

FEDERAL ELECTION 2019

\$\$\$ FOR



SOCIAL

HOUSING !



URGENT commitments required to tackle the **HOUSING CRISIS!**

Housing is not an ordinary consumer product; it is essential to everyone and is a determinant of health and education.

In Quebec, **244 120 tenant households have core housing needs**: they are living in a unit that is too expensive, too small and/or dilapidated, while their median income is only \$17 612 per year. With an average rent of \$760 per month, the private sector does not meet their needs at all.

For protection against market shocks, repossessions, transformations or conversions made for greater profits and/or from landlords' negligence, the best means is **social housing**. It is non-profit, collectively owned, subsidized and provides adequate housing at a reasonable price.

But federal investments in social housing represent an insignificant share of its budget. In 1993, the federal government provided \$2.1 billion to Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation for its housing programs (most of which were for social housing). This represented 1.3% of the federal government's spending budget for the year. Last March, the federal government contributed \$2.6 billion to CMHC (including a contribution to support the development of supposedly affordable private housing and private ownership). This represents only 0.9% of this year's federal spending budget. If Ottawa's hadn't withdrawn and reduced its investments in social housing in the early 1990s, there would now be 75,000 more units in Quebec...

Given the critical lack of truly affordable housing for people on low and modest incomes, **the wealth of the federal government** and **Canada's commitments for the right to housing**, **FRAPRU is demanding ambitious electoral commitments from the political parties** in contention in the October 2019 general election:

- 1. to invest at least \$2 billion per year in the construction of new social housing;**
- 2. to dedicate most of the funding provided in the Canadian Housing Strategy to social housing, especially to renovate private units in poor condition and convert them into cooperatives or non-profit housing;**
- 3. to guarantee all necessary funding for renovating, improving and modernizing existing social housing, as well as for keeping poor tenants' rents below 30% of their income.**

The future Federal government must put an end to the housing crisis that is taking root in Quebec and Canada! Too many households are seeing their budgets wiped out, month after month, because of their ever-increasing rent. Too many people get sick because of poor housing conditions. Too many families are driven out of their neighborhoods because the private sector builds mostly very expensive small dwellings.

**Political parties must commit to the right to housing
and social housing!**

