



Canadian
Federation
of Apartment
Associations

Fédération
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De Propriétaires
Immobiliers

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News Release

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(For immediate release)

CFAA welcomes the expansion of rent supplements in Edmonton

The Canadian Federation of Apartment Associations (CFAA) welcomes the expansion of rent supplements in Edmonton announced yesterday. Under the Fixed Rate Rent Supplement Pilot Project, the City of Edmonton is providing 50% of the funding for 400 new rent supplements of up to \$200 per unit per month in existing rental housing.

The CFAA commends the City of Edmonton, the Province of Alberta and CMHC for assisting low-income residents to access affordable housing in the existing private rental housing stock.

The Fixed Rate Rent Supplement Pilot Project

- uses the existing economical housing stock, rather than newly built (and therefore expensive) housing;
- helps low-income families immediately;
- allows tenants to stay in their current housing;
- achieves income mixing without the cost of subsidizing middle income tenants; and
- spreads the available funding more equitably among more low income tenants.

Given the benefits of the Rent Supplement and similar housing allowance programs in other provinces, 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 number of households eligible for allowances;
- BC has introduced a program of rental assistance aimed at a large group of low-income families who were previously unable to access housing assistance;
- and now Edmonton and Alberta have introduced the new Fixed Rate Rent Supplement Pilot Project.

John Dickie, CFAA President, says, "The adoption by the City of Edmonton of the Fixed Rate Rent Supplement Pilot Project is wonderful news. Now, what we need is a national housing allowance program to help 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.

For more information, or for the Edmonton news release, contact:

John Dickie 613-235-0101 or 613-592-5197
(between 5:00 and 7:30 pm MDT)

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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 for more information about CFAA.