

ROUTE



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FROM CITIES TO VILLAGES FOR THE RIGHT TO HOUSING

FRAPRU MARCH

FROM OTTAWA TO QUEBEC CITY

FROM SEPTEMBER 2 TO 29, 2018



The Front d'action populaire en réaménagement urbain (FRAPRU) is organising the march «**From Cities to Villages for the Right to Housing**» from **September 2 to 28, 2018**. It entails a route of more than 500 kms; it is without a doubt FRAPRU's most ambitious project to date. Each and every person that believes in the right to housing is invited to join the marchers for one or for several days.

The objective is to call-out to the two levels of government of the serious denial of the right to housing that oppresses low-income renters and the insufficient investments in the field of social housing.

THE RIGHT TO HOUSING IS FORGOTTEN

According to the Census 2016, 457 275 tenant households of Québec spend more than the standard 30% of their revenue for housing. Hundreds of thousands of people live in housing that is too expensive, in bad condition, or unhealthy conditions or too small. These bad housing conditions have a direct impact on their security, their health and the full enjoyment of their rights.



In the last five years, only 9 953 social housing units were delivered in Quebec, while more than 40 000 households are registered on the waiting list for social housing (HLM), without including those that hope for a unit in a cooperative or non-profit building.

GOVERNMENTS ARE NOT INVESTING AT THE LEVEL OF NEED

In spite of the pressing need in all of the regions, only 3 000 new social housing units are financed annually, with the funds coming from Quebec and Ottawa. However, at the same time, these levels of government are providing tax relief to the wealthy and to businesses and thereby reducing their revenues. The lack of investment in social housing is not a cash difficulty, it is a problem of political will.

On the Ottawa front, the majority of allocated funds in the Canadian National Housing Strategy will be spent after the elections, in the second mandate of a Trudeau government. Here, those households living in bad conditions and the homeless are ignored. We do not know what amount will be allocated to creation of new social housing and the amount to assist low-income households.

The federal government, as well as Québec, plan to grant new funding to the private sector to develop affordable housing, but this is totally inaccessible for low-income households, as rent is more than \$1 000 per month. The private rent subsidies destined for landlords (so that rent is at 25% of tenant revenue) will help with immediate need but, in the long-term contributes to inflation or cost-increase.



And more, the rent subsidies to private rents do not leave any community heritage built for the collective good.

In a similar vein, the private subsidies toward residential renovations result in an increase of rents and more often than not, are followed by the eviction of low-income tenants.

OUR DEMANDS

According to FRAPRU, social housing is the better way to open the door to the right to housing. It is a non-profit measure that does not respond to the profit logic; it is adapted to the different needs and it is subsidised; it protects against repossession and the tenant can directly intervene on their housing conditions. Social housing is a permanent solution to assist with housing needs and where the social and economic benefits are the most important and the most durable.

The march « From Cities to Villages for the Right to Housing » aims to:

- Make visible the problems of those living in bad housing conditions;
- Strengthen the solidarity between tenants, with the population and with the allies who support the right to housing;
- Obtain a promise from the federal and Québec governments to invest sufficient funds to respond to urgent needs, which goes to say, create in Québec **50 000 new social housing units in 5 years.**

TOGETHER. WE ADVANCE !

On September 2, 2018, marchers from across Québec will launch this important march by leaving Parliament Hill, in Ottawa, to arrive 28 days later at the National Assembly in Québec City.



The march is composed of segments of 15 to 25 km per day, with stops in 28 cities and villages of Québec. Local activities will be organised en route, with a demonstration at the half-way point in Montréal, September 13th . The march will end with a **major national demonstration in Québec City, on Saturday, September 29th**, just before the Québec general elections and the October 2 World Habitat Day.

To highlight the importance of the right to housing and defend social housing as a pillar of wealth redistribution and an integral part of fight against poverty, **support the march of FRAPRU and mobilise and motivate marchers to participate and contribute to this important event !** You can communicate your support by writing directly to FRAPRU.