



Canadian  
Federation  
of Apartment  
Associations

Fédération  
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News Release

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For immediate release

### CFAA welcomes the renewal of RRAP and SCPI and looks to the future

The Canadian Federation of Apartment Associations (CFAA) welcomes the renewal of the federal RRAP and SCPI programs as announced today by federal Housing Minister Joe Fontana.

RRAP is a valuable program which provides funds for the rehabilitation of rental housing occupied by low-income Canadians. RRAP allows private landlords to cover the cost of major repairs, while preserving and enhancing private housing at affordable rents. More money should be directed to the RRAP program, as it is invariably oversubscribed in every city in Canada.

CFAA also supports the renewal of the SCPI program and the other federal initiatives to provide better shelters and supports for the homeless, and more supportive and special-needs housing.

### What more is needed for all Canadians to afford suitable housing?

To extend housing support to more low-income Canadians, CFAA looks forward to federal support for housing allowances for renters. Between 75% and 92% of "housing" needs are due to the gap between current housing costs and 30% of renters' incomes, rather than anything to do with the housing itself, such as unit size or quality.

For the cost of building and subsidizing one new "affordable" housing unit, the government can give long-term help to between two and eight families in existing units through rent supplements or portable housing allowances. Besides being cost-effective, portable housing allowances allow renters to choose the accommodation that best suits them and their needs. Portable housing allowances can also help break the cycle of poverty because low income earners can move to locations where work (or better work) is available, rather than being forced to stay in their current social housing unit in order to keep their housing benefit.

CFAA welcomes the government's moves to add tools like rent supplements and housing allowances to the programs currently receiving significant federal funding. "The federal government is moving in the right direction on housing. CFAA supports the continuation of Minister Fontana's housing policy reforms, including portable housing allowances," says John Dickie, President of CFAA.

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*The Canadian Federation of Apartment Associations represents the owners and managers of close to one million residential rental suites in Canada, through 15 organizations across Canada. CFAA is the sole national organization representing the interests of Canada's \$30 billion rental housing industry.*