

Mayors' Housing Partnerships Task Force: 12-month 'Action Plan'

Defining our Challenge

Over the past several years the demand for housing has outpaced availability and new development, resulting in lower vacancy rates and higher housing costs. It is increasingly difficult for potential home buyers and renters to find suitable options, creating significant impacts across the housing continuum including 1) delayed home ownership for young families 2) limits on economic growth and labour supply 3) households spending a high percentage of their income on housing 4) inability for households to transition out of subsidized housing into the private rental market and 5) higher incidence of homelessness.

These impacts are compounded by a nationwide opioid crisis and challenges related to untreated mental health or addiction concerns. Suitable housing for some individuals must include access to treatment and support, with the lack of these options resulting in significant personal and societal cost.

More housing units are required across the housing spectrum, from home ownership to supportive housing, to meet this growing need.

What is Our Goal?

Build partnerships to create more housing options, more quickly, across the housing continuum.

Our Guiding Principles

- Housing affordability and availability is a shared responsibility between all levels of government, the private sector and non-profit agencies
- The Housing Sector is interconnected. Increasing housing stock in any part of the continuum (ex. affordable home ownership) has positive impacts along the spectrum
- Reaching our goal will require a sustained effort over many years. This Task Force is intended to be a catalyst for collaboration and partnerships
- The Task Force will enhance, not duplicate, other community efforts. Members recognize and support the important work of other individuals, committees and agencies working on homelessness and housing solutions throughout the housing continuum
- The work of the Task Force is inclusive, and requires an ongoing effort to engage and inspire current and future partners
- The Task Force will make all reasonable efforts to pursue available funding opportunities

What are the Objectives and Actions?

Objective #1: Discover the Opportunities

- ACTION #1: Inventory housing assets and needs by neighbourhood / communities
 - ACTION #2: Inventory available land and buildings
 - ACTION #3: Inventory existing / required incentive programs along the housing continuum
 - ACTION #4: Inventory leverageable assets
 - ACTION #5: Review municipal financing options
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Objective #2: Work Together

- ACTION #6: Develop a 'Mentoring Program' for new partners
 - ACTION #7: Provide 'Information and Education Sessions' to interested partners
 - ACTION #8: Develop a joint funding application to the CMHC¹ and other funders as appropriate
 - ACTION #9: Develop inter-disciplinary partnerships to explore agile and creative housing solutions
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Objective #3: Make Development Easier

- ACTION #10: Review municipal building development processes

¹ Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation

Project Teams

Project Teams are responsible for specific Task Force Actions. Meetings can be any combination of ‘in person’, telephone or electronic (i.e. email), depending on needs and availability. Project Team updates will be a standing agenda item of the Task Force. The Project Team lead (or designate) will provide progress updates to the Task Force. See *Task Force Action Plan Timeline* below.

PROJECT TEAM	TEAM ACTIONS
INVENTORIES AND MAPPING TEAM	ACTION #1: Inventory housing assets and needs by neighbourhood / communities ACTION #2: Inventory available land and buildings ACTION #3: Inventory existing and needed incentive programs along the housing continuum
FINANCIAL OPTIONS TEAM	ACTION #4: Inventory leverageable assets ACTION #5: Review municipal financing options
MENTORSHIP PROGRAM TEAM	ACTION #6: Develop Mentoring Program for new partners ACTION #7: Provide Information and Education Sessions to interested partners
JOINT APPLICATIONS TEAM	ACTION #8: Develop a joint funding application to the CMHC ² and other funders as appropriate
INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIPS TEAM	ACTION #9: Develop inter-disciplinary partnerships that foster agile and creative housing solutions

² Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation

