

is what *The Toronto Star* had to say about a study done in Toronto:

Each day all of Metro's 2,500 hostel beds are occupied and social service officials estimate that up to 20,000 people rely on them annually.

About 20 hostels in Metro are run by charity groups with government funding and there are special shelters for men, families and battered women. The waiting list for government housing assistance has thousands of names.

I can attest to that. All you have to do is pick up the telephone and call City Homes, run by the City of Toronto, the Metro Housing Authority, or the Ontario Housing Authority and ask them how many people they have on waiting lists. It would knock your eye out. In fact, I call the number of people seeking affordable housing and unable to find it a national disgrace, especially when you consider that Canada is a signatory to the U.N. Declaration which recognizes that housing, like health care, education and the other things we take for granted, are in fact a necessity of life.

I could say a lot more about this. Unfortunately the Minister is not here but I could tell him, and he knows this full well, that there is absolutely no shortage of innovative ideas and concrete suggestions about what can be done to rectify the homeless problem we have. If implemented, these proposals could provide decent, affordable housing.

The Co-op Housing Federation, for example, have been complaining for a number of years that they entered into good faith negotiations with the Minister's officials, the Ministry committed itself to providing funding for 5,000 additional co-op housing units a year, but it has never come through with that funding. It is well short. The Federation put forward a concrete set of proposals to provide alternative housing for people to move into co-op housing. That is an excellent form of housing if you cannot afford to buy. Even if you do not want to buy, it is an excellent form of housing in the sense of community it brings to people who live there.

I will just read quickly through the proposals the Federation made to the Government. They said the budget for co-op housing should be increased to raise production to 10,000 units per year. If the Government were to do that this year it probably would not cost a cent in extra money for co-op housing because it has not come through with the allocation for co-op housing it promised for the last couple of years. All the Government would be doing is carrying out the promise it made over the last couple of years.

On the question of affordability, the number of subsidies for low and modest income people in co-op housing should be increased so that co-ops can achieve an income mix reflecting the communities in which they are developed. Subsidies for low income people should be available for 40 per cent of all new units, and subsidies for modest income people, slightly above core need, should be available for 20 per cent of all units.

They also argue that a one time contribution of \$20 million should be made to a CHF administered national land trust to be used to secure land for co-op housing development. They

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also make the point, and I urge the Minister to give this a lot of consideration, that administration of co-operative housing units should be transferred from CMHC to the Co-operative Housing Foundation.

With respect to the rehabilitation of existing affordable housing, they suggest housing co-ops be allowed access to federal rehabilitation programs which would be added to the basic co-op housing program. These would allow new co-ops to renovate more existing units at lower cost and provide them at lower charges. Any rent increases due to renovations should be phased in gradually so that existing tenants are not forced to leave. In the conversations I have had with the Federation they advised me that it would not cost the Government a red cent if it just shuffled some of that responsibility around and let the Federation carry on its own administration.

I just cannot understand how the Minister can come up with the arguments he has to minimize the housing crisis when you consider his own Department, CMHC, the main agency responsible for administering housing policy at the federal level, identified the three categories of families or individuals who have a core social housing need. This is the CMHC criteria:

Individuals or families paying 30 per cent or more of their gross income for rent and for whom the basic cost of a decent housing unit of suitable size in the market area represents 30 per cent or more of their income; households paying less than 30 per cent of their income on rent but living in housing that is too small or of poor quality and for whom the basic cost of a decent housing unit of suitable size in their market area represents 30 per cent or more of their income; households with a need for special purpose accommodation, such as the disabled, the elderly, female victims of violence, juvenile delinquents or individuals with alcohol or drug problems and requiring special services.

You could take all that criteria and apply it to a place like Metropolitan Toronto and it fits. The Department's own criteria says there is a housing crisis in Metropolitan Toronto, for all the reasons I mentioned previously.

I see I have about two minutes left and I want to use them to say that while housing is a very serious matter for most Canadians and their families, it is a special problem for single parent families which are usually headed by a woman. They are the ones who suffer most in this housing crisis. It is that area which needs immediate attention. From what I can see of the Minister's policies, that problem is not being addressed.

Very quickly I would make the argument again that you can argue all you want about housing starts increasing across Canada in the last couple of years but it does not mean anything if you happen to live in Metropolitan Toronto, earning the average wage I spoke of, about \$25,000 a year. Those kinds of figures are meaningless to these people. What is really required is for the federal Government to step in and make Crown lands such as the Downsview Airport, available for affordable housing construction. There are all kinds of