



THE NATIONAL
RIGHT TO HOUSING
NETWORK



20 ANNUAL 25 REPORT

Reporting Period: April 1, 2025 – March 31, 2026

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The National Right to Housing Network acknowledges that our work takes place on the traditional and unceded territories of many First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Peoples across what is now known as Canada.

Colonization and the ongoing dispossession of Indigenous lands have profoundly shaped housing systems in this country. These histories and the policies that followed continue to contribute to the housing injustices experienced by many Indigenous Peoples today, including overcrowded housing, homelessness, and barriers to safe and adequate housing.

As a network working to advance the human right to housing, we recognize that conversations about housing cannot be separated from conversations about land. Housing justice must be understood within the broader context of land justice, Indigenous sovereignty, and the right of Indigenous Peoples to determine how their lands, homes, and communities are governed and cared for.

We are grateful to the Indigenous partners, advocates, and communities who share their knowledge and leadership, and we remain committed to reflecting on and strengthening our work in ways that support Indigenous self-determination and advance housing justice for Indigenous Peoples.

Table of Contents

Land Acknowledgement	2
Table of Contents	4
Together for Housing Justice <i>Acknowledgement to funders, partners & supporters</i>	5
Letter from our Executive Director	7
Letter from our Steering Committee	9
Executive Summary	12
About the National Right to Housing Network	14
Key Milestones 2025 – 2026	17
Advocacy and Movement Building	18
Advocacy and Movement Building Timeline	20
Policy Impact Timeline	26

Table of Contents

Legal Initiatives & Interventions Timeline	28
Knowledge Mobilization & Resource Development	31
Knowledge Mobilization & Resource Development Timeline	33
Internal Capacity Building	36
Internal Capacity Building Timeline	37
Voices from the Network	39
Financial Overview	42
Looking Ahead	42
Support the Right to Housing Movement	47

TOGETHER FOR HOUSING JUSTICE

Acknowledgement to funders, partners, supporters

Advancing the right to housing is a collective effort. Meaningful change happens when people and organizations come together to share knowledge, challenge injustice, support one another, and work toward a common vision of housing as a human right.

Over the past year, the National Right to Housing Network has had the privilege of working alongside an incredible community of organizations, advocates, lived experts, funders, and supporters from across the country.

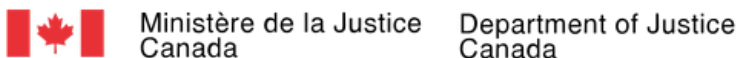
We are deeply grateful to everyone who has shared their time, expertise, resources, and lived experience with us throughout the year. This report reflects the efforts of a much broader community than NRHN alone. We are honoured to be part of this growing movement and look forward to continuing this work together in pursuit of a future where everyone can realize their right to housing.

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.

Thank You to our Funders



Public Service Alliance of Canada
Alliance de la Fonction publique du Canada



LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

Just yesterday, in a webinar NRHN was hosting, I watched two advocates find each other in real time — strangers who left with plans to build something new together. I don't think I'll ever stop being moved by moments like that. At a time of so much uncertainty, they are a reminder of why this network exists and what makes it irreplaceable.

This past year, we made deep waves in federal housing policy using the mechanisms of the *National Housing Strategy Act* (NHSA), working with partners on the financialization review panel recommendations in Prime Minister Carney's first 100 days, collaborating closely on the Neha review panel, and supporting submissions to the third review panel on accessible housing. We also launched a specialized project on youth access to justice, focused on young people facing eviction into homelessness, including building relationships with Landlord and Tenant Board adjudicators to co-create more equitable and rights-based housing decisions.

Increasingly, we've found new ways to use the NHSA to advance our objectives. We filed three strategic litigation interventions in the Hamilton and Waterloo encampment cases and the Herongate human rights case and successfully won our application to intervene in the Waterloo case. At the international level, we co-submitted a briefing to the UN Human Rights Committee linking Canada's failure to address homelessness to obligations under the right to life. And we brought over 40 right-to-housing leaders together at our National Convening to seize the moment of the Renters' Bill of Rights and NHSA, connecting people, sharpening strategies, and strengthening our collective voice. Critically, we've also worked closely with allies in the federal government, and specifically the office of the

Minister of Housing and Infrastructure, along the way, to support their understanding of what could be possible if we genuinely commit to realizing the right to housing.

None of this happens without the people who pour their hearts into it. To our staff, Misha, Jessica, Ambalika, and Susan, thank you for everything you bring to this work every single day. Our Steering Committee, Anita, Bruce, Courtney, DJ, Danielle, Janine, Debbie, Véronique, Sam, and Elizabeth, are the strategic heart of this network, and I am grateful every day for their leadership and care. To our First Voice Advocacy and Government Relations Working Group members, whose knowledge and lived expertise are the foundation of everything we do, and to our funders, whose support sustains this network and the rights holders we serve, thank you.

The legacy of the *National Housing Strategy Act* will be tested in the years ahead. But I have never been more confident in the power of this movement, and I promise that NRHN will remain the connective tissue of the housing justice movement, ensuring that the NHSA's mechanisms are not only preserved but wielded with purpose and care. Until every person in Canada has secure, adequate, and affordable housing, we keep going.

In solidarity,



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michèle Biss".

Michèle Biss

Executive Director

National Right to Housing Network

LETTER FROM OUR STEERING COMMITTEE

Dear Friends, Supporters, and Network Partners,

This year, in the face of increasing austerity and rising homelessness, the National Right to Housing Network (NRHN) has been demonstrating the power and importance of collective action. Coming together with our national network and building relationships across movements, sectors, and communities to advance the right to housing and to build the accountability mechanisms we need has been NRHN's north star.

Our role as a convenor and connector has never been more important. Everyday NRHN is working to bring together advocates, people with lived/living expertise, service providers, advocates, researchers, and organizers to influence policymakers, support civic engagement, and ensure that most-impacted communities are at the centre of the right to housing conversation. In 2025, NRHN hosted a national gathering of right to housing advocates to hone our collective strategies and build national movement capacity. From this foundation, NRHN is building the network and funding relationships required foster our core mission and expanding our strategic impact in Canada's courts and the international human rights system.

And, at NRHN we know that advocacy only gets us so far. We also demand government accountability; we will not allow policymakers to ignore human rights standards. Over the last year NRHN has been supporting organizations and individuals across the country to engage with the *National Housing Strategy Act* (NHSA) human rights review panel mechanism, building community capacity to engage with future

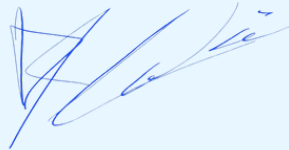
NHSA review panels, and expanded our staff capacity in legal education and communications to build strong for the years to come.

An enforceable and impactful right to housing is within our reach. And NRHN is working everyday to show up alongside our community to make the right to housing reality.

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:

Anita Khanna

**National Director, Public Policy
and Government Relations**
United Way Centraide Canada

Courtney Lockhart

**Associate Director,
Public Affairs & Policy**
CHF Canada

Debbie McGraw

Former Co-Chair
**Canadian Lived Experience
Leadership Network**

Janine Harvey

Executive Director
Tahiuqtiit Women's Society

Véronique Laflamme

**Community organizer
and spokesperson**
**Front d'action populaire en
réaménagement urbain (FRAPRU)**

Bruce Porter

Executive Director
Social Rights Advocacy Centre

Danielle Sabelli

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

DJ Larkin

Executive Director
Canadian Drug Policy Coalition

Sam DiBellonia

Policy Manager
Maytree

Elizabeth McIsaac (former)

President
Maytree

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The past year highlighted both the ongoing impacts of Canada's housing and homelessness crisis and the growing recognition that housing is more than a standalone issue, but one that is deeply connected to many of the social and economic challenges facing communities across the country.

Too many people continue to be denied access to safe, adequate, affordable, and accessible housing. Across Canada, homelessness continues to rise, affordable housing needs continue to outpace available solutions, and many communities are struggling to respond to growing housing insecurity. And these challenges are not experienced equally. Indigenous Peoples, Black and racialized communities, women and gender-diverse people, persons with disabilities, newcomers, youth, and other marginalized groups continue to face disproportionate barriers to housing and are more likely to experience housing precarity and homelessness.

At the same time, more organizations, advocates, and communities are engaging with housing as a human rights issue. Over the past year, groups working in disability justice, migrant justice, labour, health, legal advocacy, and other sectors have increasingly connected their work to housing rights.

This work unfolded during a period of political transition. As people across the country headed to the polls and housing remained a key issue in public debate, organizations and advocates continued to push for solutions grounded in human rights and community leadership. For the right to housing movement, the year served as an important reminder that lasting progress requires more than political attention – it requires sustained advocacy, meaningful participation, and mechanisms that hold governments accountable to their commitments.

Throughout the 2025–2026 fiscal year, the National Right to Housing Network worked alongside partners, rights holders, and communities across Canada to advance the implementation of housing as a human right. We supported engagement with the accountability mechanisms established under the *National Housing Strategy Act* (NHSA), contributed to domestic and international human rights advocacy, developed new public legal education resources, strengthened cross-sector relationships, and created opportunities for people and organizations to connect, learn, and take action together.

This year also reflected the continued growth of the right to housing movement. As more organizations and communities engage with housing through a human rights lens, new opportunities are emerging to strengthen collective advocacy efforts, amplify the voices of rights holders, and advance solutions grounded in dignity, equity, and justice.

The work highlighted throughout this report reflects the contributions of a broad and diverse community of people committed to advancing housing justice across Canada. It speaks to the leadership of rights holders, the dedication of community organizations and advocates, and the power of collaboration in driving systemic change.

While significant challenges remain, the past year demonstrated the importance of accountability, collaboration, and community leadership in advancing housing justice. As the movement continues to grow, new opportunities are emerging to strengthen the implementation of the right to housing and ensure that the voices and experiences of rights holders remain at the centre of this work. We are grateful to be part of this work and look forward to continuing it together.

About the **NATIONAL RIGHT TO HOUSING NETWORK**

The National Right to Housing Network (NRHN) is a broad-based, grassroots civil society network established to fully realize the human right to housing for all in Canada.

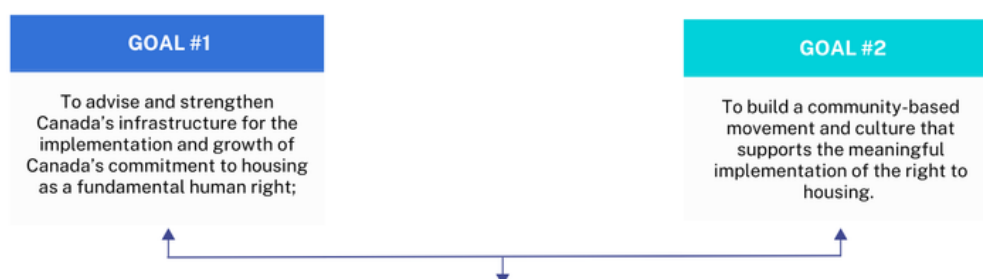
Launched in February 2020, NRHN has quickly become a key resource in guiding Canada's new human rights-based oversight mechanisms—introduced under the *National Housing Strategy Act* (NHSA)—to address systemic housing inequities which exacerbate the housing and homelessness crisis across the country.

Our network of over 2,300 organizations and individuals works to hold the government accountable and ensure that their human rights commitments made under the NHSA are meaningfully realized.



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.

OUR CORE VALUES

Right to Housing

Connectivity and
Solidarity

Transparency

Upholding Human
Rights Processes

Adaptability

Shared
Accountability

Willingness
to Learn

Equality and
Inclusion

Meaningful
Participation

Compassion, Dignity and
Meaningfully Responding to Conflict

At the National Right to Housing Network, our values guide how we approach our work, engage with partners and communities, and contribute to the movement for housing justice. They shape our approach to collaboration, accountability, community engagement, and ongoing learning, while helping us foster a supportive and values-driven organizational culture.

We are committed to fostering a workplace environment that is rooted in respect, integrity and a shared commitment to our mission of advancing the right to adequate housing for all. These core values – developed through a deeply collaborative process – serve as the foundation from which our network operates. They guide how staff interact with one another, with external partners, and the larger community at NRHN.

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

KEY MILESTONES

2025–2026

The work of advancing the right to housing extends far beyond any one organization. It is driven by communities, rights holders, advocates, researchers, service providers, and partners working together to challenge housing injustice and push for change.

Throughout the 2025–2026 fiscal year, NRHN contributed to these efforts through advocacy, public legal education, movement-building, community engagement, policy development, and strategic interventions. The following section highlights some of the work undertaken throughout the year in collaboration with partners and communities across the country.

Advocacy and Movement Building

This year, NRHN deepened its work at the intersection of law, community, and advocacy — translating Canada's commitment to the human right to housing into tangible action across the country.

A defining moment came with our first-ever Right to Housing Convening, bringing together housing rights advocates, people with lived experience of housing insecurity, and civil society organizations to collectively strategize how to make Canada's domestic right to housing law real and meaningful for the people it is meant to protect.

We focused on building capacity of our partners around human right to housing framework. Through webinars, training sessions, and newly developed accessible resources, we reached out to many civil society organizations nationwide — equipping communities with practical tools to understand and claim their rights under the *National Housing Strategy Act*.

When the National Housing Council announced its third review panel on accessible housing, we acted quickly — connecting partners in the disability justice sector with the process to ensure their voices shaped the conversation. We also encouraged impacted individuals and the organizations that serve them to make their own submissions, centering lived experience in national policy discussions.

Across all of this work, our approach remained consistent: connect people to each other, build collective power, and ensure that those most affected by the housing crisis are not just consulted, but heard.

As NRHN grows, so does our network of advocates, lived experts, and community organizations working toward a shared goal: a Canada where the right to housing is not just law on paper, but a reality for everyone.



Ambalika Roy

Legal Education Coordinator

National Right to Housing Network

Advocacy and Movement Building

TIMELINE

Over the year, NRHN's Government Relations Working Group has met monthly to share strategies for engagement with governments (for example the federal budget) and opportunities for collaboration and cross support for each other's advocacy efforts.

April: NRHN joined Amnesty Canada, the David Suzuki Foundation, and other human rights partners in launching a national, non-partisan federal election campaign to put human rights first (Vote for Rights campaign).

April: NRHN supported and amplified **Action Canada's Demand Better campaign**, which called on federal leaders to advance bold action on gender justice and social rights:

May 23: NRHN released the **Federal Government Action Guide** outlining recommendations for the new federal government, including actions to address the financialization of housing during Prime Minister Carney's first 100 days in office.

Spring 2025

April: NRHN submitted **National Standards for Emergency Shelters** to the Neha review panel. This rights-based submission was developed alongside the Women's National Housing and Homelessness Network and the Canadian Centre for Housing Rights, in collaboration with partners and rights holders from across the country.

April: In partnership with the Alliance to End Homelessness Ottawa, NRHN developed an **additional submission** to the Neha review panel following a series of Ottawa convenings that brought together rights claimants, advocates, and lived experts to share experiences and develop rights-based recommendations.

April: The Canadian Council for Refugees (CCR), Amnesty, and the Canadian Association of Refugee Lawyers (CARL) sent an **open letter** to urge federal parties to commit to both messaging and platform policies that honour refugees and newcomers and their contributions to our country, and ensure they continue to feel safe and welcome in the community.

Advocacy and Movement Building

TIMELINE

May 28–29: NRHN hosted our first-ever two-day National Convening on Advancing the Right to Housing in Canada, bringing together rights holders, advocates, researchers, service providers, and policymakers from across the country.

As part of the convening, we hosted an evening panel discussion marking five years since the passage of the *National Housing Strategy Act*. The conversation brought together tenant advocates, rights holders, and human rights leaders to reflect on progress made and the work still ahead to advance housing as a human right in Canada. Panelists included Marie-Josée Houle, Canada's Federal Housing Advocate; Dania Majid of the Advocacy Centre for Tenants Ontario (ACTO); Janine Harvey of Tahiuqtiit Women's Society; and the Honourable Jean-Yves Duclos, who introduced and championed the *National Housing Strategy Act* as Minister of Families, Children and Social Development.

May 29: The Encampment Justice Coalition organized **five different rallies across Ontario** calling on the provincial government to rescind Bill 6, which would further criminalize homelessness with threatened jail time and \$10,000 fines.

Summer 2025

June 20: NRHN presented the National Shelter Standards submission during the Neha review panel's oral dialogue process.

Advocacy and Movement Building

TIMELINE

June 25: The Advocacy Centre for Tenants Ontario (ACTO) released a [new report](#) on what it's like for survivors of gender-based violence on their search for safe, adequate, and affordable housing.

July 23: NRHN hosted a webinar for OCASI's network of partners who support immigrant communities – covering Canada's international human rights obligations on housing, key features of the federal government's NHSA, and practical guidance on how rights holders in Ontario can engage with the new access to justice and housing accountability mechanisms.

August 27: NRHN published an [analysis and feedback report](#) in response to the federal government's Build Canada Homes consultation process.

September 2025: Our partners at the Women's National Housing and Homelessness Network launched the [#HomesforEverybody campaign](#), calling for a gender-responsive housing framework, increased investment, and an Indigenous-led response to gendered homelessness.

July: NRHN made a [submission to the federal government's 2026 pre-budget consultation](#) focusing on the issue of the financialization of housing where we provide **11 recommendations** on how the federal government can strengthen protections for renters across Canada.

August 13: NRHN partnered with Community Legal Education Ontario (CLEO) and the Office of the Federal Housing Advocate to deliver a **public webinar on housing rights** and national housing accountability mechanisms in Canada.

Fall 2025

September 15: NRHN developed a [press release](#) in response to the launch of the federal government's launch of Build Canada Homes.

Advocacy and Movement Building

TIMELINE

October: NRHN's Legal Education Coordinator, Ambalika Roy, attended the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) Convention in Toronto.

October 27: Oxfam Canada launched their [2025 Inequality Scorecard](#), showing that wealth continues to concentrate at the top while many people in Canada struggle to find safe, affordable, and accessible housing.

October 28 – 30: NRHN hosted the Right to Housing stream at this year's National Conference on Ending Homelessness (CAEH25).

November 30: NRHN has joined nearly 200 other organizations across Ontario to [call on the Ontario government](#) to create a poverty reduction strategy built on evidence, lived experience, and dignity

October 20: NRHN's Executive Director, Michèle Biss, was the closing keynote speaker at the 2025 Housing Symposium: From Crisis to Commitment in Halifax – an annual event which brings together leading voices, advocates and community members in the housing sector to exchange ideas, share best practices, and strengthen collective efforts in addressing complex housing challenges.

October 28: The Alternative Federal Budget 2026 was released. NRHN is proud to have contributed to the [Affordable Housing and Homelessness chapter](#) where we helped laid out a bold path to end homelessness and uphold housing as a human right for all

November 4: NRHN released [a response to the federal government's first budget](#), highlighting opportunities to strengthen implementation of the right to housing.

Advocacy and Movement Building

TIMELINE

Winter 2025-26

December 3: Campaign 2000 released their third annual [Disability Poverty Report Card](#) which offers a national snapshot of the ongoing and deeply entrenched poverty experienced by people with disabilities in Canada.

February: NRHN's Legal Education Coordinator, Ambalika Roy, attended the Public Legal Education Association of Canada (PLEAC)'s National Conference in Ottawa.

March: NRHN [traveled to Geneva to participate](#) in Canada's review before the United Nations Human Rights Committee, [urging the Committee](#) to affirm that the right to life includes protections for people experiencing homelessness and corresponding obligations on governments to act.

February: Alongside partners, NRHN submitted [recommendations](#) to the United Nations Human Rights Committee in advance of Canada's review under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, focusing on homelessness, preventable deaths, and the right to life.

March: NRHN's partner, Dr. Sarah Buhler from the University of Saskatchewan, published a paper on how Canada's current laws and legal processes make eviction the default in most cases and how we can turn things around. The findings in this paper stem from our joint project on youth evictions from 2024.

Policy Impact

TIMELINE

Spring 2025

April: Following the federal election, Prime Minister Mark Carney formed government, creating **new opportunities** to advance housing rights priorities and shape the future direction of federal housing policy.

The National Housing Council's review panel on the right to safe, adequate, and affordable housing for women, Two-Spirit, trans, and gender-diverse people (Neha) received more than 250 written submissions from rights holders, organizations, researchers, and advocates across the country, demonstrating significant engagement with Canada's housing accountability mechanisms.

July 31: Following years of advocacy by partners including ACORN Canada and the Federation of Metro Tenants' Associations, Toronto's renovation by-law came into force, strengthening protections for renters facing displacement due to renovations and introducing new accountability measures for landlords.

March: The United Nations Human Rights Committee released their **Concluding Observations report** following its review of Canada's implementation of civil and political rights. In the report, the Committee rejected Canada's narrow interpretation of the "right to life" and called for urgent action to prevent avoidable deaths.

The Federal Housing Advocate released **How to Meaningfully Engage with Encampment Residents**, providing governments with practical guidance on implementing a human rights-based approach to encampment responses and meaningful engagement with rights holders.

Summer 2025

June 16: The Neha review panel began its oral dialogue process, creating an additional opportunity for rights holders and organizations to share lived experiences and recommendations directly with review panel members.

Fall 2025

September 8 : Federal, provincial, and territorial housing ministers met in Vancouver and identified five shared priorities, including reducing homelessness and increasing affordable housing supply through greater intergovernmental collaboration.

October: The Ontario government introduced Bill 60, legislation that raised significant concerns among tenant advocates and housing organizations regarding potential impacts on tenant protections. Following sustained public pressure and advocacy efforts, several of the proposed changes were later withdrawn.

Winter 2025-26

December 4: In a [new report](#), the Federal Housing Advocate called for recommending permanent federal investments in human rights-based responses to encampments.

September 15: The federal government formally launched Build Canada Homes as a new public housing development agency intended to increase the supply of affordable housing across Canada.

November 4 : The federal government released its first official budget.

November 24: The Neha Review Panel [submitted its final report](#) and recommendations to the Honourable Gregor Robertson, Minister of Housing and Infrastructure.

February 26 : The National Housing Council announced that its next review panel would examine the lack of accessible housing across Canada, opening a new opportunity for rights holders and disability justice organizations to engage with Canada's housing accountability mechanisms.

Legal Initiatives and Interventions

TIMELINE

Summer 2025

August: NRHN, along with our partners at the Charter Committee on Poverty Issues, were granted intervener status for the [Waterloo encampments case](#).

As an intervener, NRHN is able to provide expert testimony and make arguments as to why the rights of encampment residents should be protected under sections 7 (life, liberty and security of the person) and 15 (equality rights) of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Spring 2026

With our partners at the Charter Committee on Poverty Issues, **we launched three major legal interventions this year:**

1: Herongate

In response to the mass eviction and financialization of a predominantly racialized, low-income community in Ottawa.

Status: currently before the Ontario Human Rights Tribunal

Legal Initiatives and Interventions

TIMELINE

2: Regional Municipality of Waterloo v. Persons Unknown

Where we've been granted leave (permission) to make an submission on:

- *Whether section 7 (right to life, liberty, and security of the person) of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms requires measures to address the needs of homeless persons for shelter, housing and supports*
- *Whether homelessness may be recognized as a protected ground of discrimination and, in the alternative, whether failures to address the needs of homeless people adversely affects groups protected by section 15 (right to the equal protection and equal benefit of the law without discrimination); and;*
- *Whether the Region's commitment to the right to adequate housing under international human rights law in its Plan to End Chronic Homelessness provides a judicially manageable standard to assess the Region's compliance with sections 7 and 15 of the Charter. (Status: currently before the Ontario Superior Court).*

3. Heegsma v. Hamilton (City):

Where we have applied for leave (permission) to intervene and make similar arguments as in the Waterloo intervention.

Status: currently before the Ontario Court of Appeal

In all three cases, our message is clear: People experiencing homelessness are losing their lives across the country—our courts can and should hold governments accountable and set powerful precedents for all future cases. But to get there, we need a bold legal community, strong partners, and people who believe that upholding housing as a human right requires action, not passive hope that the market will fix itself.

Legal Initiatives and Interventions

TIMELINE

December 5: A powerful and legally significant [Federal Court ruling](#) has confirmed that the Government of Canada does in fact, owe a legal duty to ensure adequate housing on Indigenous reserves. This ruling sets a critical legal precedent by reframing adequate housing on reserves as a legally enforceable duty owed by the Crown. This also reinforces that courts can and will hold governments accountable when the human right to housing is denied.

Knowledge Mobilization & Resource Development

As we reflect on this past year, I am proud of the ground NRHN has broken in the courts, in international forums, and across our growing network.

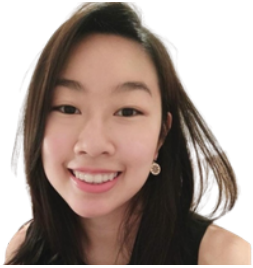
This past year marked a significant turning point for NRHN: our first foray into strategic litigation. As intervenors in critical encampment cases across Canada, we helped bring the human right to housing directly into the courtroom. For our team, one of the most meaningful parts of this work has been helping our network understand how litigation fits into the broader domestic housing policy landscape, and why it matters for the movement.

We also deepened our engagement with international human rights mechanisms this year. Canada's right to housing legislation has its roots in international law, and we spent considerable energy making that connection feel real and relevant, collaborating with network partners to engage meaningfully with processes like UN reviews, and helping our broader network understand how global frameworks can be leveraged right here at home.

On the communications side, we invested in making NRHN's knowledge more accessible. Our website and blog received a long-overdue refresh, and so did our French-language site. Reaching people in both official languages reflects our commitment to the inclusive, national scope of this work.

At its core, NRHN is the connective tissue of Canada's housing justice sector. Our role is to share knowledge, foster collaboration, and help the sector align its messaging and priorities so that together, we can keep

advancing the right to housing for everyone in this country — especially for people in greatest housing need.



Jessica Tan

Communications Lead

National Right to Housing Network

Knowledge Mobilization & Resource Development

TIMELINE

Summer 2025

July: Launched the [First 100 Days: Homes for People, Not Profit](#) campaign, calling on the newly elected federal government to take meaningful action to address the financialization of housing during its first 100 days in office. The campaign built on recommendations emerging from the Financialization Review Panel and included a national letter-writing initiative.

August: Completed a successful national letter-writing campaign calling on the federal government to address the financialization of housing and strengthen protections for renters. Nearly 1,000 letters were sent to Prime Minister Mark Carney, Housing Minister Gregor Robertson, Justice Minister Sean Fraser, and Members of Parliament across the country, alongside more than 30 organizational endorsements.

August: Finalized NRHN's 2025–2026 Communications Strategy, establishing priorities for public education, advocacy communications, media engagement, and knowledge mobilization across the organization.

Fall 2025

September: Welcomed Susan Kong to the team as NRHN's Junior Communications Strategist, expanding our internal communications capacity.

November: In [Episode 2 of "Left Out in the Cold,"](#) NRHN joins podcast host Sarah Rowe and Ricardo Tranjan from the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives to discuss the impact of financialization and the importance of implementing both social housing and rent controls to ensure that our housing system protects the most vulnerable.

Winter 2025

December 2025: Through the support of the Public Service Alliance of Canada's Social Justice Fund, launched NRHN's first holiday matching campaign to strengthen our capacity to continue advancing the right to housing across Canada.

Winter 2026

February: Released a public legal education blog [unpacking Heegsma v. City of Hamilton](#), outlining what was at stake for encampment residents across Canada and explaining the housing rights arguments that were ultimately not heard by the Court

December 17: Published an [article in partnership with YWCA Toronto](#) highlighting the ways in which inadequate housing disproportionately impacts women, girls, and gender-diverse communities, and exploring the relationship between housing justice and gender justice.

March: Launched NRHN's new [Direct Support Resources](#) page, connecting individuals experiencing housing precarity or homelessness with housing, legal, mental health, and community supports organized by province and territory.

Throughout 2025-2026:

Continued producing blogs, press releases, newsletters, legal explainers, educational resources, and public commentary to help rights holders, advocates, and community organizations navigate Canada's evolving housing policy and legal landscape.

Continued significant improvements to NRHN's website and digital infrastructure, including updates to our French-language website to improve accessibility and strengthen our ability to engage communities in both official languages.

Collaborated with partners across the country to translate complex legal, policy, and international human rights developments into accessible resources that support advocacy, accountability, and movement-building efforts.

Internal Capacity Building

As a small national organization working across multiple projects, partnerships, and regions, much of NRHN's work happens behind the scenes. Alongside our public advocacy and community engagement, we invest significant time in building the organizational foundations that make this work possible. This includes onboarding and supporting staff, strengthening internal systems and processes, coordinating accessible and bilingual engagement, managing grants and reporting requirements, stewarding relationships with partners and funders, and ensuring that our work is delivered thoughtfully, effectively, and sustainably.

This year, we invested in strengthening that foundation. We welcomed new team members, developed onboarding and knowledge-sharing processes, advanced work on a compensation philosophy and framework grounded in equity and transparency, and continued improving the systems that support collaboration across our growing team, Steering Committee, and national network.

While this work may be less visible than our advocacy, it is essential to advancing our mission. Strong internal systems, healthy organizational practices, and sustainable operations allow us to respond to emerging opportunities, support meaningful collaboration, and remain accountable to the communities, partners, and rights holders we work alongside.



Misha Khan
Strategic Development Manager
National Right to Housing Network

Internal Capacity Building

TIMELINE

Over the year, NRHN's First Voice Advocacy Group members disseminated through NRHN projects and working groups to infuse lived expertise into the strategies, advocacy, and engagement spaces that NRHN holds.

Spring 2025

April: NRHN welcomed Ambalika Roy as our new Legal Education Coordinator, expanding our capacity to support public legal education, and engagement with domestic and international human rights mechanisms.

Fall 2025

September: NRHN welcomed Susan Kong as our Junior Communications Strategist through a co-op placement, expanding our communications capacity.

May: Planning and delivery of NRHN's first-ever National Convening on Advancing the Right to Housing in Canada, including participant coordination, accessibility supports, event logistics, travel coordination, and on-site operations.

Internal Capacity Building

TIMELINE

Throughout 2025-26

Advanced the development of NRHN's first compensation philosophy and salary framework, grounded in equity, transparency, and sustainability as the organization continues to grow.

Continued strengthening internal systems and processes to support an increasing number of webinars, engagements, and national partnerships across the organization's work.

Supported organizational planning, reporting, and operational coordination across a growing portfolio of projects and partnerships.

Developed onboarding materials and processes to support new staff members joining the organization and to better orient team members to NRHN's projects, partnerships, and ways of working.

Coordinated interpretation, translation, ASL interpretation, and other accessibility supports across webinars, consultations, meetings, and national events to support meaningful participation in both official languages and improve accessibility.

VOICES FROM THE NETWORK

The following are testimonials gathered from partners across the housing justice sector (particularly from our in-person convening)

“

I just wanted to send a warm thank-you to both of you for such an amazing two days in Ottawa. It was a gift to be surrounded by such inspiring and thoughtful people. I'm really grateful to have been invited to join in, and I appreciated the hotel accommodations and the opportunity to connect, learn, and reflect alongside everyone.

“

The world needs more people like you, and your mission is truly appreciated.

“

The opportunity to hear some of the great work your group is doing gives me faith that there are good people doing good work for our community.

“

It was truly a pleasure working with you this week. We really appreciated the opportunity to support such meaningful conversations, and it was a joy to be in the room with your team and the broader community you brought together.

“

It was truly a pleasure supporting your event. I also want to express my appreciation for your responsiveness throughout; your collaboration made a real difference. Teamwork was key on both sides, and I hope we'll have the opportunity to work together again in the future.

“—

I was so fortunate to attend the National Right to Housing Network's convening last week. They created a space where people with different experiences and knowledge could come together and strategize. Thank you again to the folx in the room who gave them time and shared their perspectives. I look forward to connecting again.

“—

It was so great to attend the National Convening on the Right to Housing last week in Ottawa. Being in a room full of other advocates discussing tenant protections, housing policy and advocacy was inspiring. It can get very doom and gloom in this field, but fighting alongside others keeps us going.

“—

It's incredibly encouraging to see such a dedicated group of right to housing advocates coming together to strategize and push for meaningful change. Looking forward to seeing the next steps in action! Thank you to everyone involved for their tireless work!”

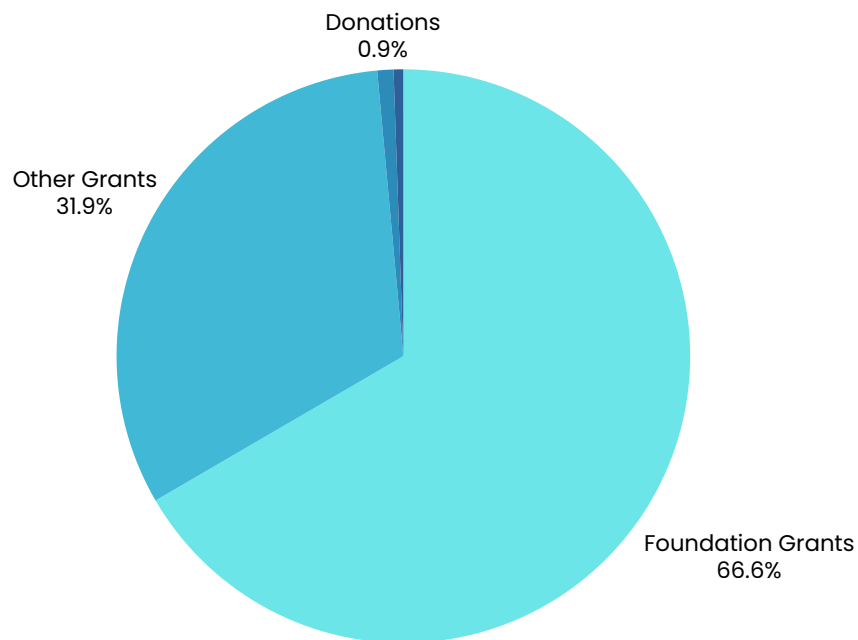
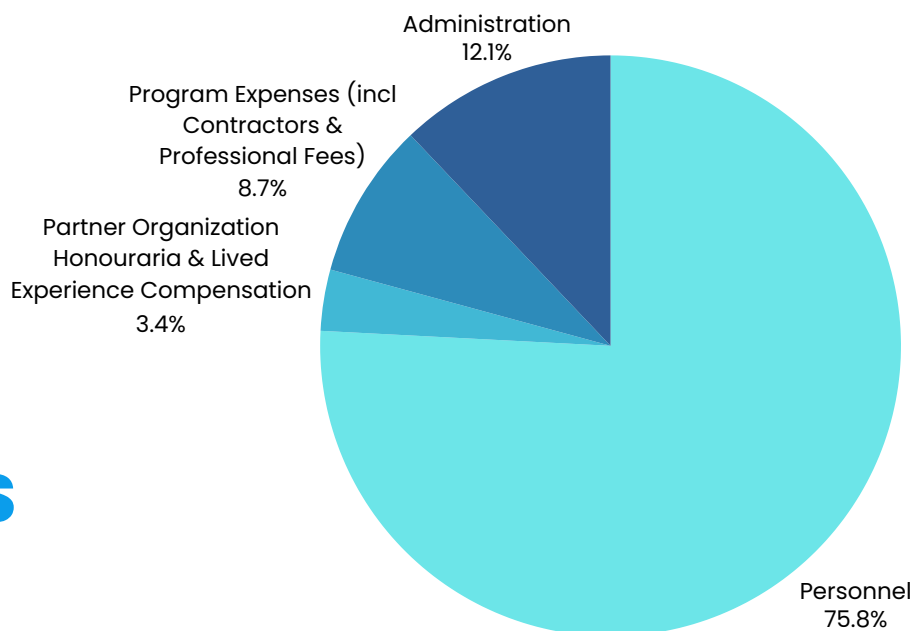
“—

Just want to say Thank You for the last three amazing days. I was very happy to be part of it and am looking forward to next steps!”

“—

I loved the ability to be in space with other housing rights advocates. The informal conversations were great and I appreciated hearing and being part of the larger facilitated conversation.”

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

2025–2026**REVENUE****Total: \$607,429****EXPENSES****Total: \$607,429**

LOOKING AHEAD

Our Goals for 2026 and Beyond

THE FUTURE OF NRHN

As we look ahead, the need for bold, rights-based responses to Canada's housing and homelessness crisis remains as urgent as ever. Across the country, communities continue to face significant barriers to accessing safe, adequate, affordable, and accessible housing, while governments continue to struggle to respond to growing housing needs. At the same time, there are increasing opportunities to advance housing justice through advocacy, community leadership, and collective action.

Over the coming year, NRHN will continue supporting efforts to strengthen the implementation of the right to housing in Canada. We will build on our work to increase public awareness and understanding of the accountability mechanisms established under the *National Housing Strategy Act* (NHSA), while supporting rights holders, advocates, and organizations seeking to engage with these mechanisms to raise systemic housing issues and push for change.

We are particularly encouraged by the growing interest in right to housing work from organizations beyond the traditional housing sector. As more groups working in disability justice, migrant justice, labour, legal advocacy, public health, and other sectors engage with housing as a human rights issue, there are new opportunities to build stronger coalitions and advance shared solutions to interconnected challenges.

We also anticipate important opportunities for advocacy and engagement in the year ahead. This includes supporting engagement with the National Housing Council's review panel on the lack of accessible housing in Canada, contributing to discussions about the future of federal housing policy and the implementation of the NHSA, expanding public legal education efforts, and continuing to strengthen awareness of strategic litigation as a tool for advancing the right to housing.

Building on our recent efforts to intervene in cases related to housing and homelessness, we will continue exploring opportunities to support strategic legal advocacy, increase understanding of emerging legal developments, and contribute to litigation efforts that have the potential to advance the implementation of the right to housing in Canada.

As our work continues to grow, we also remain committed to strengthening the Network itself. This includes investing in relationships, supporting meaningful participation by rights holders, expanding opportunities for collaboration and learning, and building the long-term sustainability needed to support a strong and connected housing justice movement.

The challenges ahead are significant, but so is the collective commitment of the people, organizations, and communities working to advance housing justice across Canada. We are grateful to be part of this growing movement and look forward to continuing this work together in the year ahead.



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](#) | X: [@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.](#)