

January 14, 2025

The Honourable Nathaniel Erskine-Smith, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

Re: Introduction to the Canadian Centre for Housing Rights (CCHR) and Meeting Request

Dear Minister Erskine-Smith,

I am writing to congratulate you on your recent appointment to serve as the Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities. Following our meeting at the roundtable arranged by Raising the Roof during last year's Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness conference, I wanted to formally introduce our organization, the Canadian Centre for Housing Rights (CCHR), and our work to advance rights-based housing solutions across Canada. CCHR worked with the previous Minister's office, and we look forward to continuing to support your Ministry in implementing solutions to ensure that all Canadians can access a home they can afford.

As you are well aware, solving Canada's housing affordability crisis requires bold short and long-term solutions, and we have a lot of catching up to do to restore affordability and prevent growing rates of homelessness across the country. CCHR's national team is currently focused on collecting data, supporting policy reform, and providing legal supports and capacity building initiatives for renters that promote housing affordability and security of tenure. Alongside our recent work with Housing, Infrastructure and Communities Canada to ensure strong renter protections through the Renters' Bill of Rights, CCHR is particularly focused on the need for accurate and up-to-date data on housing need and housing loss, ensuring new builds meet the affordability needs of diverse communities, drastically increasing the supply of non-market, community housing, and preserving the existing stock of affordable and deeply affordable housing through eviction prevention and acquisitions.

About CCHR

CCHR is Canada's leading registered charitable organization working to advance the right to housing. Founded in 1987, CCHR has worked tirelessly for nearly 40 years at the intersection of human rights and housing. We advance the right to housing by serving renters to help them stay housed, providing education and training about housing rights, and advancing rights-based housing solutions through research, policy development, advocacy, and law reform initiatives.

We work with all levels of government by providing input and support to ensure that a rights- and evidence-based approach is central to housing policy development and decision making. In addition to our direct work with thousands of renters facing eviction and other challenges each year, we convene and sit at multiple community and housing policy roundtables, giving us substantial insight into the needs of those impacted most by the housing affordability crisis across the country.

Protecting Existing Affordable Homes and Canada's Renters' Bill of Rights

Last year, CCHR worked closely with the previous Minister's office, along with several housing sector partners, on the development of the Renters' Bill of Rights blueprint. CCHR provided [recommendations](#) to the Ministry reflecting the collective input of housing experts and renter experiences across the country, following which we hosted a [national panel discussion](#) to build a renter-led vision for the Renters' Bill of Rights. Since then, we have continued to raise public awareness about the importance of a strong Renters' Bill of Rights to ensure all renters have equal protections against excessive rents, unnecessary and unfair evictions, discrimination, and many other issues facing renters across the country.

Alongside your laudable priority of getting the federal government back into the business of creating new non-market, community housing stock in a serious way, a strong Renters' Bill of Rights will have a significant impact in addressing the country's growing housing and homelessness crisis. CCHR understands that there is a considerable amount of advocacy and collaboration required to ensure that provincial and territorial governments across Canada adopt and implement strong renter protections. We are prepared and look forward to assisting your government in building upon the current Renters' Bill of Rights blueprint and ensuring that it is adopted nationally.

We have been very pleased to see the acknowledgement and speed at which your government has been addressing this housing affordability crisis and are also very encouraged by your priorities and willingness to listen to and collaborate with housing advocates and experts. Our team would greatly appreciate a meeting with you to discuss our recommendations on the Renters' Bill of Rights and other key opportunities to advance the right to housing over the short and long-term, and to hear more about how we can support your Ministry's priorities.

We look forward to the work ahead.

Yours sincerely,



Annie Hodgins
Executive Director
Canadian Centre for Housing Rights