



## March 2021 Newsletter

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Spring is just around the corner, and along with it new developments and exciting projects in the non-profit housing sector. We've wrapped up an unusual but well-received Building Partnerships conference, and want to give a big thanks to all who attended. Expect some exciting announcements in the near future regarding the MNPHA Sector Transformation plan, as well as some new education and training opportunities launching this spring.

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### GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

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#### *MNPHA meets with Minister Squires*

Last Wednesday, representatives from MNPHA's staff and board had the opportunity to meet with the new Minister of Families, Rochelle Squires.

MNPHA reiterated its commitment to supporting the non-profit sector in the community delivery of social housing in partnership with Manitoba Housing. We discussed our Sector Transformation Strategy to help the non-profit sector take on responsibility for more units, and stressed the importance of working with community to provide wraparound supports for those who need additional supports, including those exiting homelessness or at risk of becoming homeless.



The Minister confirmed that she is looking forward to deepening the partnership with MNPHA and continuing to collaborate with the non-profit housing sector.

For a copy of the Strategy, please go [here](#).

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### MNPHA EVENTS AND UPDATES

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#### *Centralized Waiting List*

MNPHA has been proactively reaching out to the community to find out what kind of resources our non-profit sector needs to build the capacity to assume responsibility for more of Manitoba Housing's direct managed units.

One of the things that we heard loud and clear from community organizations is their fear that navigating affordable housing will become increasingly difficult once Manitoba Housing exits as a direct housing provider. There are currently about 300 different organizations that offer subsidized housing across the province, each with their own application process and waiting

list.

At MNPHA, we have been researching the feasibility of providing a centralized waiting list that would simplify the process for both housing providers and applicants. We have reached out to many housing providers and community organizations to hear their thoughts on what that could look like. Now we'd like to speak to people who are:

1. Currently on a waiting list for subsidized housing through either Manitoba Housing or another organization that provides subsidy; and
2. Tenants who have recently been housed in subsidized housing.

A small honorarium will be paid. If you know somebody who would be interested, please contact Cheryl at [transformation@mnpha.com](mailto:transformation@mnpha.com) or 204-318-6114.

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## *Tenant Perspective*

Our social work practicum student, Melissa Walkey, spoke with tenants who live in affordable housing units about how access to housing has affected their lives. Please feel free to share the link!



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## **FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**

### ***Applications for Co-operative Housing Federation of Canada 2021 Greener Co-op Microgrants are now open.***

Housing co-ops are encouraged to design and implement projects that will help green their communities. Even the grant money is green! It comes from a fund to offset greenhouse gases emitted when staff travel across the country by plane, train or car.

CHF Canada will fund small projects from \$500 to a limit of \$8,000 to help improve your co-op's environmental sustainability. All CHF Canada member housing co-ops can apply. Apply by March 28. For more information and to apply go [here](#).

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### ***CFP: Feminist Response and Recovery Fund***

Women and Gender Equality (WAGE) is investing \$100 million to support women, and in particular underrepresented women who have been disproportionately impacted by the pandemic, for an inclusive recovery.

Funding will support systemic change projects working to tackle barriers or implement solutions in policies and practices, resource distribution, networks and collaborations, systems of power and authority, and/or gender norms and attitudes.

Find more information and submit an application by visiting <https://cfc-swc.gc.ca/fun-fin/frfrf/index-en.html> and apply by March 25, 2021.

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## NEWS, UPDATES, AND EVENTS

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### **Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness has launched a podcast called On the Way Home!**

This brand new podcast aims to bring together the voices and issues involved in ending homelessness in Canada.

The first podcast, which aired on February 25th, features Michael Braithwaite, co-host and Blue Door CEO, and Stefania Seccia, co-host and CAEH Communications Advisor, interviewing Edmonton Mayor Don Iveson about his commitment to ending homelessness.

You can check it out [here](#).

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### **Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation Study, "Is Rental Housing Affordable to Low-Income Households" now available to the public**

This research analyzes trends in housing affordability directly from the supply side of the rental housing market. One-fourth of Canadian households live in housing that is unaffordable and the situation is worse for renter households.

Key highlights from this paper are that:

- Low-income households, particularly those requiring one bedroom, are the most impacted by the chronic lack of supply of affordable rental housing in the country.
- In Winnipeg, there are very few units (from 2011, less than 6% of rental units) affordable to the lowest income households requiring one bedroom
- Analysis shows a negative correlation between the changes in the percentage of one-bedroom units that are affordable to the poorest Canadians and the incidence of core housing need.

The full paper is available for free download [here](#).

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### **CHRA Indigenous Caucus Shares New Statement on Reconciliation and Cultural Principles**

Over the past several months, the CHRA Indigenous Caucus and Board of Directors have worked with Namerind Housing in Regina to develop a new "Statement on Reconciliation and Cultural Principles" – the Statement was endorsed by the CHRA Board of Directors in January 2021. Adopting this Statement demonstrates CHRA's clear commitment to reconciliation with Indigenous peoples in Canada, and will form an important framework for how we work moving forward. We encourage all members and organizations to review this document and consider adopting similar statements in your own

organizations.

The full statement can be found [here](#).



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## OPPORTUNITIES BOARD

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### Live-in Building Supervisor - Permanent, Full-Time Position

IRCOM House Inc. is a non-profit organization that provides safe, affordable, transitional housing for newcomer families from more than 20 different countries.

IRCOM House Inc. operates two residential buildings: a 60 unit, 1, 2, 3 and 4 bedroom apartment block at 215 Isabel St., and a 66 unit, 2 and 3 bedroom apartment block at 95 Ellen St. IRCOM House Inc. is sponsored by the Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization of Manitoba, Inc., a non-profit charitable organization that assists newcomers to Winnipeg with accessible services and capacity building programs.

#### POSITION SUMMARY and PURPOSE:

Guided by the mission, objectives and values of IRCOM House Inc. the Live-in Building Supervisor assists all tenants, program participants and staff and ensures provision of a clean and safe residential and work environment by:

- maintaining building and grounds,
- supervising maintenance staff and contractors,
- maintaining accurate records,
- supporting and educating tenants,
- monitoring all fire, safety and pest conditions, and
- supporting the Housing team and other departments

For the full job description and to apply go [here](#).

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## PICTURE OF THE MONTH!

MNPHA's team has seen all the interesting, fun, and innovative things you do to improve the lives of tenants, your staff teams, and the communities around you.

"Pictures of the Month" is a way to share this regularly so members can learn from each other. No idea is too simple or too complex. If you are doing something you think should be shared with your colleagues in the non-profit housing sector, send a photo and brief description to us by March 31 to be included

in the April newsletter.

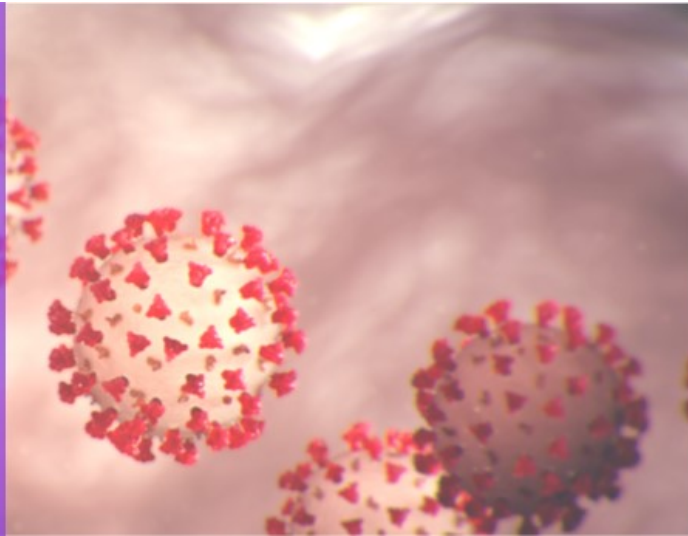


Bethel Place's tenants had some fun this winter building snowmen in the courtyard!

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**COVID-19 Resources for  
Non-Profit Housing  
Providers in Manitoba**

**[https://mnpha.com/  
covid-19/](https://mnpha.com/covid-19/)**



**Manitoba Non-Profit Housing Association | [www.mnpha.com](http://www.mnpha.com)  
execdir@mnpha.com | (204)797-6746**

