

November 30, 2020

The Honourable Ahmed Hussen, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Families, Children and Social Development
140 Promenade du Portage
Gatineau, Quebec K1A 0J9

Dear Minister;

Last week, the Canadian Real Estate Association (CREA) and the REALTOR® community celebrated the second annual REALTORS Care® Week in recognition of our long-standing commitment to volunteer service. For the five days following National Housing Day, REALTORS® from communities across Canada came together virtually to learn more about the issue of homelessness and raise awareness about the opportunity at hand to end and prevent it in our country once and for all. Throughout the week, real estate boards and associations from coast to coast also supported local homelessness-related organizations—from a safe distance—by raising awareness, making donations, leading fundraising campaigns, and holding collection drives on behalf of their REALTOR® members.

REALTORS® have always understood the importance of “home”; but that understanding has profoundly deepened for many of us as a result of COVID-19. We, the undersigned members of the REALTOR® community, are writing to you to express our belief that homelessness is a life or death issue that cannot be ignored in Canada. We are also writing to voice our support of the federal government’s recent commitments to end chronic homelessness and increase affordable housing capacity. We encourage you to ensure these promises are fulfilled promptly.

We believe the Rapid Housing Initiative is a step in the right direction and that private sector funding could lead to the creation of much-needed housing supply for our most vulnerable Canadians. We would like to take this opportunity to reiterate CREA’s pre-budget recommendations of encouraging conversion projects that leverage private sector developers’ resources and expertise while promoting partnerships with community housing providers by requiring that a portion of the units created are dedicated to non-market rentals. To further facilitate these conversions, we recommend the inclusion of clauses in Infrastructure Bilateral Agreements with provincial and territorial partners encouraging the creation of additional housing.

We REALTORS® and real estate board and association staff look forward to continuing to use our collective voice in support of the creation of more safe and affordable homes across the housing spectrum, simultaneously helping the most vulnerable populations and allowing more Canadians to gain stability and opportunity through homeownership. Thank you for your time and attention to this letter.

Sincerely,



Le 30 novembre 2020

L'honorable Ahmed Hussen, C.P., député.
Ministre de la Famille, des Enfants et du Développement social
140, promenade du Portage
Gatineau (Québec) K1A 0J9

Monsieur le Ministre,

La semaine dernière, L'Association canadienne de l'immeuble (ACI) et la communauté immobilière célébraient pour la deuxième fois la semaine annuelle REALTORS Care®, qui souligne notre engagement bénévole de longue date. Durant les cinq jours qui ont suivi la Journée nationale de l'habitation, des membres de l'ACI de partout au Canada se sont rassemblés virtuellement pour en apprendre plus sur l'itinérance et pour accroître la sensibilisation à l'occasion qui se présente de prévenir ce problème et d'y mettre fin une fois pour toutes au pays. Pendant la semaine, les chambres et associations immobilières du pays ont également appuyé des organisations locales vouées à la lutte contre l'itinérance – à une distance sécuritaire – en faisant mieux connaître leur travail, en versant des dons, en menant des campagnes de financement et en organisant des collectes au nom de leurs membres.

Les courtiers et agents immobiliers ont toujours compris l'importance du foyer, mais la COVID-19 a approfondi le lien de bon nombre d'entre nous avec notre chez-soi. Nous soussignés, membres de la communauté immobilière, souhaitons vous exprimer notre conviction que l'itinérance est une question cruciale qui ne peut plus être passée sous silence au Canada. Nous voulons également manifester notre appui aux récents engagements du gouvernement fédéral visant à éliminer l'itinérance chronique et à augmenter l'offre de logements abordables. Nous vous demandons de concrétiser ces promesses rapidement.

L'Initiative pour la création rapide de logements constitue selon nous un pas dans la bonne direction; les fonds du secteur privé pourraient contribuer à la création des logements dont ont grandement besoin les Canadiens les plus vulnérables. Nous profitons de l'occasion pour répéter les recommandations prébudgétaires de l'ACI, soit d'encourager les projets de conversion qui mobilisent les ressources et l'expertise des promoteurs du secteur privé tout en encourageant les partenariats avec les fournisseurs de logements communautaires, en prévoyant l'affectation d'une partie des unités créées à la location hors marché. Pour faciliter ces conversions, nous recommandons l'intégration de clauses qui encouragent la création de logements dans les ententes bilatérales en matière d'infrastructure conclues avec les partenaires provinciaux et territoriaux.

Nous, courtiers et agents immobiliers et membres du personnel des chambres et des associations immobilières, continuerons d'unir nos voix pour réclamer la création de logements sécuritaires et abordables dans tout le spectre du logement, ce qui viendrait en aide aux populations les plus vulnérables tout en permettant à plus de Canadiens de profiter de la stabilité et des occasions qui découlent de l'accession à la propriété.

En vous remerciant de l'attention que vous porterez à notre lettre, nous vous prions d'agréer, monsieur le Ministre, nos plus sincères salutations.

Lynda Aceti

Hamilton, Ontario

Jennifer Aguirre

Toronto, Ontario

Barbara Aitken

Duncan, British Columbia

Danielle Ambrose

Kingston, Ontario

Tilak Amin

Waterloo, Ontario

Luca Andolfatto

Kingston, Ontario

Debbie Andrews

New Westminster, British Columbia

Mimi Antoine

Sharbot Lake, Ontario

Charlene April

Toronto, Ontario

Luba Arandjelovic

Kitchener, Ontario

Carla Arnason

Winnipeg, Manitoba

Michael Atkinson

Toronto, Ontario

Andrew Attridge

Waterloo, Ontario

Enas Awad

Hamilton, Ontario

Angela Bachert

St. Catharines, Ontario

Ravi Baghla

Brampton, Ontario

Angela Baranowski

Prince George, British Columbia

Jennifer Barbosa

Richmond, British Columbia

Sylvia Barkman

Kingston, Ontario

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Toronto, Ontario

Claude Beauchamp

Gatineau, Quebec

Monique Beaufort

Montréal, Quebec

Gale Beck

Port Coquitlam, British Columbia

Karima Benkirane

Laval, Quebec

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Kitchener, Ontario

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Brampton, Ontario

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Ottawa, Ontario

Tina Bowen

Port Perry, Ontario

Randeem Bray

Medicine Hat, Alberta

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Janice Briffett

St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador

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Guelph, Ontario

Nguyen Bui

Brampton, Ontario

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Samia, Ontario

Maggie-Lynn Burke

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Vancouver, British Columbia

Samantha Campanale

Toronto, Ontario

Jane Campbell

Nirwood, Ontario

Prem Chandrakumar

Pickering, Ontario

Allen Chase

Kentville, Nova Scotia

Milana Cizmar

Etobicoke, Ontario

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Balderson, Ontario

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Kitchener, Ontario

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Vernon, British Columbia

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Waterloo, Ontario

Jason Finlayson
Duncan, British Columbia

Corie Fisher
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Mark Fisher
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Shelley Fisher
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Surrey, British Columbia

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Calgary, Alberta

Ted Prothero

Toronto, Ontario

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Selkirk, Ontario

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Calgary, Alberta

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Montréal, Quebec

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Markham, Ontario

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Fredericton, New Brunswick

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Clareville, Newfoundland and Labrador

John Whalen
Torbay, Newfoundland and Labrador

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Brantford, Ontario

Lori Wolfe

Spruce Grove, Alberta

Pat Wong

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Jackie Wood

Duncan, British Columbia

Dorothy Woodd

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