



Statement by the Community Data Program of the Canadian Community Economic Development Network

The Community Data Program (CDP) is a member-funded initiative of the Canadian Community Economic Development Network (CCEDNet). Members include municipalities, non-profit and charitable agencies, and other organizations and individuals committed to poverty reduction and community capacity-building at a local level.

The CDP itself is does not undertake advocacy for policy initiatives. Rather it is a support service to some 400 community-based decision-making bodies seeking to provide them with strategic data and evidence-based decision-making tools, including on solutions to housing issues.

Since October of 2020, the CDP has been engaged in a CMHC Solutions Lab focused on innovative Community Decision-Making Tools, together with associated requirements for fine-grained housing data at a community or neighbourhood scale. This project is reaching out both to members of the Canadian Housing Policy Roundtable (CHPR) and to the community of interest in housing issues and solutions as a whole. To date, a survey of needs and priorities for housing data has been sent out to more than 1,000 people across Canada.

In this connection, the CDP notes with satisfaction and strongly supports the focused attention being given to improving housing data for decision-making by the CHPR in the following regards:

- That a comprehensive system of positive indicators to track community-level to national progress in reducing chronic homelessness over time be developed and implemented.
- That, by implication, data on attrition of affordable rental housing be improved and that an indicator of loss of this stock in comparison with new affordable rental construction be adopted.
- That, by implication, data on rental evictions by community be collected and published, recognizing that "...as a result of COVID-19, previously precarious but steadily employed workers... became vulnerable and at risk for eviction". The CHPR also notes in this connection that "Eviction notices in large urban centres like Toronto are disproportionately filed in communities in which Black and low-income renter populations live, and evictions disproportionately affect those with low incomes, lone parent families, children, female headed households, single adults, Indigenous people, newcomers, racialized people, and those with mental health challenges." All of the latter are vulnerable groups given priority in solutions advanced by the National Housing Strategy.

For further information, please contact: Michel Frojmovic, Program Lead, Community Data Program at michel@communitydata.ca.

The Community Data Program is an initiative of the [Canadian Community Economic Development Network \(CCEDNet\)](#), a national association of organizations and people throughout Canada committed to strengthening communities by creating economic opportunities that enhance social and environmental conditions.