



Canadian  
Federation  
of Apartment  
Associations

Fédération  
Canadienne Des  
Associations  
De Propriétaires  
Immobiliers

640-1600 Carling Avenue  
Ottawa, Ontario K1Z 1G3  
Tel. 613-235-0101  
Fax 613-238-0101  
www.cfaa-fcapi.org

---

**By EMAIL – April 16, 2008**

Honourable Monte Solberg  
Minister of Human Resources and  
Social Development Canada  
140 Promenade du Portage, Phase IV  
Gatineau, Quebec K1A 0J9

Dear Mr. Solberg:

**RE: CFAA applauds your recognition of the value of housing allowances**

---

The Canadian Federation of Apartment Associations (CFAA) applauds your recent statements to the Canadian Press about evaluating the effectiveness and need for the current programs under the federal-provincial agreements. In particular, we applaud you for raising the question of whether building new housing is money well spent, and pointing out that housing allowances may be a more appropriate solution where there is plenty of housing in the market but people's incomes are too low to meet all their needs.

**Focusing housing funding on initiatives that meet the real needs of low-income tenants, such as portable housing allowance programs, is of great importance to residential landlords and tenants.** The advantages of portable housing allowances include:

- allowing tenants choice in housing
- effective and speedy benefits for those who need them
- avoiding any requirement that recipients move
- spreading the subsidies to help more households with the available funding
- achieving income mixing without subsidizing those who don't need help
- avoiding the need to build properties (or to buy and renovate them), and then to repair them
- cost-effectiveness by avoiding the cost of new construction or renovations
- avoiding NIMBY problems
- avoiding ghettoization and stigma
- enabling recipients to move to take employment

Thank you for expressing **your support for housing initiatives besides building new government-funded housing**. That is an important step in making housing more affordable for low-income Canadians in a cost-effective way, which respects their dignity and choices.

Yours truly,

John Dickie  
President, CFAA - FCAP