

November 30, 2020

The Honourable Ahmed Hussen, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Families, Children and Social Development
140 Promenade du Portage
Gatineau, Quebec K1A 0J9

Dear Minister;

Last week, the Canadian Real Estate Association (CREA) and the REALTOR® community celebrated the second annual REALTORS Care® Week in recognition of our long-standing commitment to volunteer service. For the five days following National Housing Day, REALTORS® from communities across Canada came together virtually to learn more about the issue of homelessness and raise awareness about the opportunity at hand to end and prevent it in our country once and for all. Throughout the week, real estate boards and associations from coast to coast also supported local homelessness-related organizations—from a safe distance—by raising awareness, making donations, leading fundraising campaigns, and holding collection drives on behalf of their REALTOR® members.

REALTORS® have always understood the importance of “home”; but that understanding has profoundly deepened for many of us as a result of COVID-19. We, the undersigned members of the REALTOR® community, are writing to you to express our belief that homelessness is a life or death issue that cannot be ignored in Canada. We are also writing to voice our support of the federal government’s recent commitments to end chronic homelessness and increase affordable housing capacity. We encourage you to ensure these promises are fulfilled promptly.

We believe the Rapid Housing Initiative is a step in the right direction and that private sector funding could lead to the creation of much-needed housing supply for our most vulnerable Canadians. We would like to take this opportunity to reiterate CREA’s pre-budget recommendations of encouraging conversion projects that leverage private sector developers’ resources and expertise while promoting partnerships with community housing providers by requiring that a portion of the units created are dedicated to non-market rentals. To further facilitate these conversions, we recommend the inclusion of clauses in Infrastructure Bilateral Agreements with provincial and territorial partners encouraging the creation of additional housing.

We REALTORS® and real estate board and association staff look forward to continuing to use our collective voice in support of the creation of more safe and affordable homes across the housing spectrum, simultaneously helping the most vulnerable populations and allowing more Canadians to gain stability and opportunity through homeownership. Thank you for your time and attention to this letter.

Sincerely,

Lynda Aceti
Hamilton, Ontario

Jennifer Aguirre
Toronto, Ontario

Barbara Aitken
Duncan, British Columbia

Danielle Ambrose
Kingston, Ontario

Tilak Amin
Waterloo, Ontario

Luca Andolfatto
Kingston, Ontario

Debbie Andrews
New Westminster, British Columbia

Mimi Antoine
Sharbot Lake, Ontario

Charlene April
Toronto, Ontario

Luba Arandjelovic
Kitchener, Ontario

Carla Arnason
Winnipeg, Manitoba

Michael Atkinson
Toronto, Ontario

Andrew Attridge
Waterloo, Ontario

Enas Awad
Hamilton, Ontario

Angela Bachert
St. Catharines, Ontario

Ravi Baghla
Brampton, Ontario

Angela Baranowski
Prince George, British Columbia

Jennifer Barbosa
Richmond, British Columbia

Sylvia Barkman
Kingston, Ontario

Dianne Beaman
Toronto, Ontario

Claude Beauchamp
Gatineau, Quebec

Monique Beaufort
Montréal, Quebec

Gale Beck
Port Coquitlam, British Columbia

Karima Benkirane
Laval, Quebec

Tania Benninger
Kitchener, Ontario

David Betty
Brampton, Ontario

Maureen Blackstock
Kingston, Ontario

Craig Blanchard
St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador

Christie Bond
Barrie, Ontario

Nancy Borsk
Ottawa, Ontario

Tina Bowen
Port Perry, Ontario

Randeem Bray
Medicine Hat, Alberta

Linda Brent
Kingston, Ontario

Janice Briffett
St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador

Hilary Browning
Toronto, Ontario

Maria Bucek
Guelph, Ontario

Nguyen Bui
Brampton, Ontario

Dave Burke
Sarnia, Ontario

Maggie-Lynn Burke
St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador

Catherine Burton
Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island

Sheilagh Byrne
St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador

Sharon Caesar
Waterloo, Ontario

Susan Cameron
Vancouver, British Columbia

Samantha Campanale
Toronto, Ontario

Jane Campbell
Nirwood, Ontario

Prem Chandrakumar
Pickering, Ontario

Allen Chase
Kentville, Nova Scotia

Milana Cizmar
Etobicoke, Ontario

Peggy Clark
Balderson, Ontario

Kathleen Anne Clyson
Kitchener, Ontario

Carolyn Coakley
Kitchener, Ontario

Louisa Cochrane
Vernon, British Columbia

Curtus Collins
Regina, Saskatchewan

Lisa Comerford
Belleville, Ontario

Corey Cooper
Sherwood Park, Alberta

Taylor Copestick
Tottenham, Ontario

Sharon Corcoran
Truro, Nova Scotia

Ainsley Creighton
Kingston, Ontario

Barb Cressman
Listowel, Ontario

Tim Crosbie
St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador

Steph D'Souza
Kingston, Ontario

Ricardo Dai
Vancouver, British Columbia

Daphne Dales
Toronto, Ontario

Dustin Davis
Guelph, Ontario

Ann De Bono
London, Ontario

Susanita De Diego
Calgary, Alberta

Harry De Leeuw
Winnipeg, Manitoba

Colleen Delaney
St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador

Lise Desbiens Yeung
Calgary, Alberta

Sylvie Deshaies
Kingston, Ontario

Meredith Dorion
Rockwood, Ontario

Laura Doucette
Hamilton, Ontario

Paul Dragos
Toronto, Ontario

Betty Druxman
Winnipeg, Manitoba

Emmanuel Dubos
Montréal, Quebec

Claudiu Dumitras
Vaudeuil-dorion, Quebec

Audrey Duquette
Boucherville, Quebec

Crystal Eagan
St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador

Jillian Eagle
Kitchener, Ontario

Wendy Easveld
Brantford, Ontario

Stephanie Erdt
Summerland, British Columbia

Dianna Fahrion
Kelowna, British Columbia

Linda & Grant Loughran Family
Waterloo, Ontario

Dave Farnham
Waterloo, Ontario

Jason Finlayson
Duncan, British Columbia

Corie Fisher
Guelph, Ontario

Mark Fisher
Kingston, Ontario

Shelley Fisher
Port Dover, Ontario

Bren Fitzgerald
St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador

Joe Fleming
St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador

Joan Flood
Paradise, Newfoundland and Labrador

Kimberly French
Conception Bay South, Newfoundland and Labrador

Marie French
St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador

J. Warren Fromm
Oshawa, Ontario

Darryl Fuller
Kitchener, Ontario

Anthony Furlan
Coquitlam, British Columbia

Steve Gagné-Valdes
Montréal, Quebec

Angelica Galeana Cadena
Windsor, Ontario

Kim Gardner
Eden, Ontario

Darin Germyn
Surrey, British Columbia

Jeff Gingerich
Waterloo, Ontario

Robert Goertz
Nelson, British Columbia

Janet Grace
Kingston, Ontario

Heather Grace
St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador

Scott Graham
Paradise, Newfoundland and Labrador

Susan Green
New Glasgow, Nova Scotia

Dianne Grendovich
Vancouver, British Columbia

Allison Guevin
Victoria, British Columbia

Barb Guiden
Kingston, Ontario

Wanda Guzowski
Waterloo, Ontario

Mariah Hamilton
Kingston, Ontario

Insof Hammoud
Halifax, Nova Scotia

Kim Hannah
Guelph, Ontario

Doug Hannan
London, Ontario

Amy Hayes
Sarnia, Ontario

Fiorella Heit
Waterloo, Ontario

Jan Henderson
Guelph, Ontario

Crystal Henderson
Huntsville, Ontario

Rob Henderson
Kitchener, Ontario

Laura Henriksen
Red Deer, Alberta

Dave Hieatt
Stella, Ontario

Jamie Hodgins
Amherstburg, Ontario

Barbara Hogan
Paradise, Newfoundland and Labrador

Caleb Hosie
Vancouver, British Columbia

Teresa Houle
Victoria, British Columbia

Zack Howard
St. Philips, Newfoundland and Labrador

Ana Ideias
Ottawa, Ontario

Michelle Ivy
Guelph, Ontario

Michelle Jackson
Kitchener, Ontario

Daniel Jackson
Napanee, Ontario

Diane Jacobs
Kanata, Ontario

Donna Jager
Qualicum Beach, British Columbia

Allison James
Calgary, Alberta

Pauline Jensen
St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador

Elias Jiryis
Kitchener, Ontario

Harjot Johal
Surrey, British Columbia

Jill Johnston
Winnipeg, Manitoba

Cameron Jones
Grimsby, Ontario

Roya Kadkhodayan
Winnipeg, Manitoba

Mike Kalles
Toronto, Ontario

Sajid Karamally
Surrey, British Columbia

Farah Kasiri
Burnaby, British Columbia

Jennifer Kearney
Millbrook, Ontario

Jill Keeling
Kingston, Ontario

Angela D. Kett
Whitchurch-Stouffville, Ontario

Haseena Khan
Pickering, Ontario

Len King
St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador

Trevor Koot
Kamloops, British Columbia

Linda Kristal
Ottawa, Ontario

Danielle Kuepfer
Guelph, Ontario

Sandy Kuo

North Vancouver, British Columbia

Karen Lambe

Mount Pearl, Newfoundland and Labrador

Sheena Lamont

Guelph, Ontario

Mary-Ellen Landry

Fredericton, New Brunswick

Laurie Langdon

Drayton, Ontario

Jack Latimer

Orillia, Ontario

Denny Laurin

Kingsville, Ontario

Joelle Lavack

Nelson, British Columbia

Connie Lebeau

Victoria, British Columbia

Shin Lee

Coquitlam, British Columbia

Won Il Lee

Vancouver, British Columbia

Patricia Lim

Toronto, Ontario

Karen Linton

Kingston, Ontario

Beth Locke

Moncton, New Brunswick

Brenda Longchallon

Delta, British Columbia

Scott Loughton

Victoria, British Columbia

Chad Lovell

London, Ontario

Debra Low Foon

Niagara On The Lake, Ontario

Theresa Macey

Richmond Hill, Ontario

Amanda Mack

Estevan, Saskatchewan

Bill Madder

London, Ontario

Gaye Males, Broker

Kitchener Waterloo, Ontario

Diana Mander

West Vancouver, British Columbia

Chelsea Mann

Kamloops, British Columbia

Massimo Marotta

Toronto, Ontario

Sarah Martin

Cambridge, Ontario

Elizabeth Martin

Dartmouth, Nova Scotia

Tony Mcdermott

Ottawa, Ontario

Byron Mcdonald

Kamloops, British Columbia

Jim McIntyre

Waterloo, Ontario

Katie Mclachlan

Squamish, British Columbia

Samuel Mcleod

Chilliwack, British Columbia

John Mcleod

Vancouver, British Columbia

Brenda Milmine

Waterloo, Ontario

Theresa Mitchell

Kingston, Ontario

Deanna Mitchell

Paris, Ontario

Glenda Moase

Guelph, Ontario

Ahmed Mohammadi

Ajax, Ontario

Susan Molenhuis

Stratford, Ontario

Michale Montague

Barrie, Ontario

Krystal Lee Moore

London, Ontario

Phil Moore

Burnaby, British Columbia

Barbara Morris

Etobicoke, Ontario

Morley Moyles

St. John's Newfoundland and Labrador

Umar Mukhtar

South Surrey, British Columbia

Adam Nadeau

Ottawa, Ontario

Allana Nadeau

Ottawa, Ontario

Celine Nadeau

Ottawa, Ontario

Sabine Nassar

Waterloo, Ontario

Christianne Newton

Kingston, Ontario

Caroline Nichols

Kitchener, Ontario

Carrie Nicholson

Prince George, British Columbia

Neil Norcott

Clareville, Newfoundland and Labrador

Jessica O'Connor

Kitchener, Ontario

Anita Orosz

Guelph, Ontario

Vanda Jackson Panache Real Estate Staging And Design

Upper Tantallon, Nova Scotia

Ted Parnell

St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador

Sandra Parsons

Port Coquitlam, British Columbia

Jagat Patel

Brampton, Ontario

Darrell Paysen

Duncan, British Columbia

Sue Perrey

Ladysmith, British Columbia

Paulanne Peters

Kingston, Ontario

Gordon Peterson

Greater Sudbury, Ontario

Paul Pettipas

Bedford, Nova Scotia

Bob Pfaff

Thunder Bay, Ontario

Sue Phillips

Newmarket, Ontario

Donna Price

Barrie, Ontario

Nick Profeta

Calgary, Alberta

Ted Prothero

Toronto, Ontario

Michelle Quan-Soon

Selkirk, Ontario

Lilian Quincina

Calgary, Alberta

Jaclyn Rabin

Montréal, Quebec

Rajiv Rajpal

Markham, Ontario

Matt Rakic

Waterloo, Ontario

Sandra Ramkissoon

Mississauga, Ontario

Mariam Rana
Mississauga, Ontario

Inshira Rasiwala
Richmond Hill, Ontario

Manisha Rastogi
Milton, Ontario

Susan Raymond
Waterloo, Ontario

Frances Reardon
Goulds, Newfoundland and Labrador

Mary Reid
Kingston, Ontario

Shay Reid
Ottawa, Ontario

Blake Reid
Port Perry, Ontario

Lori Roberts
Ajax, Ontario

Tiffany Rogers
Blind River, Ontario

Philip Rooke
Duncan, British Columbia

Ryan Rose
Sydenham, Ontario

Marnie Ross
Sooke, British Columbia

Faith Rubino
Victoria, British Columbia

Regina Russell
St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador

Katherine Rutherford
Kelowna, British Columbia

Mike Ryan
Ottawa, Ontario

Tanya Saari
Barrie, Ontario

Rajendra Sagar
Brampton, Ontario

Melissa Sandford
North Bay, Ontario

Bonnie Sandler
Westmount, Quebec

Muhammad Saqib
Mississauga, Ontario

Sumeet Sawhney
Brampton, Ontario

David Schooley
Cambridge, Ontario

Lisa Schultheiss
Cambridge, Ontario

Susan Scott
Vancouver, British Columbia

Muhammad Shabbir
Cambridge, Ontario

Wendy Shaw
Cowichan Bay, British Columbia

Ravi Sirisena
Brampton, Ontario

Anastasia Skryabina
Whistler, British Columbia

Heather A Smith
Almonte, Ontario

Lynne Smith
Vernon, British Columbia

Shelley Snyder
Ottawa, Ontario

Karen Squeees
St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador

Alfred Stacey
Carbonear, Newfoundland and Labrador

Katrina Steffler
Guelph, Ontario

Shawna Stewart
Erinsville, Ontario

Dianne Stickney
Waterloo, Ontario

Dennis Stover
Kingston, Ontario

Molly Stroyman
Toronto, Ontario

John Surtees
Ladysmith, British Columbia

W. Rick Sword
Elmwood, Ontario

Irene Szabo
Guelph, Ontario

Ross Talibov
Toronto, Ontario

Tracie Tattrie
Kingston, Ontario

Earl Taylor
St. Thomas, Ontario

Alan Tennant
Calgary, Alberta

Monica Thapar
Toronto, Ontario

Wendy Theberge
Edmonton, Alberta

Lorne Therriault
Sylvan lake, Alberta

Lee-Ann Thiessen
Abbotsford, British Columbia

Vickie Tikkanen
Peterborough, Ontario

Beth Tioseco
Vancouver, British Columbia

David Todd
Toronto, Ontario

Gaye Turner
Gander, Newfoundland and Labrador

Judith Tyson
Oakville, Ontario

Vanessa Vallee
Orleans, Ontario

Linda Van Den Broek
Winnipeg, Manitoba

Peter Van Geffen
London, Ontario

Barbara Van Steenoven
West Kelowna, British Columbia

Lori Vanderhorden
Sydenham, Ontario

Karin Vermeer
Niagara Falls, Ontario

Celeste Vieville
Stony Plain, Alberta

Maureen Vincent
North Saanich, British Columbia

Nick Vinicombe
St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador

Jackie Wall
Kitchener, Ontario

Jiaqiang Wang
Richmond Hill, Ontario

Sharon Watts
Fredericton, New Brunswick

Emily Weisdorf
Halifax, Nova Scotia

Joe Wells
Clareville, Newfoundland and Labrador

John Whalen
Torbay, Newfoundland and Labrador

Pamela White
Brantford, Ontario

Janice Wieringa
Chatham, Ontario

Robyn Wildman
Victoria, British Columbia

Megann Willson
Toronto, Ontario

Diana Wilson

Brantford, Ontario

Lori Wolfe

Spruce Grove, Alberta

Pat Wong

Ottawa, Ontario

Jackie Wood

Duncan, British Columbia

Dorothy Woodd

Gander, Newfoundland and Labrador

Edwin Yan

Burnaby, British Columbia

Wassay Zafar

Toronto, Ontario

Jill Zappia

Winnipeg, Manitoba