



THE NATIONAL  
**RIGHT TO HOUSING**  
NETWORK

A 5-year review on  
the **right to housing**  
movement in  
Canada.



20  
24

ANNUAL  
**REPORT**

# LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

As we reflect on five years of advancing housing justice, at the National Right to Housing Network (NRHN), we acknowledge that our work takes place on the traditional and unceded territories of Indigenous Peoples across what is now called Canada. From coast to coast to coast, these lands have been cared for by First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples for countless generations.

We recognize that housing justice cannot be separated from reconciliation, as the ongoing impacts of colonialism, systemic racism, and displacement continue to harm Indigenous communities. At the National Right to Housing Network, we remain committed to centering Indigenous leadership and perspectives in our work, and to supporting the right of Indigenous Peoples to self-determination, including the right to housing that is culturally appropriate and reflective of their needs.

We also recognize that we are on a journey of learning and growing. As a Network, we are committed to doing better—by listening more deeply, engaging more meaningfully, and building stronger relationships rooted in trust, respect, and accountability. We invite our members, partners, and collaborators to join us in reflecting on our shared responsibilities and working collectively to advance housing justice rooted in self-determination, equity, and dignity for Indigenous communities across the land.

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# TOGETHER FOR HOUSING JUSTICE

## Acknowledgement to funders, partners, supporters

The right to housing movement is strengthened by the people, organizations, and communities who believe in housing as a fundamental human right and work tirelessly to make it a reality. This movement thrives because of the people who show up for it—those who provide the resources to sustain the work, those who share their knowledge and experiences to shape it, and those who challenge systems to ensure that the voices of those most impacted drive meaningful action.

We at the National Right to Housing Network (NRHN) are deeply grateful to stand alongside funders, partners, and allies who bring their passion, expertise, and unwavering commitment to advancing housing justice. As we reflect on the past five years, we want to extend our heartfelt thank you to all of our funders for being part of this movement and for your ongoing work to advance a future rooted in justice, equity, and dignity.

*Please Note: While their support has been invaluable, it is important to note that this report and its contents do not necessarily reflect the views or endorsements of the organizations listed below. Any findings, conclusions, or recommendations presented here are those of NRHN and may not represent the official stance of our funders or partners.*

*For projects funded by Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) under the National Housing Strategy Solutions Labs initiative (i.e., Advancing the Right to Housing for Women & Gender-Diverse Persons: Developing National Rights-Based Shelter Standards Using a GBA+ Framework), the views expressed are the personal views of the author, and CMHC accepts no responsibility for them.*

## Thank you to our funders (February 2020–March 2024)



# LETTER FROM OUR NATIONAL DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

Today, on our 5-year anniversary, we celebrate you.

As we share the National Right to Housing Network's first-ever Annual Report, we want to take a moment to thank you—our partners, supporters, and allies—for standing with us and believing that together, we can end Canada's housing crisis by breathing life into Canada's right to housing legislation and upholding everyone's human right to housing.

Back in 2020, when the National Right to Housing Network (NRHN) was launched, we were fueled by hope. The National Housing Strategy Act had just passed, bringing home the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and creating the roles of the Federal Housing Advocate, National Housing Council, and Review Panel. It was a milestone that promised change—a chance to tackle homelessness and housing precarity in a meaningful way. NRHN was created to bring this promise to life, to ensure that the right to housing isn't just words on paper but something that people can hold and use to challenge systemic barriers to housing.

We began as a small group of 200 organizations and individuals, and today, we've grown into a network of over 2,000 partners, supported by dedicated working groups, an exceptional staff team, and a brilliant Steering Committee who are ready to take on any challenge.

The success of our right to housing movement is based on relationships of trust and care for one another, and this report is full of stories and milestones that highlight what's possible when we work together.

This is so important right now, as Canada enters an environment where political shifts can pose significant threats to the human right to housing. The NRHN's key role as the connective tissue of the housing rights movement is more critical than ever. We know that in the next years, the legacy of the NHSA will be tested, but as we

navigate the challenges and opportunities over the next few years, I promise that the NRHN will be there to ensure that the NHSA mechanisms and their transformational legacy for economic and social rights is not only preserved but also meaningfully and strategically utilized.

Thank you for being part of this journey. I genuinely believe that if the mechanisms established in the NHSA genuinely allow those who have borne the brunt of Canada's housing crisis to work collaboratively with governments and decision-makers to close systemic gaps, Canada will see an end to homelessness and reduction of inadequate housing.

We couldn't have made it this far without you, and we're excited to see what we can achieve together in the years to come.

With gratitude and determination,



Michèle Biss

**National Director**

**National Right to Housing Network**

# LETTER FROM OUR STEERING COMMITTEE

Dear Friends, Supporters, and Members of our Network,

As the National Right to Housing Network marks its 5-year anniversary, we could not be more honoured to have this opportunity to mark how far we've come and to look forward to the indispensable work ahead. Since 2019, the National Right to Housing Network has worked determinedly to expand and mobilize a robust national community dedicated to advancing the right to housing, ensuring that people and institutions with power hear from and listen to the people most impacted by the national housing crisis unfolding across these lands.

Housing is a cornerstone to the equitable enjoyment of all aspects of human rights and to fostering social, economic, cultural, physical and mental health and justice. NHRN has been a guiding light, breathing life and urgency into the right to housing, helping to build a shared path towards many collective visions.

The existence of the National Housing Strategy Act (NHTSA) and Office of the Federal Housing Advocate (OFHA) are the culmination of decades of dogged determination and effort by diverse communities, organizations and individuals. The NHRN is grateful to those who laid the groundwork for the NHTSA and OFHA and proud to commit to continue to advance the right to housing for years to come.

In just 5 years, NHRN has been integral in shaping federal human rights reviews through the Office of the Federal Housing Advocate, leading to key human rights findings and policy alternatives for people living in encampments, people costed out of housing through financialization, and prioritizing the voices of Indigenous, gender diverse and disability communities.

NHRN has expanded, diversified and mobilized a strong national network of people advancing the right to housing, and is committed to ensuring that people with lived expertise lead the way. As a network, NHRN's strength is that of all the organizational and individual partners we are honoured to work with and the funders that support our work. The connections and relationships we hold with all of you are the heart-centre of NHRN's work and the source of our inspiration.



The road ahead is not without challenges. The systemic barriers we and our loved ones face and the urgency of the deepening housing crisis can feel daunting. It is because of this that we are ever-more committed to advancing progress with our partners. Though it may sound trite – it is nonetheless deeply true – we are stronger together.

Our shared work is more important than ever. With our eyes on the horizon and our collective vision clear, NHRN will continue our learning and labour, doing all we can to be the strong and steady current that supports all of you who are the rising tides of change.

In solidarity,



Anita Khanna  
**Steering Committee Member**  
**National Right to Housing Network**



DJ Larkin  
**Steering Committee Member**  
**National Right to Housing Network**

## NRHN Steering Committee:

Janine Harvey

**Executive Director**

**Tahiuqtiit Women's Society**

Elizabeth McIsaac

**President**

**Maytree**

Bruce Porter

**Executive Director**

**Social Rights Advocacy Centre**

Courtney Lockhart

**Associate Director,  
Public Affairs & Policy**

**CHF Canada**

Danielle Sabelli

**Lawyer**

**Community Law Program  
at the Community Legal  
Assistance Society**

Véronique Laflamme

**Community organizer  
and spokesperson**

**Front d'action populaire en  
réaménagement urbain (FRAPRU)**

Debbie McGraw

**Former Co-Chair**

**Canadian Lived Experience  
Leadership Network**

Anita Khanna

**National Director, Public Policy  
and Government Relations**

**United Way Centraide Canada**

DJ Larkin

**Executive Director**

**Canadian Drug Policy Coalition**

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2019, Canada's [National Housing Strategy Act](#) recognized housing as a human right, marking a historic turning point in the fight for housing justice. It signaled a long-overdue recognition that housing is not just a necessity but a cornerstone of justice, equity, and human rights.

Since our establishment in February 2020, the National Right to Housing Network (NRHN) has worked to turn the promise of the right to housing into meaningful action. Over the past five years, the momentum of the movement has grown steadily through the leadership of rights holders and the coordinated efforts of advocates, partners, and allies. The strength of the movement lies in its ability to connect voices across communities, foster collaboration, and push for systemic change that holds governments accountable to their human rights obligations.

Right now, the right to housing movement stands at a critical juncture. For many, this right still remains out of reach, as systemic inequities and structural barriers continue to shape housing insecurity across the country. Housing continues to be treated as a commodity rather than a human right, shaped by the influence of private actors and large-scale investors who prioritize profit over people. This has driven up housing costs, reduced affordability, and worsened access for those most in need. Funding for community housing solutions has slowly begun to flow, but not at a speed to meet the tremendous affordable housing needs. Displacement of residents from encampments continues to be a harmful response to homelessness, and governments have failed to adequately invest in adequate, affordable, long-term housing solutions and prevention strategies. These realities disproportionately affect Indigenous Peoples, Black and racialized communities, women, gender-diverse people, persons with disabilities, youth, and other marginalized groups, whose access to housing remains constrained by systemic oppression and exclusion.

At the same time, the movement itself is growing stronger and more unified. More and more people across Canada are beginning to see themselves in the fight for housing justice. The language of the right to housing is increasingly being used to frame solutions and hold governments accountable to their legislated commitments. This shared vision has fueled the movement's expansion, creating stronger networks of support, deeper collaboration, and greater opportunities to

advance rights-based approaches at all levels of government. The collective power of the movement is evident in the growing alignment of voices calling for housing that is recognized not as a privilege, but as a fundamental human right.

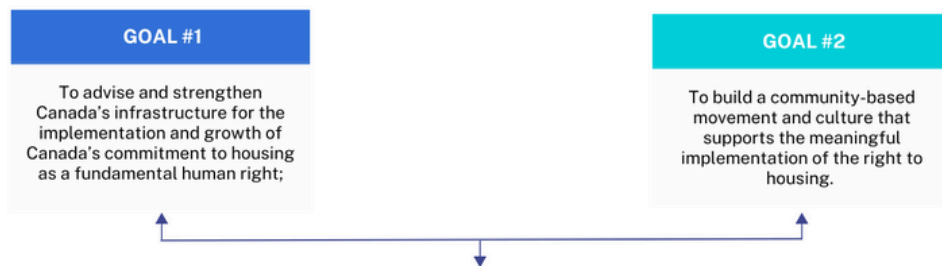
This report highlights the progress, partnerships, and collective actions that have driven the right to housing movement forward, with a particular focus on key milestones and achievements in 2024. We reflect on NRHN's role as a connective tissue, and our commitment to mobilizing civil society and advocating for rights-based housing solutions that prioritize those most impacted by the crisis. From major policy advancements such as the introduction of the Tenant Protection Fund to the impact of the Advocate-led reviews on encampments, this year has seen critical breakthroughs.

As you read through, we invite you to reflect on both the challenges facing the right to housing movement today – but also the accomplishments of the past five years. The work ahead will not be easy, but together—with the strength of this network and the commitment of those who believe in housing as a human right—we will relentlessly continue to push for the systemic changes needed to make this vision a reality.

# OUR VISION, MISSION, AND VALUES



**MISSION:** The mission of the NRHN is to mobilize a broad-based, grassroots civil society network to support the full realization of the right to adequate housing in Canada.



As the connective tissue for the housing justice movement, our Network is guided by the National Housing Strategy Act (NHSA) and international human rights law and is informed by first voice advocates and rights holders. Using a human rights-based, collaborative, and dynamic structure, we drive forward the following objectives:



## 01 Foster Collaborative Relationships with Partners and NHSA bodies

- Strengthen relationships and create mechanisms for dialogue with OFHA, National Housing Council and partners to demonstrate proof of concept, i.e. to ensure NHSA processes are meaningful in practically advancing the right to housing.

## 02 Engage Federal Policy Makers

- Build relationships, advocate, and promote dialogue with federal, bureaucratic and political actors from all parties to promote accountability to the meaningful implementation of the right to housing throughout all policies, budgets, laws, and programs.

## 03 Community Engagement and Advocacy

- Connect rights holders, community organizations and civil society to bring forth claims, evidence and issues to the National Housing Strategy Act (NHSA) and United Nations (UN) bodies through collaboration, capacity-building and education initiatives.

## 04 Support Strategic Litigation

- Hold inclusive and collaborative spaces to strengthen the bonds within the legal community and advance strategic litigation efforts in pursuit of housing justice for marginalized communities.

## NRHN's Core Values

At the National Right to Housing Network, our work is guided by a set of core values that reflect our shared commitment to advancing housing justice in Canada. These values shape how we engage with partners, collaborate across communities, and support one another. They inform not only our external work, but also how we build and sustain a values-driven internal culture.

[Learn more about our core values and how they guide our work here.](#)

# 2019–2023

A snapshot of Canada's right to housing movement, and NRHN's involvement, since the launch of Canada's first right to housing legislation, the 2019 National Housing Strategy Act.

# NRHN KEY MOMENTS

## Feb 6, 2020

The NRHN is launched to ensure the full implementation of the NHTSA with the support of over 75 organizations, experts, and advocates for the right to housing.

## Jan 2021

NRHN holds a webinar with the Canadian Lived Experience Leadership Network on the importance of centring lived experts and first voice advocates in Canada's right to housing discourse.

## Feb 2021

NRHN presents to the newly formed National Housing Council in the inaugural meeting, with historical context for the NHTSA, and to set the context of civil society expectations.

## Feb 2021

NRHN launches its first iteration of the First Voice Advocate Working Group.

## Oct 2021

NRHN and Women's National Housing & Homelessness Network releases [three reports](#) & offer recommendations on how the federal government can implement a rights-based approach to housing.

# RIGHT TO HOUSING KEY MOMENTS

## Jun 2019

Canada's first right to housing legislation—[The National Housing Strategy Act](#) (NHTSA)—receives royal ascent.

## Nov 2020

Government of Canada Announces Membership of the first-ever [National Housing Council](#) and begins searching for the first Federal Housing Advocate.

**Dec 2021**

NRHN & Canadian Centre for Housing Rights develop a pamphlet with a list of rights-based resources in each province and territory for renters facing eviction.

**Jan 2022**

NRHN appears before the federal Standing Committee on Finance to discuss how we can curb financialization & rising housing prices through human rights-based policy & regulation.

**Jan 2022**

NRHN publishes a [literature review on progressive realization](#) & is asked to develop right to housing training modules for members of the National Housing Council.

**Feb 2022**

Marie-Josée Houle becomes Canada's first [Federal Housing Advocate](#).

**Feb 2022**

NRHN forms new legal, community engagement, and government relations working groups.

**Apr 2022**

NRHN co-hosts the first-ever [town hall](#) to introduce the Federal Housing Advocate to Network members & for the Advocate to hear about the key systemic housing issues across Canada.

**May 2022**

The Federal Housing Advocate's launches new [public submission process](#) to start receiving right to housing claims.



**Sept 2022**

Federal Housing Advocate calls for the very first review panel on the issue of “corporate investments in rental housing.”

**Jan 2023**

National Housing council announces first review panel on the issue of the “financialization of purpose-built rental housing” as requested by the Federal Housing Advocate.

**Feb 2023**

Federal Housing Advocate launches her first [formal review on encampments](#) across Canada.

**Jan 2023**

NRHN begins creating [online resources](#) to educate the public on what review panels are, how to participate, and begins to plan community calls with Network partners and advocates.

**Apr 2023**

NRHN & the Canadian Centre for Housing Rights make [a submission](#) to Canada’s fourth Universal Periodic Review at the United Nations on Canada’s right to housing record & recommendations.

**Aug 2023**

NRHN launches [review panel landing page](#) with resources based on community need, including: written submission templates, a human rights language guide, examples of real submissions, and answers to frequently asked questions.

**Aug 2023**

NRHN releases “[Stark Truths: Indigenous Housing Realities & Solutions in Northern, Remote Communities](#).”

**Aug 2023**

The review panel receives over 190 [written submissions](#) from civil society, human rights experts, academics and advocates from all across Canada.

**Oct 2023**

NRHN hosts community calls to help prepare Network partners for their oral hearing testimonies for the financialization review panel.

**Oct 2023**

The Federal Housing Advocate releases an [interim report](#) from her formal review of encampments in Canada.

**Nov 2023**

NRHN co-hosts a [virtual panel](#) with the Office of the Federal Housing Advocate on human rights-based solutions to Canada’s housing supply issue.

**Oct 2023**

The historic oral hearings for Canada’s first-ever review panel on the financialization of housing begin.

**Nov 2023**

NRHN hosts the right to housing stream at the 2023 National Conference on Ending Homelessness in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

**Dec 2023**

NRHN, Canadian Centre for Housing Rights, and Professor Sarah Buhler launches a blog series on our [joint project](#) exploring a human rights and youth-centred approach to eviction law in Canada.

**Dec 2023**

National Housing Council submits its report "[Co-Creating the Right to Adequate Housing in Canada](#)" to the Minister of Housing on solving the housing crisis starting with delivering programs, policies and legislation centered on the rights and housing needs of people in Canada.

**Dec 2023**

NRHN releases a new [Housing Tell blog](#) on what the Universal Periodic Review is & how advocates can use it to apply pressure on the Canadian government to fulfil its commitments to the right to housing.

# 2024

A YEAR IN FOCUS

# NRHN KEY MOMENTS

## Jan 25, 2024

NRHN releases our [Resourcing Rights Claimants](#) paper calling for more government funding for rights-holders to claim their right to housing through NHTS access-to-justice mechanisms.

## Mar 26, 2024

NRHN co-hosts a [public discussion](#) with the Federal Housing Advocate, grassroots organizers, and lived experts to explore the implementation of a National Encampments Response Plan.

## April, 2024

NRHN co-hosts [youth-led workshops](#) in Saskatoon and Toronto, where participants envisioned what a world without evictions and where housing was treated like a human right look like.

# RIGHT TO HOUSING KEY MOMENTS

## Feb 13, 2024

The Federal Housing Advocate, Marie-Josée Houle, calls for a [National Encampments Response Plan](#) in her final report & recommendations on Canada's encampments.

## Feb 13, 2024

The federal government releases its response to the HUMA Committee's recommendations, directly referencing the importance of resourcing community to engage with NHTS mechanisms.

## Mar, 2024

The National Housing Council (NHC) announces that the written submissions & oral hearing recordings from Canada's very first review panel on the financialization of housing are now [available on their website](#).

### April, 2024

NRHN's National Director spoke alongside the Migrant Rights Network to debunk harmful narratives linking undocumented migration to Canada's housing crisis.

### May to Sept, 2024

NRHN continues to meet with federal officials, advocating for stronger tenant protections, affordable housing investments, and human rights-centered approaches to address the housing and homelessness crisis.

### May 2024

The [final recommendations](#) from Canada's very first human rights-based review panel on the financialization of purpose-built rental housing are released.

### May 22, 2024

A [report](#) by the Parliamentary Budget Office reiterates what we've heard from civil society, housing, & homelessness experts (as well as UN authorities)—Canada is not spending enough to address homelessness.

### May 30, 2024

The federal housing minister [officially responds](#) to the Federal Housing Advocate's report & recommendations on encampments in Canada.

### Jun 18, 2024

The federal government [announces largest investment](#) (\$1.5 billion) into [co-op housing](#) we've seen in over 30 years, a program co-developed by NRHN's partners at CHF Canada.

### Jun 19, 2024

The Federal Housing Advocate & Canadian Human Rights Commission launch a [monitoring system](#) to track housing outcomes of people with disabilities

**Jul 2024**

NRHN creates a [2025 Pre-Budget Submission](#).

**Jul 18, 2024**

The federal government announces a Renters' Bill of Rights aimed to strengthen tenant protections across the country. ACORN calls for National Tenant Rights Standards that apply to all provinces & territories.

**Jul 2024**

The [\\$15 million Tenant Protection Fund](#) that the federal government announced in Budget 2024 officially launches & began accepting funding proposals.

**Sept 2024**

NRHN and key partners develop a [joint submission](#) to the United Nations CEDAW Committee on Canada's track record in eliminating all forms of discrimination against women.

**A major R2H win!**



This funding program represents the culmination of years of advocacy effort by our team at the National Right to Housing Network (NRHN), where we have been calling for federal funding to help organizations and individuals combat systemic issues in housing, protect tenants' rights, and ultimately advance the right to housing for all.

**Sept 2024**

NRHN contributes to the [chapter](#) on affordable housing & homelessness in the Alternative Federal Budget.

**Sept 2024**

NRHN's National Director presents at the Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly's Social Development Committee to discuss what the right to housing could mean for law and policy in the NWT.

**Sept 2024**

The National Housing Council announces intent to proceed with Canada's second-ever review panel, on the topic of upholding the right to housing for women & gender-diverse people.

### Oct 2024

NRHN makes a [submission to the Federal Housing Advocate](#) calling for a formal review on Canada's eviction systems and its impact on youth homelessness.

### Oct 2024

NRHN supports the launch of the Women's National Housing & Homelessness Network's [toolkit for the second review panel](#) on the right to housing for women & gender-diverse people.

### Oct 2024

NRHN hosts the Right to Housing stream at the 2024 National Conference on Ending Homelessness.

### Nov 2024

NRHN co-hosts a national panel discussion alongside the Canadian Centre for Housing Rights on the Renter's Bill of Rights & how it can be improved & implemented.

### Sept 16, 2024

The federal government announces [Renters' Bill of Rights](#) framework attached to the \$5 billion in new funding available through a new Canada Housing Infrastructure Fund.

### Sept 22, 2024

The federal government announces a [\\$250 million encampment response fund](#), a response in part due to the Federal Housing Advocate's recommendations from her formal encampments review.

### Oct 16, 2024

The National Housing Council [announces the scope](#) of the second review panel, named "Neha," and will examine the right to housing for women, Two Spirit, & gender-diverse people, and the government's duty to uphold this right.

### Oct 13, 2024

The Federal Housing Advocate releases a [new report](#) from her second Advocate-led review—which focuses on the alarming rates of housing precarity and homelessness in Métis communities across Saskatchewan.

### Nov 22, 2024

The Neha review panel [announces](#) the opening of its portal for written submissions.

# KNOWLEDGE MOBILIZATION

## **A message from NRHN's Communications Lead:**

As we reflect on 2024, I am proud of the strides the National Right to Housing Network has made in advancing the conversation around the right to housing. This past year has been full of learning as we tried new communications strategies to elevate the voices of our network and push for real policy change.

One of the most exciting milestones in 2024 was our successful launch of two public fundraising matching campaigns—one in the summer and another just before the holidays. Both campaigns were highly successful and have demonstrated the growing support for our cause, and it has set the stage for further expanding our impact in the years ahead.

We also forged new critical partnerships in the past year, and are now collaborating even more closely with other organizations, advocates, and experts whose knowledge and dedication bolster our collective advocacy efforts and intersectionality. These new connections will strengthen our movement both online and offline, and will help us move forward with even greater momentum.

As our audience continues to grow, NRHN is excited to continue using communications as a powerful tool to inform, engage, and drive progress until the right to housing is fully realized for all in Canada.

**- Jessica Tan, Communications Lead**



## A snapshot of NRHN's knowledge mobilization and communications efforts in 2024:

### REPORTS

- **Feb:** NRHN [released a report](#) by Sarah Buhler from the University of Saskatchewan, examining how Canada's legal systems perpetuate youth evictions.
- **Jul:** NRHN, along with key network partners, launched a set of [National Human Rights-Based, Gender-Sensitive Shelter Standards](#).
- **Sept:** NRHN and key partners launched a [report on the methodology](#) behind our youth evictions workshops which looked at what a world without evictions could look like.
- **Dec:** NRHN released two holiday guides to help people navigate difficult conversations around the right to housing, immigration, and encampments over the holidays.

### WEBSITE

- **Mar:** Launched a [landing page on encampments](#) in Canada.
- **Aug:** Launched a [Review Panel Resource Hub](#), a centralized tool on our website that provides accessible information & guidance for those engaging with review panels.

### PUBLIC FUNDRAISING

- **Jun:** We launched NRHN's very first public fundraising campaign.
- **Dec:** We ran a second public fundraising campaign and raised over \$24,000—a record for NRHN.

# INTERNAL CAPACITY BUILDING

## A message from NRHN's Strategic Development Manager:

Strengthening our internal foundation was a key priority for NRHN in 2024. As our network and movement continue to grow, so too must the ways we work together. We aim to ground our operations in transparency, equity, and human rights principles. This year, we took deliberate steps to ensure that our internal processes meaningfully support the work we do externally to advance housing rights across the country.

In stepping into the role of Strategic Development Manager in December 2023, I've had the privilege of collaborating with our National Director and team to move this vision forward. This has involved laying the groundwork for structural improvements, including human resources processes that center human rights values and fostering a stronger, values-driven workplace culture.

We know that to sustain and grow the right to housing movement, we need to build our internal capacity with intention. This means creating structures that reflect our values and ensuring that how we operate internally strengthens and enhances the impact of our advocacy and initiatives. This past year has been about laying those foundations for the NRHN's long term sustainability, supporting both the well-being of our team and the effectiveness of our collective efforts.

**- Misha Khan, Strategic Development Manager**

## A snapshot of NRHN's internal capacity building efforts in 2024.

### CORE VALUES

We facilitated a series of sessions designed to connect our internal operations with our core principles. These workshops encouraged team members to collaborate, reflect, and shape our newly developed [Core Values document](#), which outlines how our values guide both our internal work and partnerships.

### TRANSPARENCY

We began creating key structural documents to foster greater transparency and equity within NRHN. These included frameworks to clarify decision-making processes, performance development goals, and annual goal setting. We also introduced a project management system to better align day-to-day operations with our long-term strategic objectives.

### WORKING GROUPS

To support evolving priorities, we restructured our current working group model by introducing both long-term working groups for sustained initiatives and short-term task forces designed to address immediate, action-oriented goals. We will trial these changes over 2025–2026, gathering feedback from members to ensure the structure remains dynamic and responsive to the needs of our network.

### PARTNERS & FUNDERS

In 2024, we focused on strengthening partnerships with funders who share our vision for housing justice. Recognizing that sustainable progress requires support beyond project-specific grants, we worked with a fundraising coach to refine our approach. We began collaborating with funders as long-term partners to sustain our core operations and initiatives to allow us to maintain flexibility, plan for long-term impact, and continue driving systemic change.

# TESTIMONIALS

“

My office has worked closely with the NRHN to produce human rights-based policy research, conduct public legal education initiatives on the right to housing, and engage with their network members on the needs of rights holders. We have greatly benefitted from our partnership with the NRHN, and I recognize the important work they have undertaken thus far to support rights holders in engaging in the NHSA's human right to housing justice mechanisms.

**- Marie-Josée Houle, Federal Housing Advocate**

“

It has been a privilege to collaborate with the brilliant, passionate team at the NHRN on a research project about preventing youth evictions. The NHRN brings a smart, strategic approach to research and advocacy work and is a leader in the housing rights movement in Canada.

**- Sarah Buhler, Associate Professor,  
University of Saskatchewan College of Law**

“

The National Right to Housing Network's Government Relations working group is a powerful space for collaboration and shared strategy. It's energizing to connect with advocates across the movement, exchange ideas e.g. on policy submissions, and strengthen our collective impact for the right to housing!

**- Diana Yoon, Program Manager, Policy & Government Relations,  
Co-operative Housing Federation of Canada (CHF Canada)**

“

In my experience, Margaret Meade's words "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." aptly describe the NRHN.

**- Rosemary Foulds, Founder, Affordable Housing Action**

“

NRHN is a core member of the right to housing movement in Canada. We have been fortunate to work closely with them since their inception, on several important initiatives to address the growing housing crisis through policy advocacy, research and engaging directly with communities. Their work convening key stakeholders has been critical to build alignment and collaboration across the housing sector, and they have played a fundamental role in supporting the collective efforts to advance the right to housing for all. We are proud to be a member of this vital network.

**- Annie Hodgins, Executive Director of the Canadian Centre for Housing Rights**

“

I am very proud to be a member of the NRHN's working groups. Knowing I am part of something bigger gives me hope that things will change. Sometimes this is the reason I have the strength to keep fighting.

**- Vicky Levack, NRHN First Voice  
Advocacy Working Group**

“

The National Right to Housing Network (NRHN) has been a trusted partner in advancing housing justice, bringing together advocates, organizations, and people with lived experience to push for meaningful policy change. Through our collaboration, NRHN has supported our gender housing work, helping to elevate the unique housing challenges faced by women and gender-diverse people and ensuring these issues are prioritized in the broader right to housing movement.

**- Stefania Seccia, Executive Director of Advocacy & Public Affairs,  
Women's National Housing and Homelessness Network**

“

The National Right to Housing Network plays a vital role in uniting partners to collaborate and amplify a shared message for housing as a human right. Their ability to coordinate advocacy efforts strengthens our collective impact, ensuring a more powerful and effective movement toward housing justice in Canada.

**- Ray Sullivan, Executive Director, Canadian  
Housing and Renewal Association**

“

Through our national community engagement project, housing was identified as a central concern for people who use drugs and their communities. We are grateful to effectively collaborate with NHRN to address problems surfaced by our parallel networks such as in 2023, when the city of Barrie put forward a punishing bylaw that would have fined people living in poverty, including people who use drugs, and those seeking to support them. Working together with NHRN was an important opportunity to use collective action on key humans rights issues.

**- Beeta Senedjani, Community Policy and Network Coordinator,  
Canadian Drug Policy Coalition**

“

The [Ottawa] gathering offered a good background of the legal aspects of housing as a human right. I enjoyed that there was lots of time for discussion and conversation between attendees and opportunity to share our thoughts. This was a great event, and I think we should have more open discussions similar to this one in the sector!

“

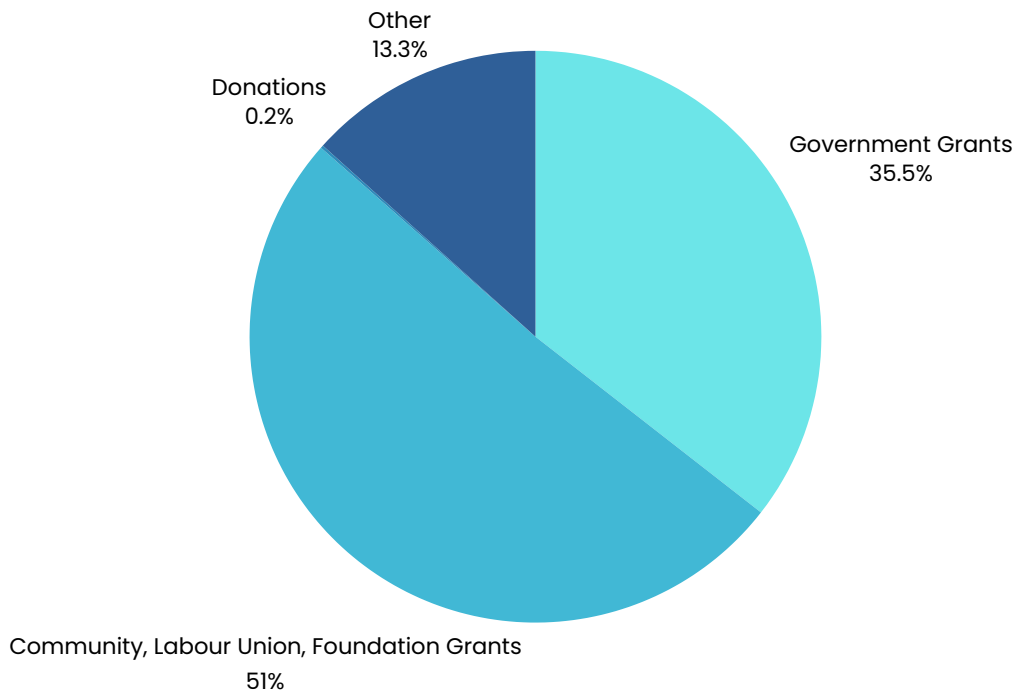
The lived experts [at your event] said they felt heard, and hopeful, and that's no small thing.

**- Participants and lived experts from NRHN's  
in-person, right to housing event in Ottawa**

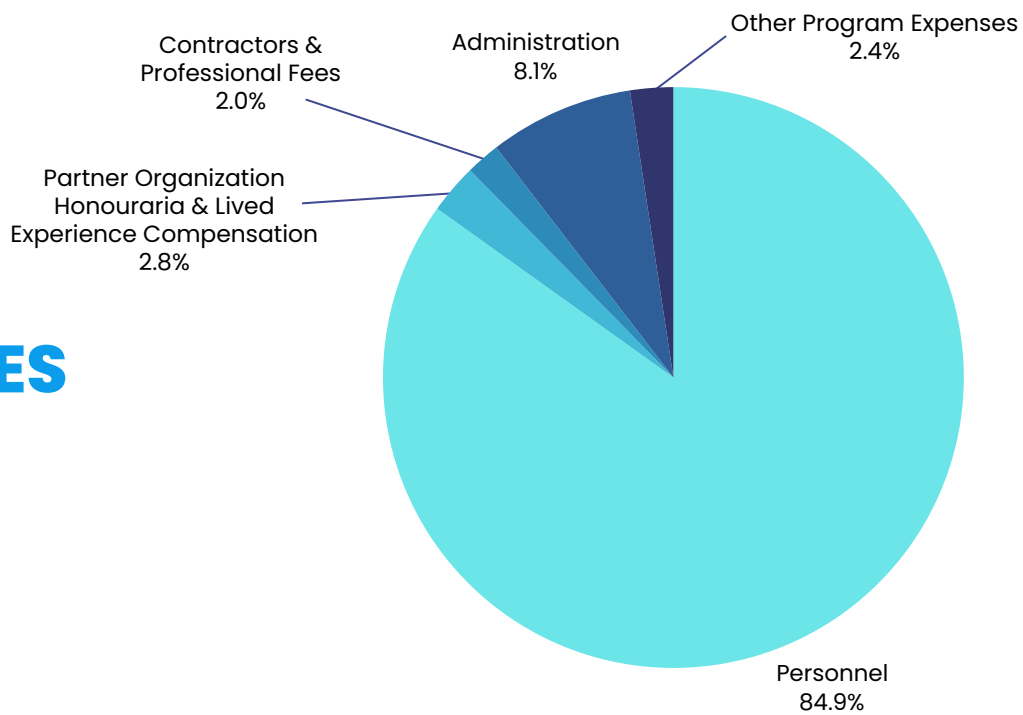
# **FINANCIAL OVERVIEW**

# 2023-2024

## REVENUE



## EXPENSES





# LOOKING AHEAD

OUR GOALS FOR 2025  
AND BEYOND

## THE FUTURE OF NRHN

The next few years present both opportunities to strengthen housing rights and challenges that could threaten a decade of progress. The human rights accountability mechanisms established under the National Housing Strategy Act (NHTA) have begun to shape systemic responses to the housing crisis, but their future remains uncertain and it is likely that they will be increasingly tested. Potential political shifts may lead to setbacks, making it critical that the right to housing movement remains united and prepared to act. At the National Right to Housing Network, we are committed to ensuring that recent advocacy gains are not only protected but fully realized through ongoing meaningful collaboration, public education, and strategic action.

Recent policy wins—such as the Tenant Protection Fund, the Renters' Bill of Rights, and rights-based funding conditions tied to encampment responses—demonstrate the growing influence of a coordinated housing rights movement. These initiatives are the result of years of advocacy, driven by rights holders, partners, and community leaders. However, these victories are just the beginning. There's an urgent need for sustained engagement for mechanisms like review panels, Advocate-led reviews and the recommendations stemming from them, to lead to meaningful change. We will continue supporting these processes by collaborating with partners, amplifying the findings of key reviews, and advocating for rights-based policy solutions that reflect the lived experiences of those most impacted by housing insecurity.

At the same time, our focus will be on strengthening the capacity of advocates and expanding leadership opportunities for those with most marginalized. We will prioritize our efforts to help partners navigate NHTA mechanisms and other rights-based advocacy tools to drive concrete policies that will turn the tide of Canada's housing crisis.

With growing public consensus that housing is a human right, there is an increasing need to safeguard its integrity that the human right to housing has a normative legal framework – and that legal grounding is a central tool to drive forward an end to Canada's housing crisis.

We are in the process of developing a comprehensive communications strategy that will provide clarity on what housing rights entail under the National Housing Strategy Act and in alignment with international human rights. This strategy will include national dialogues, public mobilization, and accessible resources to build a shared understanding and support for housing rights.

This especially includes expanding racial justice initiatives, in recognizing that systemic housing inequities continue to disproportionately impact Indigenous Peoples, Black, and racialized communities. As part of this work, we are working to address harmful public narratives that scapegoat migrants and newcomers for Canada's housing crisis. In partnership with the Migrant Rights Network (MRN) and other key collaborators, we are committed to challenging misinformation that frames housing scarcity as the result of immigration. These divisive narratives obscure the real structural causes of the crisis—decades of disinvestment in affordable housing, financialization, and exploitative housing policies—while fueling xenophobia and anti-migrant sentiment. Our efforts will focus on narrative-shifting strategies that promote truth, solidarity, and rights-based solutions.

Further, recognizing that much of the progress on housing rights happens at provincial and territorial levels, we are also increasing efforts to support local and regional advocacy. Issues like tenant protections, and eviction prevention often depend on policies that fall on the intersection of federal, provincial, territorial, and local jurisdictions. By working with partners such as the Canadian Centre for Housing Rights and ACORN Canada, we aim to build a stronger network of advocates equipped to push for change within their specific contexts while contributing to a broader national movement.

On an international level, we will continue leveraging human rights mechanisms to hold the government of Canada accountable to its housing commitments. Participation in UN treaty body reviews and global human rights forums will remain a key part of our strategy, as we translate these recommendations into advocacy campaigns that resonate with both policymakers and the public.

To sustain the work ahead, NRHN is focusing on strengthening our internal structure and ensuring the long-term stability of the network. Over the past five years, we have grown from a newly established network into a leading voice for housing justice in Canada, connecting partners, lived experience advocates, and community organizations across the country. However, with political shifts and evolving funding

opportunities on the horizon, we recognize the importance of building a solid foundation that can support our mission in both stable and uncertain times.

That's why we are prioritizing the development of more sustainable funding streams. By expanding our public fundraising efforts and deepening relationships with long-term funders who are deeply engaged as part of the movement, we aim to reduce reliance on project-specific funding – a shift that will give us the flexibility to respond to unforeseen challenges and seize new opportunities as they arise, ensuring that we can maintain core operations that support the movement's continued growth.

This work to strengthen our internal capacity will help us better support those in our network through responding to the needs of our partners, offering coordination, and supporting knowledge-sharing across the sector. We understand that fostering a strong, connected community—both internally and externally—is important to sustaining and advancing housing justice. Through investing in these efforts, we are striving to build a network that is positioned to lead, adapt, and drive meaningful change for years to come.

The coming years will test the strength of the right to housing movement, but we are gearing ourselves up to meet these challenges head-on. With strong collaboration, engaged partners, and a clear strategic focus, we will continue working to ensure that the right to housing is a lived reality for all.

# SUPPORT THE RIGHT TO HOUSING MOVEMENT

**Working towards a future where everyone in Canada has access to safe, adequate, and affordable housing requires all of us. Here's how you can get involved and support the work of the National Right to Housing Network:**

## **STAY CONNECTED**

[Sign up for our newsletter](#) to receive updates on our work, advocacy opportunities, and upcoming events.

## **MAKE A DONATION**

Your contributions sustain our work to advance housing justice by creating tools and resources based on community need, collaborative spaces that foster connection, share knowledge, and drive collective action, and more! [Donate here.](#)

## **SPREAD THE WORD**

Share our work with your networks – whether through social media, community events, or conversations, your voice helps amplify the right to housing movement.

[Facebook](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | [Twitter: @R2HNetwork](#) | [BlueSky: @r2hnetwork.bsky.social](#)

## **PARTNER WITH US**

Are you working to advance the right to housing? We're always looking to collaborate with organizations, community groups, and advocates who share our vision for housing justice.

[Contact us to partner on an initiative here.](#)