

November 27, 2019

The Honourable Josephine Pon, Minister of Seniors and Housing  
404 Legislature Building  
10800 - 97 Avenue NW  
Edmonton, AB  
Canada T5K 2B6

Dear Minister Pon,

**RE: 2019 Alberta Provincial Budget – Senior and Housing**

Thank you for being a strong voice amongst cabinet members on the value of affordable housing for Albertans.

The YWCAs of Alberta support over 30,000 Albertans in rural and urban areas across the province. We believe in a better Alberta that removes the policy red-tape that prevents vulnerable Albertans from thriving.

We were pleased to see ongoing support for the development and maintenance of affordable housing, provision of rental supports, and commitment to providing housing to Albertans across their lifespan.

More specifically, through these fiscal times we would like to applaud government's commitment to the following areas:

- Making housing affordable and accessible for Albertans is a critical goal to achieving a more inclusive, equitable, and supportive Alberta society. This includes, the investment in Family Community Housing, Seniors Community Housing, and Special Needs Housing.
- Creating new capital programs that facilitate partnerships between all orders of government, community operators, and private sector are key to creating integrated and thriving communities.
- The intent to maximize the federal funding for Alberta under the National Housing Strategy to support housing affordability for Albertans, and protect and redevelop Alberta's affordable housing portfolio.

Strategic recommendations to enhance affordable housing in Alberta:

- Recommit to the goals and objectives of the *Provincial Affordable Housing Strategy*; and
- Establish a working group with civil society organizations to make the procurement of affordable housing more expedient mitigate risk, and increase efficiency. This working group would also provide feedback on how to strategically utilize Public-Private Partnerships for affordable housing development.

We welcome an opportunity to discuss these recommendations in further detail with you along with Ministry staff in Edmonton or Calgary, at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

Sue Tomney, Chief Executive Officer, YWCA Calgary  
Connie MacDonald, Chief Executive Officer, YWCA Banff  
Amber Niemeier, Interim Chief Executive Officer, YWCA Edmonton  
Lena Neufeld, Program Director, YWCA of Lethbridge

INTERVENE

EMPOWER

LEAD