



CANADIAN
UNITARIAN
COUNCIL

CONSEIL
UNITARIEN
DU CANADA

October 17, 2016

Honourable Jean-Yves Duclos
Minister of Families, Children and Social Development
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
Canada K1A 0A6

Minister Duclos,

As Unitarian Universalists, we believe that decent and affordable housing is a basic human right. Our Unitarian Universalist principles call us to uphold the inherent worth and dignity of every person and to work for justice, equity and compassion in human relations. Our national resolution of 2010 called for “public policies to address and overcome disparities between rich and poor” in order to ensure secure, adequate, accessible, and affordable housing for Canadians. (<http://cuc.ca/resolutions-2010-affordable-housing>)

We commend the federal government for initiating consultations with Canadians on a national housing strategy. We are pleased that work on this crucial area of national, provincial, and municipal social and economic policy has begun.

Because we believe that adequate and affordable housing is a fundamental human right, we propose that this principle be used to guide the national housing strategy process, vision, themes, and outcomes. Furthermore, we believe that the national housing strategy must give *first* priority to ensuring the availability of appropriate housing to those without housing and to members of groups particularly vulnerable to homelessness and marginal housing conditions.

We invite you to use the attached analysis and recommendations researched and written by the *Poverty Awareness Working Group of the First Unitarian Congregation of Ottawa* and which we *endorse* to help inform and inspire the creation of a truly just national housing strategy for Canada.

Sincerely, Canadian Unitarian Council National Voice Team

Keith Wilkinson
President
CUC Board of Trustees

Vyda Ng
Executive Director
Canadian Unitarian Council

Rev. Samaya Oakley
President
UU Ministers of Canada



cc. Hon. Thomas Mulcair, New Democratic Party
Hon. Rona Ambrose, Conservative Party
Elizabeth May, Green Party

The Canadian Unitarian Council / Conseil unitarien du Canada (CUC) is the national association of Unitarian Universalist congregations across Canada. We are a diverse religious bound by a common commitment to equity and justice. We covenant to a set of principles, which calls us to seek peace, liberty and compassion, to search for truth and meaning, and to respect the inherent worth and dignity of every person, and the democratic process.

Contact:

Vyda Ng

vyda@cuc.ca | 905-351-4798 (c)