



News Release: Housing Central Partners Call on Government to Prioritize Affordable Housing Following Election Outcome

Vancouver, B.C., [Oct. 29, 2024] – As the final vote count in the 2024 provincial election is confirmed, Housing Central – comprised of the Aboriginal Housing Management Association, BC Non-Profit Housing Association and the Co-operative Housing Federation of BC – extends congratulations to the incoming government. This election was an opportunity for voters across British Columbia to make their voices heard on issues that impact their daily lives, and we are eager to work with the BC NDP to ensure housing remains a top priority.

Nine in 10 voters viewed housing as a top election issue, and the reasons are clear. The research behind [Build More. Protect More. An Affordable Housing Plan for BC](#), produced as part of Housing Central's election campaign, told us that we need to build 125,000 new rental homes affordable to households earning less than \$50,000 per year. While there has been progress in recent years, there is more work to be done to meet the growing demand for safe, affordable housing. With communities across the province grappling with affordability challenges, the next provincial government has a clear mandate to accelerate investments and adopt policies to address the housing needs of all British Columbians.

“British Columbians have made it clear that affordable housing must be a top priority,” said Jill Atkey, CEO of BC Non-Profit Housing Association. “As the housing crisis continues to impact communities throughout B.C., we are encouraged by the commitments the new government has made to tackle this issue. We look forward to supporting bold, concrete actions that will create more affordable homes and protect existing rental housing, ensuring that all British Columbians have a safe, secure and affordable home.”

Prior to the election, Housing Central carefully analyzed the housing platforms put forward by the Conservative Party of BC, the BC Green Party and the BC NDP. With the BC NDP party set to form government, we will be closely monitoring how key promises from their platform are implemented to address the ongoing housing and homelessness crisis, including:

- Build more rental housing by reducing construction costs, working with municipalities and support the BC Builds program
- Protect B.C.'s existing stock of rental housing by replenishing the Rental Protection Fund
- Expand homelessness supports to more communities

“We are ready to roll up our sleeves and get to work on a renewed investment in housing solutions that work for all British Columbians,” said Thom Armstrong, CEO of the Co-operative Housing Federation of BC and the Community Land Trust Foundation. “The province's historic investments in

affordable, community-based housing options are making a real difference in people's lives, and this is the perfect time to double down on those investments to achieve the outcomes we all believe in."

"We are looking to build on the foundational investment in Indigenous housing that we witnessed in the last five years," said Margaret Pfoh, CEO of the Aboriginal Housing Management Association. "The iniquity gap in Indigenous housing requires all parties to work together to achieve reconciliation."

Housing Central urges the new government to work collaboratively with the non-profit and co-operative housing sectors, Indigenous housing providers, and all levels of government to implement long-term housing solutions. [*Build More. Protect More. A New Affordable Housing Plan for BC*](#) outlines key actions that can help bridge the housing gap, and we stand ready to support efforts to deliver on these commitments.

When the new government is sworn in, we'll be ready to work closely to maintain and build on existing investments, addressing not only the current unmet housing need, but also to support future generations of thriving communities across B.C.

Housing is the cornerstone of healthy communities, and we are committed to ensuring that the new government takes the necessary steps to create a future in which every British Columbian has a safe, affordable, and secure place to call home.

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