

Resolution

National Affordable Housing Energy Efficiency Program

Canadian Housing & Renewal Association

WHEREAS, Canada faces the national challenge of a growing affordable housing crisis; and

WHEREAS, the Canadian Housing & Renewal Association believes that the health and well-being of Canada's communities depend on the provision of appropriate, secure, decent, sustainable and affordable housing; and

WHEREAS, the retention and improvement of Canada's existing affordable housing stock must be a key element of a national housing strategy; and

WHEREAS, Canada also faces the national challenge of implementing the Kyoto Protocol to address global climate change; and

WHEREAS, energy efficient housing upgrades provide an important, cost-effective opportunity to improve affordability and sustainability by lowering energy costs – freeing wasted energy spending to address core housing needs, improving home health and indoor air quality, and reducing pollution and greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to climate change; and

WHEREAS, the Green Communities Association (GCA) is a national network of nonprofit community-based organizations that have delivered 150,000 home energy performance assessments in all regions of Canada, including low-income and social housing retrofit programs; and

WHEREAS, the GCA has demonstrated that households can reduce energy consumption an average 34%/year and cut greenhouse gas emissions by 3.9 tonnes/year by undertaking energy efficient upgrades – results which led the Government of Canada to announce a \$73 million national Retrofit Incentive Program for homeowners in 2003; and

WHEREAS, the Retrofit Incentive Program does not include Canada's rental housing sector, where 70% of Canada's housing affordability problem exists; and

WHEREAS, the GCA, in partnership with its Montréal member Équiterre, is calling for a national affordable housing energy efficiency program to help low income Canadians cut energy bills, housing costs and pollution;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the CHRA supports Green Communities Association's call for a national affordable housing energy efficiency strategy, and that CHRA agrees to participate with the GCA to engage stakeholders in developing this strategy.

From: SARAH (Sarah Miller)
To: jsimon@indecoco.com, mcclenaghan@execulink.com, THERESAM
Subject: (fwd) National Affordable Housing Energy Efficiency Program
Attachment: 1D2D67AD, 1D2D6C2C
Attachment-name: "GCA Resolution CHRA March2004.doc",
"NAHEEP Backgrounder CHRA.doc"
Re-Sent-By: SARAH (Sarah Miller) ; on 21-Apr-2004 09:48

Marilyn: See action update below (originally sent to housing providers/advocates who attended GCA session on the above topic). Perhaps ONDP could review and consider endorsing this concept.

Dear Colleagues:

Thanks to all of you (71 in total!) who attended the Green Communities Association's April 1 luncheon session in Vancouver at the CHRA congress ("Where Affordable Housing Meets Kyoto"). We hope you found the session useful. I'm also sending this to several of you who could not attend the session but who expressed interest in the subject.

At the GCA session, you asked to be kept informed of progress in promoting a national Affordable Housing Energy Efficiency Program (NAHEEP) in Canada, similar to programs which have existed in the US for 30 years aimed at financing energy efficient upgrades to existing affordable housing stock.

Here's what you can do to help:

The GCA requests that you review the attached resolution and backgrounder on the concept, and that you encourage your organization (and allied organizations) to formally endorse the resolution in the near future, as CHRA did at its recent annual members meeting (see GCA e-news excerpt below). For those of you representing municipal housing providers, I can provide an FCM version of the resolution. Just ask me for it.

Your support for the concept will help us pave the way for national stakeholder consultations in 2004, and the development of a full program concept to be considered for national implementation in 2005 and beyond.

I look forward to hearing from you (feel free to contact me in the meantime if you have any questions).

Thanks for your interest in sustainable, affordable housing.

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NEWS FROM GREEN COMMUNITIES

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AFFORDABILITY, KYOTO. The GCA's proposal for a national Affordable Housing Energy Efficiency Program was officially endorsed by the Canadian Housing and Renewal Association (www.chra-achru.ca <<http://www.chra-achru.ca/>>) at its recent AGM,... When asked about the proposal, MP John Godfrey (Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister) told 300 CHRA members and the media that "it's an example of a beautiful win-win ... and CMHC should help give favour to such strategies."

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