

# Concerned about the Housing Crisis?

## Calgary Housing Action Initiative

We are a citizens' action group, organizing to ensure housing security for all. For someone to have housing security, they must have:

- A place to live that provides adequate shelter that can accommodate them and their family,
- Reasonable assurance that they will be able to continue to live there for some time (barring something like a natural disaster or war),
- Assurance that any requirement or inducement to leave will be accompanied by complete support for transition to an acceptable alternate place to live that incorporates full housing security.

For a community to have housing security it must have:

- Housing security for all.
- Diverse forms of housing to accommodate diverse needs (seniors, families, disabilities, singles, students, low-income, etc.).

Housing security doesn't end at the walls of your home. It's also access to essential utilities, transportation, environmental health, and community.

## Collective Action

We are bringing together individuals affected by the housing crisis, other allies in the community, organizations, support agencies, political groups, politicians, and anyone else who can help make positive change to bring an end to this crisis and ensure adequate housing for all in this city.

We support public engagement efforts for education, lobbying, mutual support, public awareness and the pursuit of new developments and alternatives in housing.

## Housing is a fundamental Human Right

See item 1 of article 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

From that, we conclude that:

Those who act in a manner that prevents people from having adequate access to housing are committing a human rights violation.

Those who have the awareness and capacity to act to prevent human rights violations, but fail to do so, are complicit in violating human rights.

Our governments certainly have the capacity to address the housing crisis, and we find it hard to believe that they don't have awareness of the crisis (and they certainly will become aware as our campaign progresses), so it falls to them to take immediate action or be guilty of failing to uphold human rights.



**calgary**housing  
action **initiative**

## Our Action Groups

We have a number of groups working on various aspects of the housing issues in Calgary. We may add more as they are needed. You are encouraged to participate in any of these groups.

- **Community Outreach:** Connecting with our neighbours to build awareness and a network of support. Email [outreach@housingaction.ca](mailto:outreach@housingaction.ca)
- **Housing Alternatives:** Initiating and supporting projects such as non-profit housing, housing co-operatives, cohousing, etc. Email [alternatives@housingaction.ca](mailto:alternatives@housingaction.ca)
- **Government Policy:** Lobbying for better protections and housing supports, policies to ensure adequate diverse housing options, and reinstatement of housing development funding. Email [policy@housingaction.ca](mailto:policy@housingaction.ca)
- **Stories & Documentation:** Gathering people's personal stories of housing issues in Calgary. Work is being done toward a video documentary as well as print and the internet. These stories will also be used to support our lobbying efforts and public awareness. Email [stories@housingaction.ca](mailto:stories@housingaction.ca)
- **Self Advocacy & Mutual Support:** Helping each other deal with housing crisis. Raising awareness of tenant rights. Connecting people with support agencies. Email [support@housingaction.ca](mailto:support@housingaction.ca)
- **Media:** Raising public awareness and pressure through media outreach. Email [media@housingaction.ca](mailto:media@housingaction.ca)

## Contacting the Government

Government of Alberta: 310-0000 [www.gov.ab.ca](http://www.gov.ab.ca)

City of Calgary: phone 311; fax 538-6111; 800 Macleod Tr SE  
[www.calgary.ca](http://www.calgary.ca)

Government of Canada: 1-800-O-Canada 800-622-6232 [www.canada.gc.ca](http://www.canada.gc.ca)

You can find out who your government representatives are at our meetings or through our website at [www.housingaction.ca](http://www.housingaction.ca)

## How to get support in Calgary

Phone 211 for help finding community, social or government services in Calgary. Free, confidential, multi-lingual and available 24 hours a day.

### Distress Centre—24 hour Free Crisis Lines

[www.distresscentre.com](http://www.distresscentre.com)

All Distress Centre crisis lines are open 24 hours, 365 days a year, including all holidays. Lines are managed by trained volunteers with staff support, backup and supervision available in the call centre at all times. We have five crisis phone numbers available:

### Main Crisis & Addictions Line (403)266-1605

For all crisis and distress issues, for men and women from all walks of life.

### Teen Line (403)264-TEEN/8336

Issues of concern to teens and their parents. The Teen Line is answered by youth volunteers from 4pm to 11pm every day and by adult volunteers the remaining time.

### Men's Line (403)266-HELP/4357

Support for men including issues of domestic violence, relationships and depression.

### Senior's Line (403)264-7700

Support for seniors and their caregivers, including elder care, elder abuse and the SeniorConnect program.

### Locating Housing

CUPS Calgary Housing Registry: [www.lowcostrent.org](http://www.lowcostrent.org)

Calgary Housing Company (subsidized housing): 221-9100;  
1701 Centre Street NW

### Other Groups

Homeless Awareness Week: [www.homelessawareness.ca](http://www.homelessawareness.ca) 205-6628

Calgary Homeless Foundation: [www.calgaryhomeless.com](http://www.calgaryhomeless.com) 262-2921

Calgary Women's Centre: [womens-centre.org](http://womens-centre.org) 264-1155; 646-1 Avenue NE

## Contact Us—Calgary Housing Action Initiative

Email: [admin@housingaction.ca](mailto:admin@housingaction.ca)

Web: [housingaction.ca](http://housingaction.ca)

Phone: 262-2934 (11am-7pm. **Not a support line**—CHAI organizing only!)

For housing and crisis support, see the listings above)

Postal: c/o 106, 223 - 12 Avenue SW, Calgary, AB T2R 0G9