

HOUSING



RECOMMENDATION:

That the federal government develop an initiative to **finance the construction of purpose-built post-secondary housing** supply \$800M fund to support the creation of ~18 500 purpose-built student housing units over 6 years, to be accessed **exclusively by non-profit organizations and cooperatives.**

Having stable, affordable housing is an essential factor in setting students up for academic success. Many students will move away from home to university and have to find housing in either university residences or in the private market. Census data from Statistics Canada indicated that unaffordable housing is highest in downtown census metropolitan areas (CMAs), primarily where post-secondary institutes are located (Gorski, 2023)¹⁸. According to a 2022 report from the Unité de travail pour l'implantation de logement étudiant (UTILE), 1.5 million university students were renters in 2021 (Utile, 2022). In Canada, housing is considered "affordable" if it costs less than 30% of an individual's income (CMCH, 2018)¹⁹. UTILE's report showed that 72% of students spent more than 30% of their income on housing costs, indicating that most students may not be living in affordable housing situations (Utile, 2022). Furthermore, 77% of renting students did not receive any parental support to pay their rent (Utile, 2022)²⁰.

In addition to housing, students take on many costs, such as tuition, groceries, and course materials while only being able to make limited income due to being full-time or part-time students. Given this context, the federal government should address unaffordable housing by investing in purpose-built student housing within the vicinity of post-secondary institutions.

UCRU recommends that the federal government implement an initiative similar to the province of British Columbia's Homes for People plan to build more affordable student housing (New Action Plan Delivers More Homes for People Faster, 2023)²¹. The government should establish an \$800 million indigeno fund to support the creation of these new affordable student housing units. The government should aim to partner with non-profit organizations and cooperatives to build these units, especially developers such as UTILE, a non-profit housing developer that works with student associations to build affordable student housing in Quebec (Roy, 2023)²².

CITATIONS:

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