



700 Montreal Road
Ottawa Ontario K1A 0P7
Tel.: 613-748-2000

700, chemin Montréal
Ottawa (Ontario) K1A 0P7
Tél: 613-748-2000

January 11, 2021

Ms. Kim Gazo
kim@gazo.ca

Dear Ms. Gazo:

On behalf of the Honourable Ahmed Hussen, Minister of Families, Children and Social Development, I am responding to your email which the Office of the Prime Minister, the Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, forwarded on December 14, 2020. Please accept my apologies for the delay in providing you with a response.

As you know on October 27, 2020, the federal government launched the Rapid Housing Initiative (RHI) to address the urgent housing needs of vulnerable populations across the country in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. This \$1 billion investment will create up to 3,000 new permanent, affordable housing units across the country, through the construction of modular housing, the acquisition of land, and the conversion of existing buildings to affordable housing.

The Government of Canada has acted on the priorities expressed by key partners, including the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), provinces, territories, the Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness (CAEH), Canadian Housing and Renewal Association (CHRA), and other key housing organizations, associations and advocates, to help address the need for affordable housing.

Funding for this initiative was made available through two separate streams. The first stream, Major Cities Stream, expedited \$500 million to pre-determined municipalities with the highest incidence of renters in severe housing need. The second funding stream, Projects Stream, was a \$500 million application-based process opened to eligible applicants such as governments, Indigenous governing bodies and organizations, and non-profit organizations

That being said, the application window for the RHI Projects Stream closed on December 31, 2020. CMHC will review completed applications throughout January 2021. Our objective is to select the strongest applications that can most quickly house people and populations who are vulnerable as we aim to commit all funds before March 31st, 2021 and ensure housing is available within 12 month of agreements.

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In your email you expressed concern about the lack of funding towards shelters and affordable housing in Windsor and the Essex area. You may be interested to know that we recently announced investments of over [\\$5.5 million](#) in support of two new affordable housing developments to give people at risk of homelessness in Windsor and Kingsville a stable place to live.

We believe that everyone in Canada deserves a safe and affordable place to call home. This is why we launched Canada's first [National Housing Strategy](#) (NHS), a \$55+ billion plan that will not only eliminate housing need for 530,000 households and reduce chronic homelessness by 50%, but also seeks to improve affordability through new and existing policies. The RHI will contribute to the achievement of our NHS targets.

For more information on this and other initiatives under the NHS, I encourage you to visit our [website](#) and thank you for taking the time to write.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'P. Perron', with a stylized flourish at the end.

P. Perron
Manager, Parliamentary Affairs and Correspondence