



**Episcopal Office, Diocese of Ottawa
Anglican Church of Canada**

**Bureau épiscopal, Diocèse d'Ottawa
L'Église anglicane du Canada**

The Right Reverend John H. Chapman
Bishop of Ottawa

Son Excellence Monseigneur John H. Chapman
Évêque d'Ottawa

*With God's grace, the mission of our ministries
is to enable people to know Jesus Christ,
to live and share the good news,
to grow in faith and to serve God's world.*

October 6, 2016

The Honourable Jean-Yves Duclos P.C., M.P.
Minister for Families, Children, and Social Development
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

Dear Minister:

You have embarked upon an ambitious and challenging journey – designing a National Housing Strategy. As longstanding partners in addressing homelessness and affordable housing, The Anglican Church of Canada applauds this initiative and, as Bishop of the Anglican Diocese of Ottawa, I am delighted to join in the consultative process through the attached written submission that is based on our extensive experience and our strong commitment to ending homelessness and ensuring affordable housing for all.

As with any good sermon, I would highlight three important points.

Firstly, a National Housing Strategy needs to be built upon three pillars: adequate, predictable, and sustainable funding; effective collaboration and partnerships (including with faith-based organizations); and a spectrum of housing programs and service delivery models that respect national goals while reflecting local needs and circumstances.

Secondly, the needs are great and will require setting priorities. A National Housing Strategy needs to be multi-faceted but its main focus should be on inclusivity, social housing renewal, and creating better quality of life for those in greatest need, including Northern and Indigenous communities, families, seniors, and disabled adults. Ancillary social policies, including in physical and mental health, education, and nutrition, amongst others, need to be woven into an eventual strategy.

Finally, funding by governments, the private sector, and the not-for-profit sector, needs to be seen as investments rather than as expenditures. They will need to be long-term and provide sufficient flexibility to address local needs and circumstances. There is no "one-size-fits-all" program.

Please allow me to take this opportunity to add my prayers for a successful consultation on this vital social issue and for the discernment process ahead in designing a National Housing Strategy that offers hope for all Canadians.

Yours sincerely,

The Rt. Rev. John Chapman
Bishop of Ottawa

JHC/hnp
Encl.

Copy: Mr. Evan Siddall, CMHC
National Housing Strategy Team, CMHC
The Reverend Laurette A. Glasgow