral partnerships – The establishment of a provincial or regional Housing Research Network.</i></p> <p>Recommendation #5 <i>Empower municipalities to become key partners in affordable housing.</i></p> <p><u>Action:</u> <i>Ensure municipalities have adequate support and resources to complete a housing needs assessment.</i></p>

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<p>PROVINCIAL ORGANIZATION</p>	<p>Develop a roadmap for supporting the mobilization, empowerment, and sustainability of the Community Housing Sector in Nova Scotia</p>	<p>Chapter 8: Support Democratization <u>Recommendation 1:</u> Establish a Provincial Housing for All Council.</p>	<p>Recommendation #1 <i>Establish an arm’s length independent provincial housing entity.</i></p> <p><i>NOTE: The Commission recognized the need for Housing Nova Scotia to add internal resources dedicated to supporting the sector. This recommendation is broad and is intended as a re-structuring / revamping of governance at the government level. It is also intended to improve policy and program delivery for both the community and private sector.</i></p> <p>Recommendation #4 <i>Develop a long-term provincial housing strategy.</i></p> <p>Recommendation #10 <i>Build Community Housing Capacity.</i></p> <p>Critical Success Factor: <i>Create an internal division within the new provincial housing entity to lead and support development of the community housing sector including a focus on undertaking development with Indigenous groups or people of African descent.</i></p>

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ACCESS TO FUNDING	Provide core funding to support community housing organizations	<p>Chapter 7: Develop Decent Work and Well-Being</p> <p><u>Recommendation 1:</u> Ensure that the core funding to non-profit organizations in the affordable housing and homelessness sectors is at a level that allows them to pay staff a living wage.</p> <p><u>Recommendation 3:</u> Support the non-profit sector to access provincial benefits and pensions.</p>	Recommendation #10 Build community housing capacity
	Improve access to capital funding to enable community housing projects	Build 33,490 units at a cost of \$530,632,965.00.	<p>Recommendation #6 Support the creation of more affordable housing, prioritizing a mixed-income, multi-partner approach</p> <p>Recommendation #9 Prevent the loss of affordable homes</p> <p>Recommendation #10 Build community housing capacity</p>

Build Together: Strengthening the Community Housing Sector in Nova Scotia

POLICY DEVELOPMENT	Establish and fund programs that provide navigation and support services to vulnerable and underrepresented populations	Chapter 2: Forefront Public Provision and Community Control	Recommendation #13 Provide targeted resources and supports to vulnerable and underrepresented communities.
	Review and revise and/or develop new housing policies that strengthen the community housing sector's ability to provide safe, affordable, and sustainable housing effectively and efficiently.	<p>Chapter 3: Promote interconnectedness to ensure the prevention of homelessness and housing insecurity, by developing upstream solutions across policy silos that address root causes.</p> <p>Chapter 1: Promote an understanding that access to affordable housing is a human right.</p> <p>Recommendations 1-9 describe the policy areas which require change.</p>	<p>Recommendation #3 Modernize provincial legislation and regulations.</p> <p>Recommendation #5 Empower municipalities to become key partners in affordable housing.</p>
	Review and revise and/or develop new land use policies that strengthen the community housing sector's ability to provide safe, affordable, and sustainable housing effectively and efficiently.	<p>Chapter 10: Ensure Fiscal Fairness</p> <p>Recommendation 10: Facilitate the donation of land and equity to non-profits by decreasing the barriers to do so.</p>	<p>Recommendation #3 Modernize provincial legislation and regulations.</p> <p>Recommendation #5 Empower municipalities to become key partners in affordable housing.</p> <p>Recommendation #7 Reduce costs for new affordable housing.</p> <p>Recommendation #8 Reduce regulatory and non-cost barriers of new development.</p> <p>Recommendation #14 Enhance renter protections, equitable access, and better-functioning conditions for rental housing.</p>

Build Together: Strengthening the Community Housing Sector in Nova Scotia

VALUES AND BELIEFS	Promote diversity and inclusion of First Voice representation in the community housing sector	Chapter 4: Respect, Protect and Promote Social Inclusion	Recommendation #13 Provide targeted resources and supports to vulnerable and underrepresented communities.
	Advocate for equity of access and opportunity for both rural and urban community housing organizations.		Recommendation #15 Address the specific needs of rural and non-urban communities.
	End racism and stigma that limits access to affordable community-based housing for everyone	Chapter 4: Respect, Protect and Promote Social Inclusion Chapter 5: Redress the Legacies of Colonialism, Racism, and Enslavement	Recommendation #13 Partner with underrepresented communities to set targets and outcomes for removal of systemic barriers to affordable rental housing and home ownership.
	Promote an understanding that access to affordable housing is a human right	Chapter 1: Promote an understanding that access to affordable housing is a human right <u>Recommendations 1-9</u>	Recommendation #2 Recognize housing as a right and a key strategic sector for economic development, health, and social equity. Recommendation #12 Expand housing options that meet the needs of seniors and vulnerable Nova Scotians.
	Advocate for funding and programs to provide navigation and support services to vulnerable and underrepresented populations	Chapter 2: Forefront Public Provision and Community Control	Recommendation #13 Provide targeted resources and supports to vulnerable and underrepresented communities.