

EXPLORING POVERTY REDUCTION GAME CHANGER SERIES

GAME CHANGER #2 - HOUSING

Affordable, accessible, and appropriate housing that meets people’s unique needs, affordable utility costs, housing retention supports, and protection from eviction.



Housing is a core component of social infrastructure, plays an essential role in supporting economic and social well-being, serves as a stabilizing resource, and is one of the most basic requirements for health. Access to safe, secure, adequate, affordable, and suitable housing is fundamental to living a decent life, and can help people escape poverty, experience less unemployment, and participate fully in their communities. Once people find stable housing, they can focus on other important areas of their lives, such as education and employment, and can build strong futures for their children. It frees up their resources for other essentials, reduces stress, and lowers government costs on social services.

**What is a poverty reduction Game Changer? Read: [Sometimes to hear the music you have to turn down the noise.](#)
Have feedback or ideas on our Game Changer exploration? Let us know by filling out this [short survey.](#)**

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR BEST PRACTICES AND POLICIES

FEDERAL



[Government of Canada – Let’s Talk Housing](#) – Collaborative public consultations towards a National Housing Strategy that promotes universal access of Canadians to affordable housing.

PROVINCIAL / TERRITORIAL



Ontario Energy Board
CONSUMERS

[Help for Low-Income Consumers](#) – Monthly credit to reduce utility

costs, emergency financial assistance, one-time grants, waiving of security deposits, allowing for longer payment times, and energy conservation.

MUNICIPAL



[Federation of Canadian Municipalities \(FCM\) – Fixing Canada’s Housing Crunch](#) – More than 180 FCM member municipalities putting housing in the spotlight via council resolutions, roundtables, media, and messages to MPs, senators and the prime minister.



[City of Toronto Housing and Homelessness Services](#) – Social housing, rent bank, service guides, tenant defense, eviction protection, fee exemptions, and inclusionary zoning.



[At Home in Medicine Hat: Our Plan to End Homelessness](#) – Accountable and measurable plan to end homelessness through a collaborative housing first model that ensures safe and secure homes for all citizens.

COMMUNITY

[Lutherwood’s Rent Bank and Eviction Prevention Program](#) – Assists tenants who have short-term emergency rental arrears due to unforeseen circumstance and are facing eviction for non-payment of rent.