

Selected Recommendations

[UWBC Aging in Uncertainty: The Growing Housing Crisis for BC Seniors, Nov 2023](https://uwbc.ca/program/healthy-aging/#research-&-reports)
<https://uwbc.ca/program/healthy-aging/#research-&-reports>

The following recommendations have been selected for discussion of collective action at WSH Partners' meeting February 21, 2024. See summary on page 9 and the complete *Seniors Housing Precarity Goals and Recommendations* on pages 37 to 47.

FOR NETWORKING and SHARING

Goal 3: To develop multisectoral community tables, coalitions, or alliances to identify common housing issues and develop community-driven solutions.

Recommendation 3.1: *Local governments provide adequate and sustainable funding for the establishment of community tables/ coalitions/alliances to address housing and homelessness in local communities.*

Goal 5. To increase access to housing with supports (both social and health supports) to ensure low-income seniors can maintain their housing tenancy and improve their health and well-being.

Recommendation 5.1: *The Provincial Government develop funding streams to support community-based organizations providing on-site tenant and social connection supports to vulnerable seniors living in low-income rental housing.*

Goal 6. To ensure that housing navigation supports, the shelter system, and transitional and low-income rental housing are, not only adequately funded, but also accessible, safe, and appropriate for seniors who are homeless or precariously housed.

Recommendation 6.1: *The Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions continue to support and expand access to the SHINE program. ([Seniors Housing Information & Navigation Ease Program](#))*

FOR ADVOCACY AT PROVINCIAL AND LOCAL LEVELS

Goal 1: To increase access to subsidized rent-geared-too-income housing for low-income people of all ages (i.e. where tenants pay no more than 30 percent of their income on housing).

Recommendation 1.2: *Local governments develop and utilize all the tools that are available to them...to support non-profit developers to build low-income rental housing.*

Goal 2: To retain the existing stock of low-income rental housing for all age groups.

Recommendation 2.2: *Provincial and local governments must take steps to protect the housing security of renters in the private market, including implementing vacancy controls... and strengthening tenant protections...*

Recommendation 2.3: *The Provincial Government introduce a home repairs grant program to support seniors to age in place in adequate housing.*

Goal 4. To increase financial assistance for low and moderate-income seniors living in private market rental housing by introducing needed changes in the SAFER program. (*Shelter Aid for Elderly Renters*)

Recommendation 4.1: *The Provincial Government increase SAFER amounts to ensure they accurately reflect the rental market, and thereafter annually review and adjust the amounts. Steps should also be taken to expand and streamline access to the program.*

AFFORDABILITY ACTION COUNCIL - POLICY BRIEFS
INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH ON PUBLIC POLICY (IRPP)

About the IRPP: <https://irpp.org/about-the-irpp/>

About the Affordability Action Council: <https://irpp.org/affordability/>

A cross-sectoral approach to meeting needs of low- & moderate-income Canadians with relevance for advocacy and implementation at regional, provincial and federal levels.

The Affordability Action Council is *supporting cross-Canada relief on basic needs: **food, shelter, transport and a livable climate**...independent...national...evidence-based...collaborative ...knowledge mobilizers...operate in Canada's two languages...We bring together the worlds of research and public policy to improve the lives of Canadians.*

AN ALL-IN-ONE APPROACH TO SOLVING CANADA'S AFFORDABILITY AND CLIMATE CRISES
Affordability and climate are compounding, overlapping crises — and people are struggling through them both at the same time. Individuals across Canada are tired of making trade-offs because, when it comes to life's necessities — housing, food, transportation, and a sustainable climate — there should be none.

- Webinar February 1, 2024, event recording
<https://irpp.org/irpp-event/solving-canada-affordability-climate-crisis/>
- Report published February 1, 2024 while IRPP representatives in Ottawa meeting MPs
<https://irpp.org/research-studies/a-new-approach-to-tackling-affordability/>

POLICY BRIEFS (<https://irpp.org/affordability/>) Accessed 2024-02-08

AFFORDABLE HOUSING REBOOT: *Bring back federal leadership*
<https://irpp.org/research-studies/affordable-housing-reboot/>

RETROFIT RESET: *Prioritize low-income households*
<https://irpp.org/research-studies/prioritize-low-income-households/>

GROCERIES AND ESSENTIALS BENEFIT: *Helping people with low incomes afford everyday necessities*
<https://irpp.org/research-studies/groceries-and-essentials-benefit/>

RETHINKING URBAN MOBILITY: *Providing more affordable and equitable transportation options*
<https://irpp.org/research-studies/rethinking-urban-mobility/>

RURAL RECOGNITION: *Affordable and safe transportation options for remote communities*
<https://irpp.org/research-studies/affordable-safe-transportation-options-remote-communities/>