

Letters: Affordable housing needed

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Regarding the editorial Tighter mortgage rules will affect poor Canadians (April 23).

Thanks for Mindelle Jacobs' Point of View on how the new federal mortgage rules will have a negative impact on vulnerable Canadians.

The Co-operative Housing Federation of Canada (CHF Canada) and its 900 member non-profit housing co-ops have been calling on all levels of government for action on Canada's affordable housing shortage.

Alarming figures on the number of Canadians in housing need can be found in the Dunning Report, Dimensions of Core Housing Need in Canada - Second Edition. The CHF Canada report (based on 2006 CMHC data) indicates 1.5 million Canadian households (nearly 4 million Canadians) are living without access to adequate and affordable housing.

CHF Canada argues for the creation of an accountability framework that matches federal housing spending to measurable reductions in housing need. Moreover, a transparent framework would have to ensure long-term, predictable funding is guaranteed to help build new permanent, affordable homes across Canada.

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