

# Let's Talk

## .... About Affordable Housing and Rent Supplements.

To integrate a short discussion into your meeting, we suggest that you choose only one or two points to talk about and that you set a time limit.  
How do the points discussed apply to the neighbours you serve?

### *Some people think...*

We should just provide a monthly rent supplement to people who qualify for affordable housing. It is way cheaper than building and managing non-profit social housing.

### *But the reality is....*

Although Rent Supplements may be part of the solution to the affordable housing crisis...

- Building dedicated social housing, despite its initial cost, is a better longterm investment. A study by the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives concluded that \$100M could produce 24,000 affordable household years if spent on building non-profit social housing and only 17,000 affordable household years if spent on providing rent-supplements.
- Providing rent supplements does nothing to increase the housing supply. Affordability is largely determined by the scarcity of housing options.
- In a tight rental market, landlords might choose to rent to people who do not qualify for a subsidy over a single parent with 3 children and a subsidy.
- Social Housing is more secure (less risk of eviction) and commonly contains the supports and community connections required by people living in poverty.

### *So now what?*

- Would you support the building of social housing in your neighbourhood?
- Do you think rent supplements on their own are a viable solution to the affordable housing crisis?

For more info see <http://themainlander.com/2014/06/17/rent-supplements-or-social-housing-which-do-we-need/>