


Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that the land on which we gather, known today as Santiago, is the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mapuche Peoples, as well as the Picunche and Diaguita Peoples, who have stewarded these lands for generations.



Paving the Way to Housing Justice: Advancing the Right to Housing in Canada

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Agenda

1. What is the Right to Housing and Where Does it Come From
2. The Sustainable Development Goals vs. International Human Rights Law: Key Differences
3. Understanding the Right to Housing: Implications for Canada
4. The Role and Work of the National Right to Housing Network
5. Lessons Learned: Canada's Progress with its Legislated Right to Housing Commitment
6. Charting the Future of Housing Rights in Canada



“The right to housing is not just a rallying cry. It, like human rights more generally, offers concrete standards that can be implemented and measured for progress.”

– *UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Adequate Housing*



The right to adequate housing in international law

7 essential features of adequate housing:

- i. Legal security of tenure
- ii. Availability of services and materials
- iii. Affordability
- iv. Habitability
- v. Accessibility
- vi. Location
- vii. Cultural adequacy

Principles of the *International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights*

- Progressive realization
- Maximum available resources
- Human Rights Goals and Timelines (i.e., ending homelessness in the shortest possible time)

The right to adequate housing is not just about housing programs but also about **legal protections of housing rights, tax measures, planning, and regulation of investors.**



Countries that have ratified the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights

- Argentina (1986)
- Australia (1980)
- Canada (1976)
- Chile (1972)
- Finland (1975)
- France (1980)
- Ireland (1989)
- Mongolia (1974)
- New Zealand (1978)
- Pakistan (2008)
- South Africa (1998)
- United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (1976)

[Full list here](#)

International human rights laws

- Connected to a monitoring system including Treaty Body reviews (every 5 years or so) and Special Rapporteurs
- Highlights accountability and requires governments to respect, protect and fulfill these rights
- Legally binding obligations established through international treaties, including the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)

Sustainable Development Goals

- A global framework with a set of 17 goals, adopted in 2015 under the United Nations 2030 Agenda
- Focuses on targets and measurable progress towards sustainable development
- Voluntary commitments by countries – no binding legal obligations

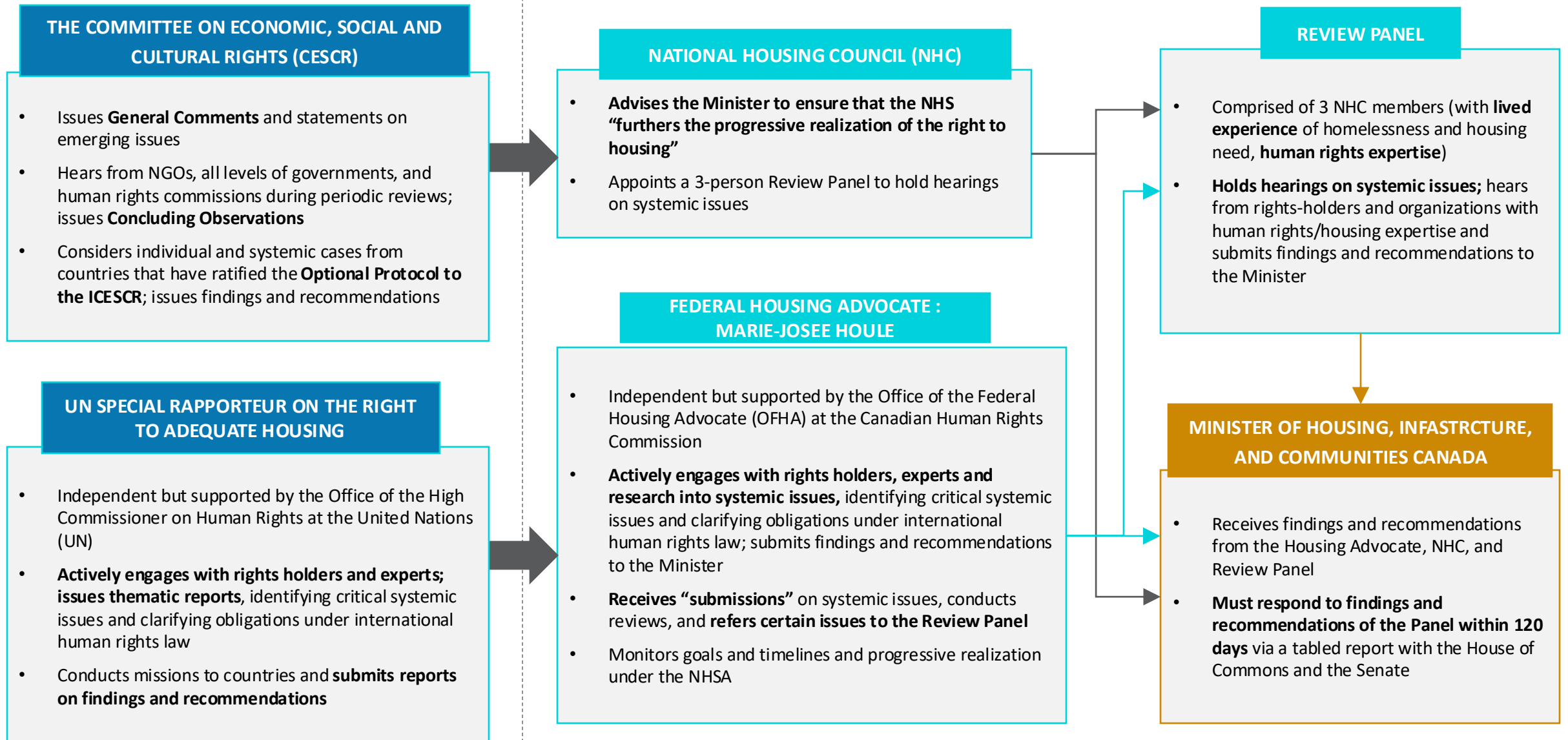


Understanding the Right to Housing: Implications for Canada

- The right to housing in the courts
 - The *Tanudjaja v. Canada (AG)* case
- Going to treaty bodies reviews of Canada
- Open letter campaign
- *National Housing Strategy Act* legislated in 2019

INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS

CANADA'S PARALLEL MECHANISMS UNDER THE NHSA





Creation of the National Right to Housing Network

- Launched in 2020
- Goals of the NRHN:
 1. To advise and strengthen Canada's infrastructure for the implementation and growth of Canada's commitment to housing as a fundamental human right; and
 2. To build the community-based infrastructure and culture that supports the meaningful implementation of the right to housing.
- Currently has a membership of over 2,000 individuals and organizations committed to the meaningful implementation of the right to housing in Canada

What we've learned from:

- The first ever review panel last year – which was on the issue of financialization of purpose-built rental housing
- The first Advocate led review on government responses to homeless encampments

Barriers and How we've Responded:

- 1) Accessibility:** Many rights claimants feel overwhelmed or excluded by the complexity of standard consultation processes.
- 2) Public Knowledge and Education:** The public simply doesn't know about review panels and how to engage in this new process.
- 3) Trust-building through Transparency and Action:** Rights claimants often enter these processes with skepticism wondering whether their input will lead to real change.

Charting the Future of Housing Rights in Canada



How do we have success with governments who have historically been resistant to human rights implementation?

Go to www.mentimeter.com

Code: 6467 6461

How are you finding that the climate crisis intersects with homelessness in your context?

Go to www.mentimeter.com

Code: 6467 6461

Thank You!

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Sign up for the NRHN Newsletter here!

