



CASW ACTS

Canadian Association of Social Workers / Association canadienne des travailleuses et travailleurs sociaux

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November 2, 2021

The Honourable Ahmed Hussen
Minister of Housing and Diversity and Inclusion
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
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Dear Minister Hussen,

On behalf of the Canadian Association of Social Workers (CASW), I would like to extend our sincere congratulations on your re-election and historic appointment as the new Minister of Housing and Diversity and Inclusion for the Government of Canada. We know from your time as Minister of Families, Children and Social Development that you deeply understand the importance of the social determinants of health. This perspective will be even more vital as Canada responds to the health and wellness challenges exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

We are delighted to see your government centering housing, as well as diversity and inclusion, through the development of this new role. Especially in the wake of the pandemic, housing is such a critical issue – CASW has long been a supporter of housing first approaches and for the practical application of housing as a human right. We welcomed the historic legislation that enabled the National Housing Strategy to progressively realize housing in Canada as a human right.

Affordable housing was, rightfully, a dominant issue during the election campaign, and we look forward to your government's swift implementation of promises made, chiefly the introduction of a dedicated urban, rural and northern Indigenous housing strategy, increasing the supply of community housing, and addressing housing financialization.

Again, on behalf of the CASW federation, I extend our sincere congratulations on your appointment as Minister of Housing and Diversity and Inclusion. There is much work to be done as we begin charting a new course in the wake of COVID-19, but we are hopeful that, with your leadership, Canada can look beyond just recovery, but to a bold, just, and novel future. We look forward to the forthcoming mandate letters, and to supporting your work and the Government of Canada more broadly.

Sincerely,

Joan Davis-Whelan, MSW, RSW
President, CASW