

## Social Housing



### The Issue

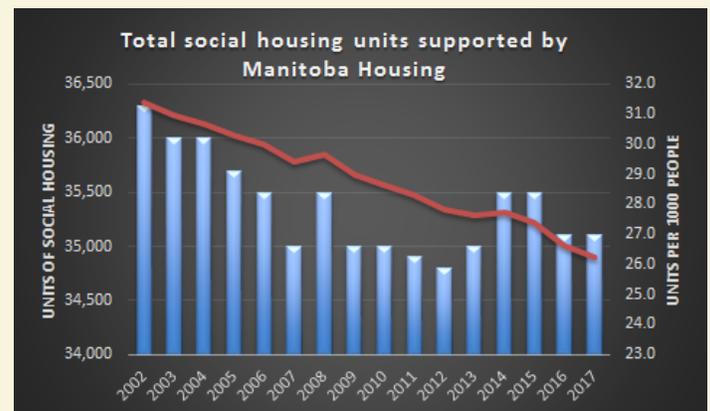
Housing is the single biggest expense for people living in poverty. According to the 2016 Census, more than 51,000 Manitoba households experience core housing needs: paying unaffordable rent, living in overcrowded or substandard housing and unable to afford suitable accommodations elsewhere.

### The Province's Role

Rent rates in the private market are out of reach of many low income families, even with subsidies like Rent Assist. For families and individuals with very low incomes, these units remained unaffordable. Currently the average rent for a two-bedroom in Winnipeg is \$1,179 per month, greater than the total income of many families. As a result, many families depend on social housing provided through Manitoba Housing, Co-ops or not-for-profit organizations. Social housing has rent geared to income, meaning that households pay no more than 30% of their income in rent, or if they are on Employment and Income Assistance, their rent is covered by their housing allowance.

There is a deep shortage of social housing in Manitoba. While the Province built over 1,700 units of social housing between 2009 and 2016, there has been little built since. Meanwhile, many social housing units are being lost, due to sale, lack of repair, or because operating agreements with the federal government have run out.

Bad upkeep is one of the key risks to existing housing stock. Housing advocates estimate it will cost at least \$100 million per year to maintain and upgrade social housing to preserve it for future generations.



### Questions to Ask

- Do you support provincial investment to build a minimum of 300 new units of rent-geared-to-income housing annually for five years to meet the increasing need of social housing for low-income families?
- Will you increase capital investment to maintain rent-geared-to-income housing for low-income families?