

*Government Orders*

This government must also facilitate the development of housing technologies with the view to exporting Canadian expertise and services in this field. Similarly, an industrial capacity must be nurtured which is capable of responding to the emerging economic importance of renovations of Canada's existing housing stock.

As the century comes to a close, a considerable proportion of Canada's housing stock will require the upgrading of its electrical, plumbing and mechanical systems in order to preserve its operating efficiencies. This presents the prospect of a great deal of labour intensive work which to some extent will replace jobs through the decline in new production.

This will also entail facilitating the development of an industry with a different mix of skills from those required for new construction. The federal government must acknowledge the importance of renovating Canada's existing housing stock and facilitate that end now, not ten years from now. The scrapping of the residential rehabilitation program as it related to rental stock by this government some years ago was not forward looking on behalf of this government.

The policy environment in Canada is well tuned to the development of jointly shared solutions to the issues in the housing field. A wide-reaching network has been established between all the participants active in the production, consumption and the regulation of housing. However, this government is not willing to become a responsible partner in these joint solutions.

For example, currently only 6 per cent of Canadians are served by social housing programs. There are 15 per cent or more, over one million Canadians, who are still in core housing need. Despite such overwhelming need, the federal government has consistently cut social housing programs in consecutive budgets.

The most recent budget will amount to a 50 per cent reduction in the construction of new social housing units within three years. As this is a cost-shared program, the federal government is letting down the provinces in

forcing reductions in provincial allocations, particularly in the have not provinces.

The recent budget cuts also eliminated the co-op housing program. This is a cost-effective housing program which provides mixed income housing, not massive housing projects for the poor, which unfortunately and inevitably are labelled as ghetto housing.

Studies have indicated that the problem of social mix appears to be increasing in recent decades. Whether this is because of a shift in society's goals or an increasing awareness of the impact of poor mixing is not clear. What is evident, though, is that housing policy must not be viewed simply in terms of delivering numbers of housing units. Rather, it must also be related to the placement of those units, physically and socially, within the community.

A CMHC document concludes that the emphasis on so-called targeting in the name of program efficiency has resulted in the casualty of social mix. By eliminating co-op housing, a program in which mixed income housing was a key element, this government has sacrificed healthy community development. Despite changes made to the program over a year ago which met the targeting requirements of this government, this government still sacrificed this program.

Rather than facing the challenges of providing a healthy community environment, this government has opted out of its responsibilities. This government is also ignoring other housing problems that demand immediate attention.

The family projects, where 37.5 per cent of residents are children, have the highest incidence of crime. The program also puts disabled seniors and single mothers at risk as well.

The desperately needed repairs to many public housing units have made the federal government for all intents and purposes a slum landlord.

A 1990 public housing evaluation indicated a serious problem with security and crime has put almost half of our residents in danger, especially women and children.