



Canadian  
Federation  
of Apartment  
Associations

Fédération  
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## News Release

4 October 2006  
(For immediate release)

### **CFAA welcomes expansion of BC's housing allowance program**

The Canadian Federation of Apartment Associations (CFAA) welcomes the expansion of BC's housing allowance program, announced yesterday. BC Minister Responsible for Housing, Rich Coleman announced immediate assistance for 15,000 low-income families at an annual cost of \$40,000,000."

The CFAA commends the BC government for assisting low-income residents to access affordable housing in the existing private rental housing stock.

Portable housing allowances:

- use the existing economical housing stock, rather than newly built (and therefore expensive) housing;
- allow the assistance to help families immediately
- allow tenants to keep their housing assistance when they move to take a new job (which is very good for them and the economy);
- allow tenants to choose where to live;
- achieve income mixing without the cost of subsidizing middle income tenants; and
- allow the available funding to be spread more equitably among more low income tenants.

Given the benefits of housing allowances, both taxpayers and those who care about the poor should be very pleased with the developments of the last 18 months:

- Saskatchewan brought in a housing allowance for low-income families and people with disabilities.
- British Columbia expanded its housing allowance program for seniors, doubling the money being invested to help 15,000 seniors.
- Manitoba has tripled the households eligible for allowances
- and now BC has again doubled its funding, and has again doubled the households being helped by adding 15,000 low-income working families to the BC housing allowance program.

John Dickie, CFAA President, says, "BC's expansion of its housing allowance program to assist low-income working families is wonderful news. Now, what we need is a national housing allowance program to provide the benefits of housing allowances to low income Canadians wherever they choose to live across Canada."

Except for Canada, almost all countries with advanced economies have extensive housing allowance programs. The government of Canada should join the trend around the world, and in the provinces across Canada. See the Backgrounder "What do key organizations say about housing allowances."

For more information, or for the BC news release, contact:  
John Dickie or Tyler Banham,  
613 235-0101, or 613 592-5197 (between 4:00 and 6:00 pm PDT)

*The Canadian Federation of Apartment Associations represents the owners and managers of more than one million residential rental suites in Canada, through 16 organizations across Canada.*

See [www.cfaa-fcapi.org](http://www.cfaa-fcapi.org) for more information about CFAA.