



Affordable Housing is a Provincial Election Issue!

HOW DOES HOUSING IMPACT MY COMMUNITY?

Housing is a real concern for members of your community. Seniors, families, persons with disabilities, people who are coping with an unexpected job loss, and people living on a fixed income are among those who may be concerned about their housing. Many people are concerned about the cost of renting, buying, and maintaining a home. Some are thinking about where they will live when they can no longer live at home. Others need to live closer to services and employment opportunities, but are unable to find housing options suitable for their needs.

The housing challenges our communities face are complex, and are relevant to the many challenges confronting Nova Scotia. Taking action to ensure everyone has access to a healthy, safe and affordable place to call home benefits us all, and there are many opportunities for the Provincial government to work with community to take action together.

Impact of healthy, safe and affordable housing options on communities

- Supports the economy ,including a more stable tax base
- Community sustainability
- Better health and reduced health care costs
- Lower crime rates and improved community safety
- Enhanced social inclusion and sense of community

WHAT IS AFFORDABLE HOUSING?

|                               |                      |                |                           |                           |                           |                           |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|----------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Emergency Shelters            | Transitional Housing | Social Housing | Affordable Rental Housing | Affordable Home Ownership | Affordable Rental Housing | Affordable Home Ownership |
| Government Subsidized Housing |                      |                | Non-Market Housing        |                           | Market Housing            |                           |

The Affordable Housing Continuum

Affordable housing is just that: housing that is affordable.

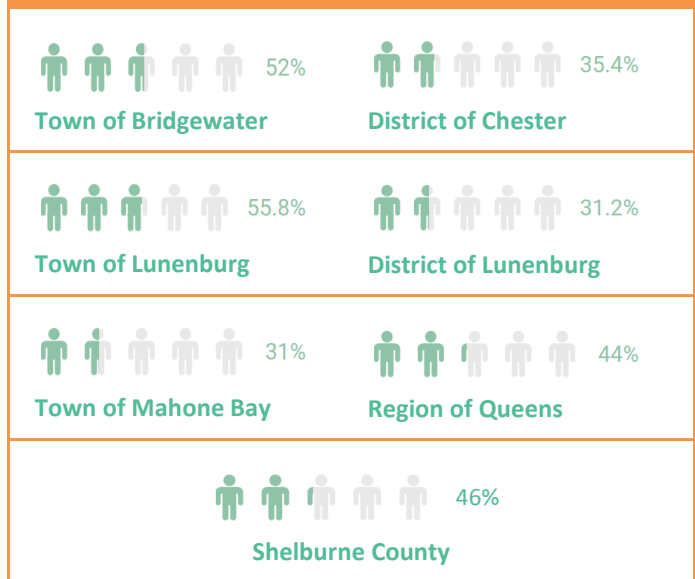
It is not a particular type of housing; it includes a range of housing options from emergency shelters to home ownership.

Housing is considered to be appropriate if it is:

1. adequate (not requiring major repairs)
2. suitable (has enough bedrooms for the size of the household) and
3. affordable (costs less than 30% of a households before-tax income)

If a household’s current home is not adequate or suitable or affordable and there is no affordable local alternative they are considered to be in core housing need.

Percentage of Households in Core Housing Need



## WHAT ROLE DOES PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT HAVE IN HOUSING?

We are calling on the Provincial Government to expand upon *A Housing Strategy for Nova Scotia (2013)* to be more comprehensive and coordinated in addressing the diverse housing needs of Nova Scotians, which would include action to:

- Invest in, and improve access to, housing-related supports, which enable Nova Scotians to stay successfully housed in their communities;
- Address non-market housing gaps by developing partnerships across private, public and not-for profit sectors that create new safe, affordable and appropriate housing infrastructure;
- Ensure rent supplements are attached also to individuals, not only property owners;
- Address and amend legislation (the Municipal Government Act and Municipal Housing Corporation Act) to allow municipalities the flexibility to support the development of safe and affordable housing in their communities;
- Explore opportunities to better support the availability and provision of healthy, safe and affordable housing and build positive tenant/landlord relationships.

"The cost to own or rent is too high. Living in a rural area, some people cannot access services they need due to transportation issues. Paying high rent/mortgage leaves very little money to cover transportation to and from work or services, not to mention maintenance to homes or vehicles. The cost of housing spirals downward affecting what you can afford for heat, food, daycare, etc."

~SSHAC Housing Needs Assessment Participant

*"There is a huge lack of affordable, safe housing in our communities for our clients. Many clients between the ages of 20-58 years can't find housing and are not a priority even if they have no heat, no water, no electricity. One 40 year old client ended up in the hospital with frostbite because he can't afford heat."*

~Shelburne County Housing Coalition member

### Make Housing an Election Issue Ask a Candidate:

In your opinion, what are the housing needs of people living in your riding?

In your role as MLA, what steps and actions will you take as our representative to address housing challenges locally?

What is your party's plan for taking action on the diverse housing needs of Nova Scotians?

#### CONTACT US:

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