



CANADIAN CONSEIL
UNITARIAN UNITARIEN
COUNCIL DU CANADA

Motion Without Notice on Affordable Housing

MOVED BY Rev. Dr. Steven Epperson, Vancouver, duly seconded and CARRIED
UNANIMOUSLY as amended, that:

1. WHEREAS access to adequate housing is a fundamental human right (paragraph 25(1) of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights); and
2. WHEREAS in 1976, Canada signed the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, legally committing Canada to make substantive progress to fully realize economic, social, and cultural rights, including the right to adequate housing; and
3. WHEREAS in 1998, the mayors of Canada's largest cities passed a resolution declaring homelessness a "national disaster;"; and
4. WHEREAS currently, an estimated 300,000 Canadians are homeless; 700,000+ Canadian households are in over-crowded housing; 1.5 million Canadian households are in "core housing need"; 3 million households are in unaffordable housing; 3.3 million households are living in substandard housing; and
5. WHEREAS since 1993, when the Canadian government cut its national affordable housing program, this nation has had no national housing strategy or framework; and
6. WHEREAS in 2009, through its "Universal Periodic Review" of Canada's compliance with international obligations, the UN's Human Rights Council "raised specific concerns about housing insecurity and homelessness in Canada;" and
7. WHEREAS in May 1996, the CUC adopted an "Economic Justice" Resolution which stated:
8. "BECAUSE as Unitarian Universalists we are covenanted to affirm and promote justice, equity and compassion; WHEREAS Canada is a country wealthy enough to afford just and compassionate programs for those in need.
9. **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Canadian Unitarian Council...calls for public policies to address and overcome disparities between rich and poor...[and] urges its member societies to become actively engaged in issues of economic justice in their local communities;" and
10. WHEREAS numerous surveys, assessments and task force reports have shown conclusively that Canadian Unitarians desire that the CUC "speak with a national voice, express a clear vision, and assert a stronger public presence"; and



11. WHEREAS, Bill C-304 directs the federal housing minister to engage with partners to create a comprehensive national housing strategy that reflects the needs of local communities; and
12. WHEREAS Bill C-304 will be presented to Parliament for a third and crucial reading in June 2010:
13. **Therefore, BE IT RESOLVED:**
 - that Delegates of the 2010 CUC ACM immediately call on all Members of Parliament to vote in favour of House of Commons Bill C-304: “An Act to ensure secure, adequate, accessible and affordable housing for Canadians”; and
 - that Canadian Unitarians and Universalists be encouraged to write their MPs and campaign for the passage of Bill C-304;
 - that the CUC Economic Justice Monitoring Group work with the Special Resolution Group to initiate an action plan for the Canadian Unitarian Council, its staff, Board and member congregations and fellowships to promote passage and implementation of a comprehensive, achievable national housing strategy;
 - that copies of this resolution be forwarded to all member organizations, to the Prime Minister of Canada and to federal party leaders, and to local and national media.

Passed by delegates at the Annual General Meeting, 2010
Canadian Unitarian Council