NDP Caucus News

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A Call to Action from Dinn on National Housing Day

Below is a statement from NL NDP Leader Jim Dinn (St. John's Centre) calling for action ahead of National Housing Day:

"On National Housing Day, November 22nd, we recognize the fundamental right to safe and affordable housing – a right that too many people in Newfoundland and Labrador are being denied."

"The housing crisis in our province continues to burden many people, especially seniors on fixed incomes and those who are trying to pull themselves out of homelessness. Rents are soaring, vacancy rates are plummeting, and families, seniors, students, and individuals are struggling to keep a roof over their heads. This is a crisis that demands real solutions and real leadership, but so far, both the former Liberal government and the current Conservative government has failed to deliver."

"I have asked both governments to openly declare housing as a human right and write it into legislation, ensuring government must act to fight this growing crisis. Unfortunately, neither government would take this step, showing that the housing crisis isn't something either government prioritizes. It's going to take hard work, and I don't know if this government is ready to do that work."

"Let's be clear: the lack of affordable, available housing is at the root of many issues in our province. We see it in the struggle to recruit and retain healthcare workers, teachers, and other essential workers, especially in rural communities where there is nowhere for them and their families to live. We see it in overcrowded emergency rooms, where unhoused people end up seeking warmth or care while trying to survive our cold climate. And we see it in our overloaded justice system, where people are missing the housing and supports they need to stay out of the system and succeed. We need a housing-first approach, and that begins with investing in public, non-market housing."

"The NL NDP has been fighting for action on housing for years, bringing forward many solutions that would begin the journey of fixing what successive governments have failed to invest in. During the election, we announced our NL Homes plan that would focus on building public, non-market housing, ensuring that the province has the stock it needs to house people who need it at the level they need to thrive. We announced our housing plan in 2024 and have continued to strengthen the measures, pushing for a structured approach.

"Just like the former Liberal government, the Conservative's seem to be focused solely on the private market to pull us out of this crisis. We know that there is a role for the private market, but that is not the way we overcome this crisis. We must invest in public,

non-profit housing. We must reign in skyrocketing rents from large, financialized landlords that are pricing seniors and families out of their homes. If this government thinks the private market and private housing starts count towards solving this crisis, we will see this crisis deepen over the next number of years. It's time to act – we can't wait any longer."

"The people of Newfoundland and Labrador deserve a government that prioritizes their well-being. On this National Housing Day, I call on the provincial government to do the real work to ensure every resident has a place to call home. The solutions are on the table; it's time to act."

Dinn invites the public to join him and representatives of ACORN Canada next week for a series of workshops and a town hall celebrating National Housing Day:

Workshop: Organize – Renter Reform
St. John's
November 23rd
2:30PM to 4:30PM
First Point, 30 Harvey Road

Clarenville
November 24th
10:00AM to 12:00PM
Clarenville Public Library, 98 Manitoba Drive

Town Hall – How to Build a Tenant Union
St. John's
November 23rd
7:00PM to 9:00PM
Legion Branch #1, 57 Blackmarsh Road

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