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# **A Safe and Affordable Place to Call Home: A Multi-disciplinary Longitudinal Outcomes Analysis of the National Housing Strategy**

**Isobel M. Findlay and Nazanin Jannati**  
**Community Update**  
**Station 20 West, February 26, 2024**





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# Overview

- Review the overall study objectives
- Outline study themes
- Clarify study methods
- Explain the specific focus of the Health, Social and Economic Outcomes theme
- Invite feedback, questions



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## **Funding:** 5-year CMHC-SSHRC Partnership grant (PIs O'Brien & Kennelly, Carleton U) 2023-2028

### **Study objectives:**

Assess effectiveness of approaches to housing as a human right (which became law in Canada in 2019)

Investigate the three major funding vehicles in the National Housing Strategy (NHS):

1. National Housing Co-Investment Fund
2. The Canada Community Housing Initiative
3. The Canada Housing Benefit





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## Six project themes:

1. Health, social and economic outcomes (USask leads)
2. Climate impacts and mitigation
3. Indigenous housing
4. Northern housing
5. Alternative housing solutions
6. Housing financing



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- *A Safe and Affordable Place to Call Home* builds on the SSHRC-CMHC-funded *People, Places, Policies, Prospects: Affordable Rental Housing for Those in Greatest Need* or *P<sub>4</sub>* (PI Catherine Leviten-Reid, Cape Breton University).
- *P<sub>4</sub>* enables the project team to extend **the timeframe** of longitudinal findings and to build upon **initial findings** on the Canada Housing Benefit and Canada Community Housing Initiative.
- Each integrates a **gender-based-plus analysis (GBA+)**
- The partnerships include community organizations, government representatives, First Voice Experts, and University researchers in a co-design process



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## Research team



**Sarah Buhler**  
College of Law



**Isobel Findlay**  
Edwards School of Business



**Nazeem Muhajarine**  
College of Medicine



**Nazanin Jannati**  
College of Medicine



**Kavya Chandra**  
College of Arts and Science



College of Law



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## Research partners:

- City of Saskatoon
- CLASSIC
- Cress Housing Corporation
- Elizabeth Fry Society of Saskatchewan
- Haven Family Connections
- National Affordable Housing Corporation
- Saskatoon Poverty Reduction Partnership
- Office of Residential Tenancies Saskatchewan





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- Housing crisis, substandard housing, aging infrastructure
- Housing precarity (outdoor or rough sleeping, encampments)
- National Housing Strategy Reinvestment in housing
- Auditor General of Canada (2022) found that Infrastructure Canada, Employment and Social Development Canada, and CMHC do not know if housing outcomes are improved
- Relative to income, Canada has the least affordable housing (OECD, 2022)
- 1% experiences homelessness; eight times higher for Indigenous communities (Belanger et al., 2013; Uppal, 2022)



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Researchers will use qualitative and quantitative methods, statistical analysis, case studies, participatory and visual methods, etc to generate findings on these core elements:

1. **Understanding the health (physical, mental, emotional, spiritual) of residents** living in social housing, community housing, or in the private market with housing subsidies



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- 1. Understanding the health (physical, mental, emotional, spiritual) of residents**
  - assessment of indoor air quality,
  - self-reported health and well-being
  - analysis of the presence of black mould and other household contaminants
  - accessibility analyses of existing and proposed builds for people living with disabilities
  - assessment of housing sufficiency for positive health outcomes, such as functioning appliances, lack of overcrowding, reasonable heating and cooling, proper insulation, etc.



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## 2. Analyzing the social outcomes of housing investments, including

- assessments of social inclusion and exclusion (e.g. relations within a neighbourhood, experiences of discrimination including racism, transphobia, and homophobia)
- safety and stability (e.g. crime and policing, evictions risk)
- access to amenities and transit (e.g. presence of community gardens, proximity to food deserts, local school performance rankings, bus and train scheduling).



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### 3. Assessing the economic outcomes of housing investments

- access to secure and sustainable employment
- sufficiency of housing benefits or rent supplements
- cost of childcare and other household expenses
- sufficiency of social assistance benefits concerning housing costs, etc.



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## Other potential areas of study/collaboration for the theme

- Collaborations with other themes (already met with Financing theme lead)
- Collaboration with Framework to reduce recidivism (one of the pillars is housing and positive support networks)
- Data gaps and overreliance on same data sets—new data sets; data linkages and integration (Data committee)
- Prevention and harm reduction
- Housing affordability and transportation
- Access to physical activity



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*A Safe and Affordable Place to Call Home* will integrate three additional streams of research, which cut across the core themes described above:

1. Discourse analysis and qualitative research into the degree to which a rights-based approach to housing has been integrated into the housing of Canadians at all levels;
2. Mixed methods to better understand the effectiveness and areas for improvement in Indigenous and Northern Housing Initiatives.
3. Ongoing analyses of the Canadian Housing Survey



# Your Feedback

