

Affordable Housing: A Federal Role

Monday, February 3, 2014
Government Conference Centre

4:30 p.m. – Registration

4:45 p.m. – Panel

6:15 p.m. – Reception

Moderator:

Tom Clark, Host of The West Block and Chief Political Correspondent, Global News

Panelists:

Brock Carlton, CEO of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities

Professor Benjamin Gianni, former Director of the Azrieli School of Architecture and Urbanism, Carleton University.

Jennifer Keesmaat, Chief Planner for the City of Toronto

Professor Ian Lee, Sprott School of Business, Carleton University

The Future of Affordable Housing

The housing sector makes up 20% of GDP with every \$1.00 invested producing \$1.40 in GDP output. Yet the high cost of housing is one of the most urgent financial issues facing Canadians in all ridings, cities and communities across the country.

Consider the following:

- 1 in 4 Canadians pay more than 30% of their income for housing – more than they can afford, according to CMHC guidelines
- The average home price increased 63% since 2000 compared to a 13% increase in after tax income
- The Bank of Canada considers the high level of mortgage/household debt and imbalance in the housing sector to be Canada's biggest domestic risk
- 1 in 3 Canadians rent yet rental construction is stagnating and the national vacancy rate is below 3%
- \$1.7 billion of federal dollars for affordable housing will disappear over the next decade
- More than 200,000 Canadians find themselves homeless every year
- Canada is the only G8 country without a national housing strategy

Stakeholders call on all levels of government to produce a long-term plan to address the rising costs of housing, address scarcity of rental housing, improve predictability of investments, and ensure federal dollars for affordable housing are renewed. But not everyone agrees with a federal role in housing.

Carleton University's Initiative for Parliamentary and Diplomatic Engagement is organizing this special panel discussion and reception for parliamentarians, staffers, interested diplomats and stakeholders.

Registration is required by emailing carletonrsvp@gmail.com Early registration is advised as numbers are limited.

This event is organized by the Carleton Initiative for Parliamentary and Diplomatic Engagement with the support of **James Rajotte, M.P.**, chair of the Standing Committee on Finance; **Marjolaine Boutin-Sweet, M.P.**, Official Opposition critic for Housing and for Infrastructure; and **Rodger Cuzner, M.P.**, Liberal critic for Housing.

More information on the Carleton Initiative is available at www.carleton.ca/parldiplo

* Note: Simultaneous interpretation will be available.

The Government Conference Centre is located at 2 Rideau Street, Ottawa