

Dear Mayor Jim Watson, and Ottawa City Councillors,

[Research from Carleton University](#) indicates that Canada lost 322,600 affordable rental units between 2011 and 2016 in the private market. In the same period, government investments in affordable housing built only 20,000 units. We are losing 15 affordable units for every one being built.

Despite significant investments of City money to build new affordable housing in both Budgets 2019, and 2020, there are still more than 12,000 households on the Centralized Waiting List for affordable housing.

We are losing ground. The number of family units accessing an emergency overnight shelter increased by 70.1% since 2014. The staff report on the updated 10-Year Housing and Homelessness Plan detailed what is at stake:

“It is well documented that poor housing conditions and high housing costs leads to stress for individuals and families, affecting their physical and mental health and resulting in increased use of health and social services. Children who experience housing insecurity due to frequent moves have been found to under-perform in school with lasting consequences on their capacity to participate in the labour market.”

Much more needs to be done. Budget 2021 is an important opportunity to make progress on the Housing and Homelessness Emergency, and to build a city for all.

We ask that the City of Ottawa:

1. Commit at least \$20 million in Budget 2021 of City funding, over and above federal and provincial grants, to build new affordable housing near rapid transit stations;
2. Pass a strong citywide inclusionary zoning by-law that ensures 25% of new development is dedicated to affordable housing and places a special emphasis on deeply affordable housing within 1 km of rapid transit stations; and
3. Ensure that all available government-owned land within 1 km of current & future rapid transit stations is used for non-profit and co-op housing (and that the City provide land to the newly established Land Trust in Ottawa specifically for affordable housing near rapid transit).

Please ensure City Council follows through on the commitments made through the [Interdepartmental Task Force for Affordable Housing Near Transit Stations](#).

We would appreciate it if you can please respond to the specific asks above (items 1, 2, 3).

Sincerely,

1. 613/819 Black Hub
Robin Browne
Co-Lead / Founder
613/819 Black Hub

2. ABLE2 (formerly Citizen Advocacy Ottawa)
Heather Lacey
Executive Director
ABLE2 (formerly Citizen Advocacy Ottawa)

3. Action-Logement
Marie-Josée Houle
Executive Director
Action Housing

4. Alex Laidlaw Housing Co-op
Kaeli Van Regan
Housing Manager
Alex Laidlaw Housing Co-op

5. Alliance to End Homelessness Ottawa
Kaite Burkholder Harris
Executive Director
Alliance to End Homelessness Ottawa

6. Andrew Fleck Children's Services
Kim Hiscott
Executive Director
Andrew Fleck Children's Services

7. Anglican Diocese of Ottawa
PJ Hobbs
Director of Community Ministries
Anglican Diocese of Ottawa

8. Bruce House
Lorraine Kelly
Senior Management / Manager of Finance & Administration
Bruce House

9. Canadian Resource Centre for Victims of Crime
Aline Vlasceanu
Executive Director
Canadian Resource Centre for Victims of Crime

10. Carlington Community Association
Charity Bartlett
President
Carlington Community Association

11. Carlington Community Health Centre
Cameron MacLeod
Executive Director
Carlington Community Health Centre

12. Causeway Work Centre
Hailey Hechtman
Executive Director
Causeway Work Centre

13. Centre 454
Rachel Robinson
Executive Director
Centre 454

14. Centre 507
Richard Leblanc
Executive Director
Centre 507

15. Centretown Citizens Ottawa Corporation
Ray Sullivan
Executive Director
Centretown Citizens Ottawa Corporation
16. Centretown Community Association
Shawn Barber
President
Centretown Community Association
17. Centretown Community Health Centre
Simone Thibault
Executive Director
Centretown Community Health Centre
18. City for All Women Initiative (CAWI)
Valerie Stam
Executive Director
City for All Women Initiative
19. Coalition of Community Health and Resource Centres of Ottawa
Michel Gervais and Kelli Tonner
Co-Chairs
Coalition of Community Health and Resource Centres of Ottawa
20. Community Legal Services of Ottawa
L Landry
Community Developer
Community Legal Services of Ottawa
21. Convent Glen Orléans Wood Community Association
Mireille Brownhill
President
Convent Glen Orléans Wood Community Association
22. Coopérative d'habitation Voisins
Suzanne Guénette
Housing Manager
Coopérative d'habitation Voisins
23. Co-operative Housing Association of Eastern Ontario (CHASEO)
Jovette Fournier
Executive Director
Co-operative Housing Association of Eastern Ontario
24. Cornerstone Housing for Women
Martine Dore
Interim Executive Director
Cornerstone Housing for Women
25. Counselling and Family Services Ottawa
Ann Carson-Tempier
Clinical Supervisor
Counselling and Family Services Ottawa

26. CUPE 2626

Patricia Magazoni Gonçalves

President

CUPE 2626

27. Dalhousie Community Association

Michael Powell

President

Dalhousie Community Association

28. Dalhousie Food Cupboard

Margie Christin

Secretary

Dalhousie Food Cupboard

29. Dalhousie Non-Profit Housing Co-operative

Sarah Lorenz

Housing Manager

Dalhousie Non-Profit Housing Co-operative

30. Daybreak Housing

Richard Johnson

Operations Manager

Daybreak Housing

31. Eastern Ottawa Resource Centre

Nathalie Lafrenière

Executive Director

Eastern Ottawa Resource Centre

32. Ecology Ottawa

Robb Barnes

Executive Director

Ecology Ottawa

33. Elmvale Co-op

Lynne Labelle

Vice President

Elmvale Co-op

34. Federation of Citizen's Associations of Ottawa

Alex Cullen

President

Federation of Citizen's Associations of Ottawa

35. Free Transit Ottawa

Donald Swartz

Coordinator

Free Transit Ottawa

36. Friends of James and Bay

Maria Luisa Marti

Co-founder and executive member

Friends of James and Bay

37. Gignul Non-Profit Housing
Marc Maracle
Executive Director
Gignul Non-Profit Housing Corporation
38. Greater Avalon Community Association
Rachelle Lecours
President
Greater Avalon Community Association
39. Greenspace Alliance of Canada's Capital
Paul Johanis
Chair & Treasurer
Greenspace Alliance of Canada's Capital
40. Healthy Transportation Coalition
Terrie Meehan
Vice-President of the Board
Healthy Transportation Coalition
41. Hintonburg Community Association
Linda Brown
President
Hintonburg Community Association
42. Housing Help
Shea Kiely
Executive Director
Housing Help
43. Housing Managers Collective
Kaeli Van Regan
President
Housing Managers Collective
44. Interval House of Ottawa
Keri Lewis
Executive Director
Interval House of Ottawa
45. Jewish Family Services Ottawa
Sarah Caspi
Executive Director
Jewish Family Services Ottawa
46. John Howard Society of Ottawa
Tyler Fainstat
Executive Director
John Howard Society of Ottawa
47. Just Food
Moe Garahan
Executive Director
Just Food

48. Lowertown Community Resource Centre

Matthew Beutel

Executive Director

Lowertown Community Resource Centre

49. Manor Park Community Association

Elizabeth McAllister

President

Manor Park Community Association

50. March of Dimes Canada, Durham East Region

Lisa Swant, Program Manager

Stacey Moore, Regional Director

March of Dimes Canada, Durham East Region

51. Monfort Renaissance

François Hamel

Director, Housing Services

Monfort Renaissance

52. Multifaith Housing Initiative

Suzanne Le

Executive Director

Multifaith Housing Initiative

53. Nelson House

Zahra Alam

Program Manager

Nelson House

54. Nepean Housing Corporation

Lynn Carson

President

Nepean Housing Corporation

55. Nepean, Rideau and Osgoode Community Resource Centre

Anita James

Executive Director

Nepean, Rideau and Osgoode Community Resource Centre

56. Options Bytown Non-Profit Housing Corp.

Catharine Vandelinde

Executive Director

Options Bytown

57. Orléans-Cumberland Community Resource Centre

Luc Ouelette

Executive Director

Orléans-Cumberland Community Resource Centre

58. Ottawa & District Labour Council

Sean McKenney

President

Ottawa & District Labour Council

59. Ottawa ACORN

Ashley Reynes
Head Organizer
Ottawa ACORN

60. Ottawa Coalition to End Violence Against Women

Erin Leigh
Executive Director
Ottawa Coalition to End Violence Against Women

61. Ottawa Disability Coalition

Jerry Fiori
Chair
Ottawa Disability Coalition

62. Ottawa Food Bank

Rachael Wilson
Interim Chief Executive Officer
Ottawa Food Bank

63. Ottawa Inner City Health

Wendy Muckle
Chief Executive Officer
Ottawa Inner City Health

64. Ottawa Mission

Peter Tilley
Chief Executive Officer
Ottawa Mission

65. Ottawa Social Housing Network (OSHN)

Fran Childs
Co-Chair
Ottawa Social Housing Network

66. Ottawa Transit Riders

Sally Thomas
Board member
Ottawa Transit Riders

67. Ottawa Victim Services

Melissa Heimerl BA, M.Ed
Executive Director
Ottawa Victim Services

68. Parkdale Food Centre

Karen Secord
Executive Director
Parkdale Food Centre

69. Peace and Environment Resource Centre

Kathryn Norman
Coordinator
Peace and Environment Resource Centre

70. Pinecrest-Queensway Community Health Centre
Christopher McIntosh
Executive Director
Pinecrest-Queensway Community Health Centre

71. Refugee 613
Louisa Taylor
Director
Refugee 613

72. Rideau-Rockcliffe Community Resource Centre
Yacouba Traoré
Executive Director
Rideau-Rockcliffe Community Resource Centre

73. St. Joe's Supper Table
Ryan J. Mitchell
Manager of Operations
St. Joe's Supper Table

74. St. Luke's Table
Rachel Robinson
Executive Director
St. Luke's Table

75. SafePet Ottawa
Dayna Desmarais
President & Executive Director
SafePet Ottawa

76. Sandy Hill Community Health Centre
David Gibson
Executive Director
Sandy Hill Community Health Centre

77. Shepherds of Good Hope
Deirdre Freiheit
President & Chief Executive Officer
Shepherds of Good Hope

78. Social Planning Council of Ottawa
Sophia Jacob
President
Social Planning Council of Ottawa

79. Somerset West Community Health Centre
Naini Cloutier
Executive Director
Somerset West Community Health Centre

80. South East Ottawa Community Health Centre
Kelli Tonner
Executive Director
South East Ottawa Community Health Centre

81. Vanier Community Service Centre
Michel Gervais
Executive Director
Vanier Community Service Centre

82. Walk Ottawa
John Woodhouse
Co-Chair
Walk Ottawa

83. The Well
Rachel Robinson
Executive Director
The Well

84. Western Ottawa Community Resource Centre
Michelle Hurtubise
Executive Director
Western Ottawa Community Resource Centre

85. Women's Initiatives for Safer Environments (WISE)
Valerie Collicott
Policy & Administrative Coordinator
Women's Initiatives for Safer Environments

86. Youth Services Bureau
Larissa Silver
Associate Executive Director
Youth Services Bureau