



Ottawa, Canada K1A 0J9

Ms. Diane Deans
Councillor
City of Ottawa
110 Laurier Avenue West
Ottawa ON K1P 1J1

MAY - 1 2017

Dear Councillor Deans:

On behalf of the Honourable Jean-Yves Duclos, Minister of Families, Children and Social Development, I am responding to your letter of February 23, 2017, concerning the National Housing Strategy.

Thank you for your letter where you provide insight as to how the National Housing Strategy could make a significant difference in Ottawa's communities. Increasing funding for the availability and repair of social housing, expanding the Homelessness Partnering Strategy and extending Social Housing agreements are recommendations we have continuously heard from many of our provincial and municipal partners.

Budget 2017 provides a clear signal that the Government of Canada recognizes housing as a fundamental part of helping to strengthen the middle class, promotes growth for all Canadians, and helps to lift more people out of homelessness.

Housing is the single largest commitment included in Budget 2017. The Government proposes to invest \$11.2 billion over 10 years, starting in 2018/19, in a variety of initiatives designed to build, renew and repair Canada's stock of affordable housing.

The City of Ottawa, as well as other municipalities, may be able to most specifically benefit from the new \$5 billion National Housing Fund, which includes a Co-investment Fund that will be established to pool resources among many housing partners, including municipal governments.

Municipalities will also benefit from up-front capital contributions to encourage innovative approaches to housing development, including energy efficiency retrofits and accessibility modifications; temporary funding for social housing providers to maintain rent-geared-to-income units when long-term operating agreements expire; and a new Sector Transformation Fund and Technical Resource Centre to support a strong and sustainable social housing sector.

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Budget 2017 also proposes an investment of \$2.1 billion, starting in 2018/19, to expand and extend funding for the Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS); and \$202 million to make surplus lands and buildings available to housing providers at low- or no-cost for the development of affordable housing, which will effectively increase annual investments ten times their current levels.

As well, Budget 2017 announced an investment of \$4 billion, over 10 years, from social and green infrastructure funding to build and improve infrastructure in Indigenous communities, including housing. Specific allocation of these funds will be developed in partnership with First Nations, Inuit and Métis organizations.

Thank you for your continued commitment to making a difference for residents of the City of Ottawa. We look forward to supporting the City of Ottawa's efforts to improve the housing outcomes of low income households. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions by telephone at 819-654-5546 or by email at dylan.marando@hrsdc-rhdcc.gc.ca

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Marando". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Dylan Marando
Senior Policy Advisor, Housing and Homelessness